



Home Office

Sarah Newton MP  
Minister for Vulnerability, Safeguarding  
and Countering Extremism

2 Marsham Street,  
London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Mrs Janice Collins  
Townswomen's Guilds  
Gee Buisness Centre, First Floor, Gee House  
Holborn Hill, Birmingham  
B7 5JR

Reference: M9431/16

30 AUG 2016

Dear Mrs Collins,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 July to the Home Secretary regarding Townswomen's Guilds campaigns to support work to tackle modern slavery. I am replying as the Minister for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism.

Modern slavery is a hidden crime that can have a long term impact on its victims. It is a crime that happens across the world but also here in the UK. So we welcome projects which help to raise awareness and prevent modern slavery.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 received Royal Assent in March 2015. The Act gives law enforcement agencies the tools to tackle modern slavery, ensures that perpetrators can receive a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, and enhances support and protection for victims. You can find more information about the Act at: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery-bill](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery-bill).

Section 52 of the Act requires specified public authorities, such as local authorities and police forces to notify the Home Office of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking. We are working closely with these authorities to raise awareness of this duty, to ensure victims of these vile crimes are identified and supported appropriately.

The Government is absolutely committed to doing it all it can to tackle modern slavery and that is why the Prime Minister Theresa May announced last month that she was launching a new taskforce to drive further progress in the battle against this cruel exploitation.



I would like to thank you, and the Townswomen Guild for your interest in this important issue. I can assure you that the Government is working very hard to tackle modern slavery and that supporting and protecting the victims is at the heart of our work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sarah Newton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" and the last name "Newton" clearly distinguishable.

**Sarah Newton MP**





Home Office

Sarah Newton MP  
Minister for Vulnerability, Safeguarding  
and Countering Extremism

2 Marsham Street,  
London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Mrs Janice Collins  
Townswomen's Guilds  
Gee Buisness Centre, First Floor, Gee House  
Holborn Hill, Birmingham  
B7 5JR

Reference: M9431/16

30 AUG 2016

Dear Mrs Collins,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 July to the Home Secretary regarding Townswomen's Guilds campaigns to support work to tackle modern slavery. I am replying as the Minister for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism.

Modern slavery is a hidden crime that can have a long term impact on its victims. It is a crime that happens across the world but also here in the UK. So we welcome projects which help to raise awareness and prevent modern slavery.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 received Royal Assent in March 2015. The Act gives law enforcement agencies the tools to tackle modern slavery, ensures that perpetrators can receive a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, and enhances support and protection for victims. You can find more information about the Act at: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery-bill](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery-bill).

Section 52 of the Act requires specified public authorities, such as local authorities and police forces to notify the Home Office of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking. We are working closely with these authorities to raise awareness of this duty, to ensure victims of these vile crimes are identified and supported appropriately.

The Government is absolutely committed to doing it all it can to tackle modern slavery and that is why the Prime Minister Theresa May announced last month that she was launching a new taskforce to drive further progress in the battle against this cruel exploitation.



I would like to thank you, and the Townswomen Guild for your interest in this important issue. I can assure you that the Government is working very hard to tackle modern slavery and that supporting and protecting the victims is at the heart of our work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sarah Newton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

**Sarah Newton MP**

