The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

What is ‘trafficking’?

Trafficking is also called ‘modern slavery’. It involves the taking or controlling of people by force, threat or deceit to exploit them. It does not always involve movement of people through different countries, but it can. It is important to know that trafficking or exploitation can happen to anyone.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a tool in the UK to help identify people who may be victims of trafficking and then to give them support and help.

You might have been trafficked if any of these have happened to you:

- Working as a servant or nanny
- Sleeping onsite
- Lack of access to healthcare
- Bad or no food
- Working in a farm or factory
- Documents taken
- Threats to report you to Home Office
- Child labor
- Other

Would you like to learn more?
1. How the NRM works:
   You disclose your experiences to your caseworker or someone you trust.

2. A referral is sent to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) by a first responder:
   - First Responders
   - The Police
   - The Council
   - The Salvation Army

3. There is no set time frame for a First Responder to make a referral.

4. But once the referral is made, a decision should be made within 5 working days.
5. **FIRST DECISION:**

"Reasonable Grounds Decision"

This simply means whether the NRM believes that you may have been trafficked and whether they will explore your story further.

- **POSITIVE**: You can be given a "key-worker"
- **NEGATIVE**: If the decision is negative: the process will stop. Potential to challenge if you inform your solicitor.

6. **Reflection + Recovery**

If the decision is positive, your case progresses to:

- Food
- Accommodation
- Money
- Legal aid

7. **Rest + Recovery**

This is a period of at least 45 days where you will be provided with support.
**Final Decision: Conclusive Grounds Decision**

This is the last decision that will either be positive or negative.

**Positive:**
- Free lawyer
- Legal aid
- Support plan
- Potential grant of leave
- Seek legal advice on immigration compensation rights

If positive you are entitled to...

**Negative:**
- Tell your solicitor immediately

If the decision is negative, a challenge can be made within 3 months or a reconsideration request.

**Discretionary Leave to Remain**

Turn the page for more information about Discretionary Leave to Remain and your asylum claim...

- Valid for 1-3 years
- BRP
- This is not 'Refugee Leave'

**NRM & Your Immigration Case**

Are linked but they are not the same

But your NRM decision can help

For more information on what the NRM is talk to a trusted professional or call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700.

To find out more about your NRM decision and how it affects other immigration applications keep reading...
The NRM + Your Immigration Case

Your NRM decision is **not** the same as your asylum decision. But your NRM decision can help to strengthen an asylum or human rights claim. A positive Conclusive Grounds decision can help in 2 ways:

1. *Discretionary Leave to Remain*

   *If I get a positive Conclusive Grounds decision, am I a refugee?*

   **No.** But the Home Office may consider whether you can be granted a *Residence Permit* due to your trafficking experiences.

2. *Help to Strengthen Your Other Case*

   **My Immigration Case**

   A positive Conclusive Grounds can be a very good evidence to support any other claims you might have, for example, an asylum or Human Rights based claim.

   **My NRM Case**

   You may be given a grant of Discretionary Leave to Remain which can be valid for up to 3 years. It is **not a guarantee** that you will automatically get, for example, refugee status.

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