# What is Modern Slavery?

In 2021 more than 12,000 people in the UK were reported to be in modern slavery –

But what is modern slavery?

It’s an umbrella term, covering a multitude of abuses,

And it is the focus of a network of agencies who are working to tackle it.

The GLAA is in place to specifically look at forced labour exploitation.

Forced labour can be described best over a labour abuse continuum -

From relatively minor infractions

like working in unsafe conditions or breaking working time limits

Working longer hours than is legal,

And not having the correct equipment to carry out a role.

To extreme exploitation and slavery

Like feeling threatened physically or psychologically, or being coerced into employment or being forced to do a job without pay.

At the GLAA we investigate non-compliance to our licensing standards and reports of forced labour.

**“We define forced labour as work done by a person non-voluntarily under the menace of a penalty.**

**Being trapped and unable to leave their job, with someone else controlling their movements and money.**

**We see cases where a worker’s wage goes to a third party, who then decides how much they get,**

**which is often little or nothing.**

**Those being exploited are often subject to illegal deductions, such as a work finding fee or excessive charges for accommodation**

**In some cases they’re controlled by a debt which in reality is impossible to clear**

**This is forced and compulsory labour.”**

Everyone has the right to feel safe and free from threat in the workplace.

So if you have concerns about someone’s working conditions share your suspicions.

Because they may not be able to report it themselves.

Report your concerns to us through the GLAA website.

**Together let’s stop labour exploitation in the UK.**