

# The Co-op and Modern Slavery: Hostile to Traffickers and Compassionate to Victims

@PaulGerrard1971



# The Co-op.....a big business



Funeralcare



Food



Legal Services



**4.2 million**  
active members

**70,000**  
colleagues

Over **2,700**  
Food stores

Membership that benefits  
you and your community



Mrs E Hudson  
Member



Insurance



Electrical

UK's **#1 Funeral  
services** provider



# ....but a co-operative business driven by international values and principles shared by 2 million co-operatives worldwide

The Co-op was founded on a set of values describing a different, fairer and better way of doing things. We demonstrate our commitment to these values in everything we do.



....since our foundation we have cared deeply about how workers are treated in our business and in our supply chains



www.alamy.com - DDHBM0



**stronger  
together**

tackling modern slavery in supply chains



....so we welcomed the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and do all we can to be compliant with both the letter of the law and the spirit of the law



# Our values and principles and our history mean we want to do more and support the victims of Modern Slavery....

*Copy,*  
Executive Mansion,  
Washington, January, 17/1863.

To the Workingmen  
of Manchester.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the address and resolutions which you sent to me on the eve of the New Year.

When I came on the fourth day of March, 1861, through a free and constitutional election, to preside in the Government of the United States, the country was found at the verge of civil war. Whichever might have been the cause, or whatsoever the fault, one duty, paramount to all others, was before me, namely: to maintain and preserve at once the Constitution and the integrity of the Federal Republic. A construction's purpose to perform this duty is the key to all the measures of administration.



## ADDRESS FROM WORKING MEN TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Last evening, a public meeting was held in the Free-trade Hall, which was crowded, in order to pass resolutions in favour of the cause of the United States, and to adopt an address to President Lincoln. The meeting had been called by an advertisement, signed by J. C. Edwards and E. Hooson, two working men. Among those on the platform were Mr. T. Bazley, M.P.; Professor Greenbank; Messrs. J. R. Cooper, R. Cooper, James Edwards, Thomas

Manchester Guardian, 31 Dec 1832. Click on image to read an extract of letter



Bright Future, our collaboration with City Hearts and Snowdrop, provides a pathway to paid employment for victims to break the cycle of exploitation....



## Bright Future – key principles





"We need more companies to respond to modern slavery like the Co-op. This pioneering approach to victim support will provide long-term care, boost opportunities for the future and, most importantly of all, prevent the risk of re-trafficking."



"I feel good, I really enjoy this job because it's the ideal working environment for me. The Co-op stands out to me from any previous employment that I have had because the people here are seriously nice."

- 'Bright Future' Co-op store employee



# Bright Future – building a network of charities and businesses to support victims



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