



Impact of COVID-19 on Modern Slavery Survivors in the UK & USA

Preliminary survey findings

As part of an ongoing [UKRI-funded project](#), researchers at the Rights Lab, University of Nottingham, and University of Sheffield, in collaboration with [Survivor Alliance](#), surveyed survivors in the UK and USA in December 2020 to better understand the impact the COVID-19 pandemic was having, and was likely to continue having, on their lives.

This briefing provides a high-level summary of a selection of the key findings from the survivor survey. Further analysis is currently being undertaken by the research team, in collaboration with a Research Advisory Group (RAG) made up of 10 survivors, to analyse and understand the survey findings. This analysis will be published in February 2021.

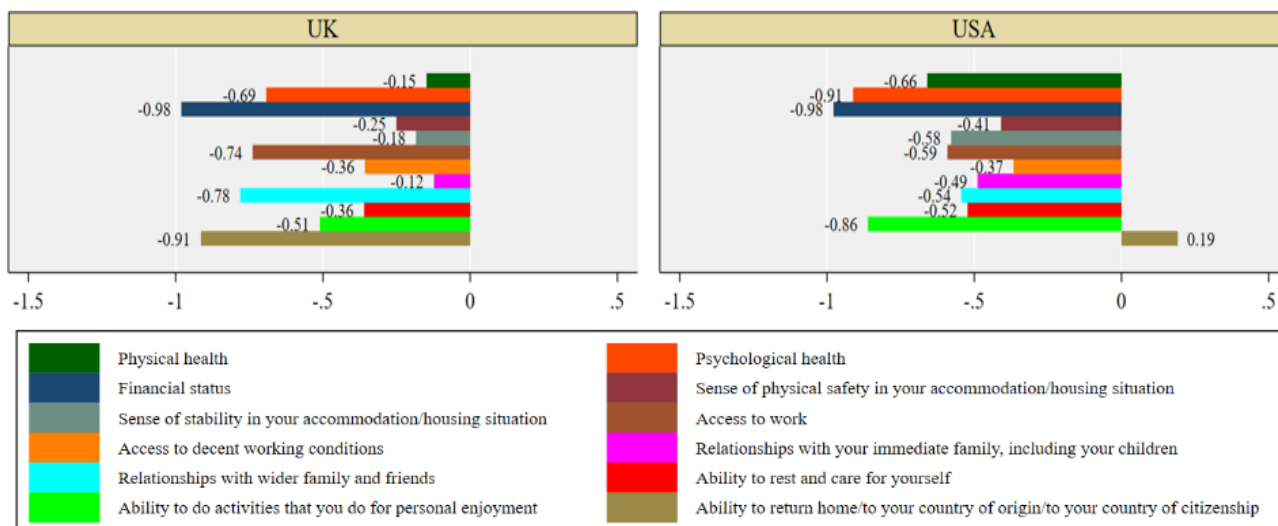
Survey respondents

- **102 survivors responded to the survey** – 56 residing in the UK, 46 residing in the USA
- **95% of respondents identified as female, 3% male, 2% as non-binary**
- The **age of respondents** ranged from 21 to 60 years, with the most common age range being 30-39 years

How have survivors been impacted by COVID-19?

In the UK, survivors reported that, on average, **all aspects of their lives had been negatively impacted to varying degrees** by the COVID-19 pandemic. The areas reported to have been most significantly negatively impacted were financial status, the ability to return home/to their country of origin, relationships with wider (rather than immediate) family and friends, access to work/employment, and psychological health. In the USA, survivors reported that the key areas of their lives that most negatively affected was their financial status, psychological health, and their ability to undertake activities for their personal enjoyment. The graphs below illustrate these findings in more detail.

How to read the below graphs: Respondents were asked to indicate on a 5-point Likert scale whether various aspect of their lives had become better or worse as a result of COVID-19 or remained the same. A score of +2 indicated that this aspect of a respondent's life had become "significantly better", +1 represented "somewhat better", 0 represented "no change", -1 represented "somewhat worse", and -2 represented "significantly worse". **The numbered axes on the charts represents the average (mean) scores for respondents in the UK (on the left) and respondents in the US (on the right).**





