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Trafficking and Exploitation

Talking about exploitation in the Screening Interview



The screening interview or "little interview" is usually conducted very soon after you have arrived in the UK. Sometimes it is on the same day you arrive. You are likely to be tired and stressed. Most people do not have an opportunity to speak to a lawyer before the interview. Be prepared. If you feel too unwell to do the interview, say this at the start.

During the little interview, you will be asked whether you have been "subject to exploitation". **It is very important that you tell the interviewer about any exploitation that you have experienced in this in the screening interview.**



What does it mean to be "subject to exploitation"?

Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you for personal gain.

Some examples of exploitation are:

- you have been forced to have sex with someone that you didn't want to
- you have been forced to carry out work for someone for no money or an unfair wage, for example on a farm, in a factory, or as a servant
- you have been forced to do something illegal, such as carrying drugs
- you have travelled with someone who would not let you act freely or leave if you wanted to
- you have been threatened by someone, who says that they will report you if you do not do what they say
- you have had your passport taken away by someone who was trying to stop you leaving them



Telling the interviewer about your exploitation

When the interviewer asks you if you have been subject to exploitation, you should tell them about any times that you have been exploited before you began your journey or on your journey. They will only ask you this once, so **it is important that you provide as much information as possible.**

A good response will answer the following questions:

- what happened to you, and how did it make you feel?
- who else was involved?
- where you were when it happened?
- how long did it happen for?



Why is it important to tell the interviewer that you have been exploited?

It is important to tell the interviewer that you have been exploited as soon as possible. This is because this information may help you in explaining why it is important for you to be able to claim asylum in the UK.

If the screening interviewer believes that the exploitation you have experienced is a form of "trafficking", then they will refer you to the **National Referral Mechanism**. You can read more about the National Referral Mechanism on the other side of this piece of paper.



Can I still be detained if I tell the interviewer that I was exploited.

You can still be detained, even if you tell the interviewer that you have been exploited.

If you are detained, it is very important that you tell the people in the detention centre that you have been exploited. You should also try to speak to a lawyer as soon as possible. This is because your experience of exploitation could make you particularly vulnerable.

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The National Referral Mechanism



Seeking protection through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) process is a separate route to getting immigration status in the UK by claiming asylum.

Many people who have experienced modern slavery or human trafficking might have a NRM application and an asylum claim happening at the same time – but they are not the same thing.



What is the National Referral Mechanism?

The National Referral Mechanism (or the NRM for short) is a tool in the UK to help people who may be victims of trafficking.

You may have been **trafficked** where:

- someone has helped you or forced you to move from one place to another place
- during this time, that person controlled you, for example by telling you that they will hurt you if you do not do what they say
- the person who is controlling you is or wants to exploit you.



How do I get referred to the NRM?

You cannot refer yourself to the NRM. This must be done by someone called a 'first responder'. This can be the Police, local government, or a charity called the Salvation Army.

If you tell the screening interviewer that you have been exploited, then they should tell a first responder, and ask the first responder to make a referral to the NRM. **If the screening interviewer does not refer you to the NRM, then you should tell your caseworker as soon as possible, and ask them to contact a first responder.**



Are my NRM case and my asylum case the same?

Your asylum claim and your NRM case are different. That means that you will not automatically get asylum if your NRM case is successful. However, a positive NRM case can be used as evidence to support your asylum claim, especially if your experience of exploitation is one of the reasons that you left your home and travelled to the UK.

What does the NRM process look like?

