



A crime that could be hiding in plain sight

By Janet Maitland

Officers from the Met Police are working alongside ANITP, Romania's national agency dealing with human trafficking, to raise public awareness of modern slavery and identify victims. The focus is currently on Romanian communities in Barnet as police intelligence indicates they are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims.

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is the exploitation of individuals for profit using threats, violence, deception or abuse of power. It includes sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, forced or bonded labour, domestic servitude, and the removal of organs for surgical transplants. Human trafficking is when modern slavery victims are taken between countries or around a country.

Who are the victims?

Anyone can be a target, but some people can be more vulnerable because of lack of money or job opportunities, or their immigration status, age or gender.

How common is it?

"Modern slavery is everywhere, a crime hidden in plain sight," said Cristina Huddleston from Justice and Care, a charity that works with police to identify people trapped in slavery.

The Modern Slavery Policy Unit estimated in 2020 that at least 100,000 people in the UK were being exploited, of which 10,000 were identified and referred for support. There is a steady rise in British victims being identified; they constituted a third of all victims in 2020.

Where might I see modern slavery?

Victims can work as office cleaners, in factories, in hotels, as construction workers, on farms, in nail bars, in car washes, and in people's homes as domestic slaves. Others are made to commit crimes like shoplifting, pickpocketing, stealing fuel from cars, cannabis growing and selling drugs. Some are forced to beg.

What are the signs?

Those who are being exploited can show a reluctance to interact. They may be working excessively long hours, look malnourished and have no money. If the cost of a service offered to you is too low, that's another warning sign, as is a small property in your neighbourhood housing too many people.

What can I do about it?

"The public has an important role to play in reporting modern slavery," said Detective Inspector Mel Lillywhite from the Met's Modern Slavery Unit. "If you suspect someone may be a victim, please report it. You will always be taken seriously. Call us on 08000 121 700 or on 101. You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org."



On the ball: Football coach Andy Francis is being backed by his players as he recovers from illness

Help coach get back on his feet

By Claire Biek

Women's football in England has undeniably experienced a recent and rapid increase in popularity, and this is no different in East Finchley. Resident coach Andy Francis is the beloved backbone behind women's football in the local community.

Since 2014 when he began training on the Archer Academy's pitches, the number of women coming to play each week has shot up to around 70. Andy's found competitions for seven-a-side teams, and last year he found a league for five-a-side beginner teams. His enthusiasm and dedication to the sport and his teams are undoubtedly unmatched.

Sadly, Andy recently underwent surgery on his foot and the long recovery time afterwards means that he is now suffering

from a serious back injury. The prolonged waiting times for treatment from the NHS have forced Andy to go privately for his medical care.

Financial strain

Now, he is not only dealing with these health challenges and medical bills, but also facing financial strain in his daily life due to his inability to work. He is struggling to manage these financial burdens alone.

His teams and players are rallying behind him to help him through this rough patch. East

Finchley Women's FC committee has created a GoFundMe page to help him cover his medical costs. Any contributions are welcome and appreciated and will go directly to his expenses.

The players state: "Andy's passion for women's football is unmatched, and we miss his presence on the sidelines. Let's come together as a community to support him during this tough time and help him get back on his feet." Find more details and make a donation by searching 'CoachAndy' at gofundme.com.

Newsreader's anger over death of friend in senseless bombing

By John Lawrence

BBC newsreader Clive Myrie has spoken about his friendship with Miriam Hyman, the East Finchley woman who was among the 52 people killed in the 7/7 London terror attacks. In an interview with *The Mirror* newspaper, he revealed that she had been a guest at his wedding and her death left him "angry at the senselessness of it all".

Miriam, who worked as a picture editor, was on the bus that exploded at the hands of a suicide bomber in Tavistock Square on 7 July 2005. She was 32. More than 750 people were injured in attacks across the capital that day.

In his new autobiography *Everything is Everything*, Myrie says: "It was the worst terrorist atrocity on British soil. My wife Catherine worked with one of the victims who died. Miriam came to our wedding and the beautiful pottery she gave us as a present 25 years ago still sits in our home."

The newsreader and *Mastermind* presenter also noted that three out of the four bombers were British-born, second-generation immigrants, "like me", and said he felt "overwhelming anger" towards the terrorists.



Friends: Newsreader Clive Myrie and Miriam Hyman

As we've reported in a previous edition, three years after Miriam's death, her family set up the Miriam Hyman Memorial Trust, which is working to build community cohesion as her legacy.

The trust has created a set of education resources for teachers

of 11 to 14-year-olds to help them approach sensitive issues surrounding violent extremism and radicalisation.

All of these teaching materials are freely accessible in the Miriam's Vision section of the trust website at www.miriam-hyman.com

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