



NWG Press Release

National Child Exploitation Awareness Day 18th March 2024

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For: Immediate Release

Join us in the Fight Against Child Exploitation

National Charity NWG Network asks all to unite against child exploitation for their 10th National Child Exploitation Awareness Raising Day – 18th March.

The National Child Exploitation Awareness Raising Day aims to highlight the issues surrounding child exploitation: encouraging everyone to **think, spot and speak out** against abuse and adopt a zero-tolerance attitude to child exploitation.

Previous National Child Exploitation Awareness Raising Days have seen hundreds of events take place across the UK, ranging from poster and leaflet displays to whole authorities embarking on targeted campaigns across public services and shopping centres.

Working with over 14,800 professionals across the UK to help prevent and raise awareness of child exploitation, NWG Network continues to leverage the strength of that network to tackle the problem head-on.

“Each year we use our campaign to raise awareness of child exploitation and encourage everyone in our society to tackle the issues of the exploitation of our children.

Please ensure that you share our social media messages along with our website details to point everyone towards information, resources and where to go for help. This would be another step in spreading the word to help reduce the abuse of our children.

NWG is committed to raising awareness and training practitioners and volunteers to help create zero tolerance for child exploitation. Your support will help us continue this invaluable work and ensure that as many people as possible think, spot and speak out against exploitation of the young and vulnerable and help heal the wounds of victims and their families.” Commented Sheila Taylor MBE, CEO

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Notes to Editors:

- NWG Network is a child exploitation (CE) network strategically and operationally supporting voluntary/statutory agencies tackling child exploitation, with links across Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa, Canada and the USA.
- The NWG Network has worked with or is currently working across the UK with practitioners from Local Safeguarding Children's Partnerships (LSCPs), Police Forces, Health, Community Safety Partnerships, and Voluntary and Private sector organisations.
- NWG Network holds approximately 100 events annually that bring a range of organisations together to continually improve how we tackle CE in the UK and worldwide.
- The NWG Network in the UK spans over 230 organisations with 14,800 + points of contact to disseminate information on the issue of child exploitation.
- Our reach and national oversight allow us to address the issues surrounding CE, Trafficking and Modern Slavery from the Central Government level through to grassroots workers and volunteers.

Key Stats

- In 2022 7,019 children were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) having been identified as potential victims of Modern Slavery (including Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation and Trafficking)* [Modern Slavery: NRM statistics UK of year summary 2022](#)
- In 2021, there were over 850 arrests across the UK for accessing child sexual abuse material every single month (CSA Centre)
- In the year ending March 2021, police recorded modern slavery offences involving a child increased by 27% to 3,239, continuing the upward trend seen in recent years.
- The most common reason for children to be trafficked in the UK is for criminal exploitation (NRM End of Year Summary 2022)