**Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) COVID-19 Outbreak Survey
April 6, 2020**

A link to the survey can be found here.

Immediate priorities: As an expert, what is the most important question you think Parliament should be asking the Government over the <u>next four weeks</u> relating to the current COVID-19 outbreak? (50 words maximum)

What are the immediate physical and mental health risks to modern slavery victims their children, and what steps are the Government taking to mitigate these risks? Is there a contingency plan in place to ensure that victims continue to be identified and provided with appropriate support during the outbreak?

Short-term priorities: As an expert, what is the most important concern you have relating to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak <u>within the next three months</u>? (50 words maximum)

i) The impact of a retraction of support for modern slavery survivors with regards to housing and other essential services. ii) Social distancing/isolation will inhibit the abilities of victims to be identified (e.g. by public and labour inspectorates entering workplaces) and to access help (e.g. call helplines and access NGOs).

Medium-term priorities: As an expert, what is the most important concern you have relating to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the <u>next three to nine months</u>? (50 words maximum)

COVID-19 might bring large-scale economic contraction and downturn, high rates of unemployment and restructuring of national economies. This may increase supply and demand for forced labour across a large number of sectors and lead to a reduction in states' capacity to continue responding to modern slavery.

Long-term priorities: As an expert, what is the most important concern you have relating to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak <u>beyond the next nine months</u>? (50 words maximum)

Key institutions underpinning global anti-slavery governance responses will be negatively impacted. Funding for key State and CSO services that work to prevent modern slavery and provide support to victims and survivors will be reduced, and therefore progress towards achieving SDG 8.7 slowed or even reversed.

The UK Government has released some of the scientific evidence (https://bit.ly/3bKQ06Y) they used to develop their approach to the COVID-19 outbreak. What further data or information would you like to see the Government release in order to understand the decisions that underpin its approach? (100 words maximum)

We would like to see any data or information that the Government has gathered on the impact of the virus and of COVID-19 measures on i) support for victims and survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking ii) the number and profile (e.g. exploitation type/demographics/recruitment methods) of modern slavery victims and perpetrators iii) modern slavery risk in business supply chains, and iv) the ability of local and national actors to respond to modern slavery, including local authorities, law enforcement, and civil society organisations.