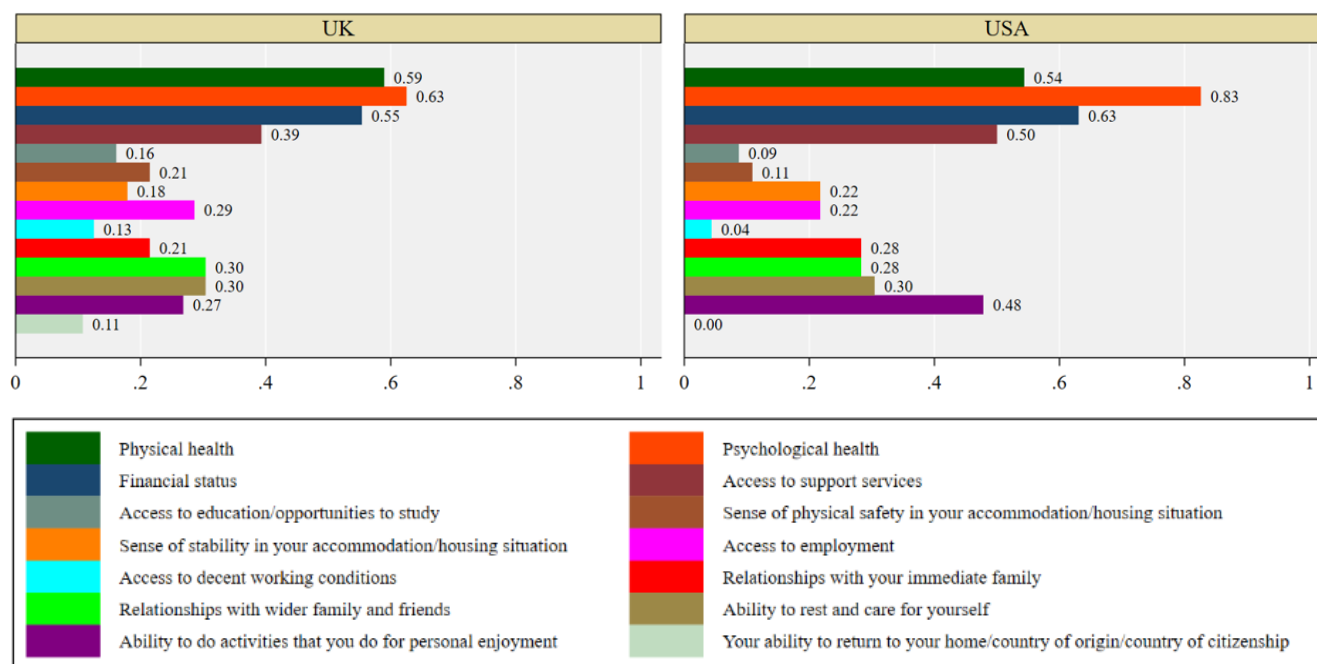
Has survivors' access to amenities and services been impacted by COVID-19?

Survey respondents were asked how COVID-19 had impacted on their access to key services and amenities. On average, respondents in the US and UK reported that **access to all basic services, from childcare to access to financial welfare/benefits, had been negatively impacted to some degree**. In the UK, access to psychological services, medical services and social services had been most disrupted, and in the USA, survivors reported that access to childcare, social services and medical services had been most disrupted, closely followed by access to legal support services for non-immigration related issues such as accommodation/housing and welfare.

What do survivors expect the main impacts of COVID-19 to be for them over the next six months?

In both the UK and the USA, the highest proportion of individuals selected **psychological health** as an area of expected impact. The next highest proportion of respondents in both countries selected **physical health** and **financial status**, followed by **access to support services**. In the USA, 48% respondents also selected the 'ability to do activities for personal enjoyment' as an area that COVID-19 was likely to impact over the next six months. The graphs below illustrate these findings in more detail.

How to read the below chart: Survey respondents were asked to select up to five options from a list of 14 impact categories. The numbered axis on the graph represents the **proportion of respondents who selected the category as a key expected impact over the next six months**.



The partners working with the Rights Lab on this project include the University of Sheffield, the Survivor Alliance, the International Anti-Human Trafficking Network (IAHTN), the Human Trafficking Foundation (HTF), Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX) and Anti-Slavery International / the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (ATMG). The research team is grateful to the UKRI for funding this project. For further information about the project, please contact Vicky Brotherton at vicky.brotherton@nottingham.ac.uk or Dr Emily Wyman at emily.wyman@nottingham.ac.uk

Further written materials stemming from this research will be published in due course here:
<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/beacons-of-excellence/rights-lab/resources/reports-and-briefings/index.aspx>