

Modern Day Slavery Motion

Councils collectively spend £40bn each year. Help us ensure none of it is funding exploitation.

This branch/CLP notes:

That the Co-operative Party has worked with a wide range of NGOs, local Government procurement teams and the Co-operative Group to develop a new Charter which aims to ensure there is no place for modern day slavery in the supply chains used by local authorities.

The Charter proposes that that each council shall:

- Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
- Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
- Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
- Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
- Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
- Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
- Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
- Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
- Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
- Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

Further, this branch/CLP resolves to:

Ask the Council to adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery.