

# The Gangmasters Licensing Authority and The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority

## 2005

The **Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA)** was set up after the Morecambe Bay disaster, where **23 workers lost their lives** gathering cockles.



## 2025

# 20 Years

of protecting rights, preventing abuse and **stopping worker exploitation.**

## 2007

**974** licences issued in the first year.  
Online **reporting** launched.  
**200 year** anniversary of the **abolition** of the **slave trade**.



## 2009

**First prosecution** of an unlicensed shellfish gangmaster.

## 2011

**Forestry pilot** launched to trial a 'lighter touch' in the sector.  
An investigation in the **Dairy sector** results in 19 labour users charged with using an unlicensed gangmaster.



## 2006

The **GLA licensing scheme** launched on 6 April to regulate the supply of labour to the fresh produce sectors.



## 2010

**Supermarkets and suppliers protocol** launched, a landmark agreement to ensure standards, share information and protect workers.  
**First labour user prosecution.**



## 2012

The government's **Red Tape Challenge** confirms the vital role of the GLA.



## 2014

The **Home Office** becomes our **new sponsor department**, which enables improved partnership working with our key partner agencies.



## 2016

Gang of **four** jailed for a combined total of more than 23 years for exploiting workers.  
The **Immigration Act 2016** sets out reforms to the GLA - a new remit, powers and name.

## 2018

Modern slavery **victim** rescued after living in a shed for 40 years.  
**First LMEU** issued.  
A **United Nations report** praises the GLAA's licensing scheme.



## 2020

Work continues throughout the pandemic with **operations in the food, garment and shellfish gathering** sectors



## 2024

Increased focus on the **care sector**, working with UK and international partners.



## 2013

**First custodial sentence** given for acting as an unlicensed gangmaster, as well as money laundering and assault offences.



## 2017

The **Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)** launched on 30 April. The new remit and powers gives the GLAA responsibility to tackle modern slavery and labour exploitation across the whole labour market in England and Wales.



## 2019

**Illegal gangmaster and accomplices** jailed for exploiting 41 workers.  
A **Facebook campaign** with Crimestoppers reaches almost **1 million** users.



## 2023

**Prevention work** with a **broad range of partners** includes online seminars, 'meet and greet' events and a workers' rights learning project.



## 2022

A trio of **exploiters convicted for modern slavery offences** receive prison sentences totalling more than ten years.  
Our new **victim navigator** role provides support for vulnerable and exploited workers.

