

Modern Slavery Statement

The 2021 **statement** from the British Red Cross

This is a summary of the full 2021 Modern Slavery in Supply Chains Statement from the British Red Cross. For further information about all our efforts to address the risk of modern slavery in our supply chain, please read the full statement which can be found on the Red Cross website [here](#).

At the British Red Cross, we are committed to preventing modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains. And our vision as set out in our continuous improvement plan is to eradicate the risk of modern slavery completely in any part of our operations.

In our 2030 strategy we made a commitment to support people who are at risk of being, have been or continue to be exploited. To achieve this, we continued to deliver bespoke and enhanced support for people who have been trafficked or subjected to modern day slavery.

Building on our statements from previous years, this summary highlights the steps we have taken in 2021 to reduce the likelihood of exploitation, trafficking and other forms of modern slavery from our supply chains and in our organisation.



Our progress in 2021

These are some of the developments we worked on in 2021. For more information, please read our full Modern Slavery Statement 2021.



Governance

We have made considerable progress against our objective to ensure our staff and volunteers understand and comply with our British Red Cross code of conduct. This code confirms that we will not tolerate exploitation, including sexual exploitation, abuse or violence. It sets out our processes and systems to report incidents.

We revised the training module on the Code of Conduct – aided by a new video, which emphasises our whistleblowing hotline, Safecall, and the importance of reporting any breach of the code.

A total of 4,228 of 4,525 staff members, and 5,385 of over 12,000 volunteers had completed the training by the end of 2021.

Suppliers and partners

We used our ethical fundraising procedure throughout 2021 to screen all significant donations, partnerships, sponsorships and gifts in kind for modern slavery issues.

Our supplier consolidation efforts continued - by the end of 2021 we'd reduced the number of our suppliers by over 40% since 2017.

We continued the transition to the gateway and e-procurement system, which requires all our suppliers to sign the supplier code of conduct before they are activated on our procurement system.

Safeguarding

In July 2021, we appointed a Director of Safeguarding, who is now progressing the Keeping People Safe recommendations alongside a wider safeguarding action plan.

Our tool for reporting incidents, including safeguarding concerns, across the organisation includes a tick box to indicate whether the person affected has also received support from the anti-trafficking team. In these cases both the Safeguarding Assurance team and Anti-trafficking team are working to improve our organisational response.

In 2021, we appointed an Investigation Manager to investigate serious incidents and recommend improvements to our policies, training, processes and systems to prevent serious incidents reoccurring.

Training

Anti-trafficking training was integrated into the Core Safeguarding training, which launched on 1 March 2021. Everyone who completes this training is now prompted to consider trafficking as a safeguarding concern and enroll on the introductory module to anti-trafficking.

Anti-trafficking programmes

We continued to adapt our ways of working as the pandemic evolved so we could support survivors of trafficking and those at risk by providing holistic casework support. Internal support and guidance is available for all colleagues identifying and working with survivors. This maximises our impact and reach, with the aim that any survivor who comes into contact with the British Red Cross is provided with accurate information to make an informed decision about their future.

We continued work through the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and international and national networks and working groups, to strengthen our response to trafficking. We developed tools and training materials on human trafficking, and supported National Societies with capacity building activities and delivering remote and face-to-face training.

Using our voice

In 2021, we advocated for longer-term support for survivors of trafficking so they can recover and start to rebuild their lives in the UK. We have worked with partners across the voluntary sector and with MPs to advocate for changes to the Nationality and Borders Bill so that all survivors of human trafficking have longer-term statutory support for a year and those with insecure immigration status have leave to remain for 12 months.

Next steps

We will continue to build on these strands of our work. We have identified the following key priorities for 2022.

Overarching actions

We will:

- Continue to develop and improve our oversight of our work to eradicate the risk of modern slavery in our supply chains.
- Throughout 2022 we will continue to use Sedex to provide insights into high-risk areas and proactively engage with our key suppliers to use Sedex. This will address section 54(5) (d) of the Modern Slavery Act.
- In 2022 we will update our incident management tool to report on modern slavery in our supply chains.

Suppliers and partners

We will continue to:

- Consolidate suppliers, conduct checks and make sure suppliers sign up to our supplier code of conduct through our e-procurement platform and the 'new supplier creation' process.
- Develop ways to address the risks identified in our procurement processes by continuing to move beyond reliance on self-certification and Tier 1 due diligence.
- Collaborate with counterparts in other charities via the Charity Sector Procurement Group, in order to gain more insight across the sector.
- Build on our work with the IFRC to develop a movement-wide approach to procurement.

Safeguarding

- Work will continue to review, implement and embed the recommendations from the 2019 Keeping People Safe consultancy throughout 2022, under the Safeguarding Director appointed in 2021.

Training

We will:

- Promote further completion of e-module 1 across the organisation; seek further completion of e-module 2 among frontline caseworkers; and continue to deliver Module 2 training sessions to frontline caseworkers via virtual classrooms.
- Continue to monitor completion of mandatory training on our code of conduct, safeguarding, data matters, equality, diversity and inclusion, and health and safety by all staff and volunteers.
- Continue to actively roll out the global e-module 'Understanding and Responding to Trafficking in Persons' in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Monitor completion of the e-module in the four available languages.



Anti-trafficking programmes

We will continue to:

- Monitor the UK context to identify new and emerging needs, and seek to evolve our services to meet those needs.
- Develop strong partnerships across the anti-trafficking sector.
- Champion anti-trafficking work across the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



Cover photo © Kate Stanworth/BRC

The British Red Cross Society, incorporated by Royal Charter 1908, is a charity registered in England and Wales (220949), Scotland (SC037738), Isle of Man (0752), Jersey (430) and Guernsey (CH142).