

# Mobile technology for survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking: impacts on mental health and well-being

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17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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# Reducing impact of Covid-19 on mental health and wellbeing

- Survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking are one of the most vulnerable groups at risk of complex mental health difficulties
- People face multiple inequalities and difficulties in accessing resources
- BT provided mobile phones and data-bundles to 100 survivors of slavery during lockdown who were receiving support from Unseen
- Unseen staff will be supported to conduct interviews with clients to understand how phones have made a difference to them.



# Reducing impact of Covid-19 on mental health and wellbeing

- Analysis of interview and questionnaire data
- How have phones impacted survivors' well-being and mental health?
  - Previous experiences with technology may have been coercive
- If successful, advocate for policy changes so that nationally, all survivors of modern slavery are entitled to a mobile phone as part of their recovery and support.
- Unseen will hold a workshop with the Modern Slavery Unit at the Home Office to discuss recommendations.



# Challenges and opportunities

- Very busy University systems:
  - contracts Y
  - finance Y
  - ethics – submitted 5<sup>th</sup> August, waiting for response
- Fast moving field in practice. Already had changes within Unseen:
  - Policy context and people's right to remain in UK changing
  - People moving on after the service Unseen provides
  - Charity staff furloughed and ongoing funding issues
- Working with an organisation that supports people who have not had basic rights and freedoms and opportunity to influence policy

# Any questions?

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