

DRAFT LETTER TO YOUR LOCAL PAPER

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Dear Editor

Letter for publication

Modern slavery is a scourge on our society, with people profiting from sexual and criminal exploitation, domestic servitude, and forced labour. Official statistics compiled by the National Crime Agency show that last year 5145 potential victims were submitted to the Government's National Referral Mechanism, a 35% increase on 2016. This is probably the tip of the iceberg – it is estimated that there are around 10-13,000 victims in the UK alone.

Local authorities have a crucial role to play as their staff are providing many vital frontline services and are in a position to identify possible instances modern slavery. But even where modern slavery is less of a problem, councils can also use the power of their procurement spend to influence the behaviour of the companies they contract with, ensuring that modern slavery is tackled all along corporate supply chains.

That's why the Co-operative Party, Labour's sister party, is calling on all councils to adopt a Charter Against Modern Slavery, and I call on **[insert name of council]** to sign up to the Charter to demonstrate their commitment to tackling this abhorrent activity.

Yours faithfully