

# **The Children's Society Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2016/2017**

## **Introduction to The Children's Society**

The Children's Society helps change children's stories, working towards a country where all children are free from disadvantage. We've been trusted for over a century to drive change locally and nationally and provide support where it's needed most. We base this vital work on the experiences of every child we help and the solid evidence we gather. Every year, we work directly with more and more of the most disadvantaged children. We do this through our extensive network of frontline services, supported by an army of volunteers. Together, we tackle child poverty, mental health and neglect head on, from helping families trapped in debt, child runaways and young carers, to stopping child exploitation.

The Children's Society is committed to ensuring the business and its supply chains are free of slavery. The Children's Society acknowledges its responsibility to comply with all principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the "Act"). This statement is made pursuant to section 54 of the Act. It constitutes The Children's Society's slavery and human trafficking statement and policy statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2017. It covers the activities of The Children's Society and its wholly owned subsidiaries: The Children's Society (Trading) Limited and The Children's Society (Services) Limited.

## **Our Supply Chain**

The Act applies not only to the Children's Society's employees but also to suppliers, sub-contractors and other business partners. There is corporate commitment within The Children's Society to legal compliance, ethical standards and fundamental human rights.

The Children's Society will not knowingly support or deal with any businesses involved in slavery or human trafficking. The steps we have taken to ensure that slavery or human trafficking are not taking place in our business or supply chains are as follows:

- Policies and procedures are in place aiming to minimise the risk of modern slavery in our supply chain. Specifically, a Procurement Policy, which sets out requirements for buying goods and service and covers issues of human rights, child and forced labour and modern slavery; and a Whistleblowing Policy that encourages staff to report any concerns about modern slavery and child and forced labour.

- We have assessed our supply chains and will remain vigilant in making decisions regarding our suppliers/collaborators and potential suppliers/collaborators by seeking confirmations and commitments as to the absence of these practices in their businesses.
- We will withdraw from existing contracts (where we may lawfully do so), or decline to enter into or renew a contract with a supplier/collaborators or potential supplier/collaborators, if our counterparty is unable to give us sufficient confirmations and commitments.
- We regularly review our procurement process and will be introducing specific measures to ensure that our obligations under the Act are passed through our supply chain. These will include:
  - Obtaining, where appropriate, contractual warranties that no slavery is used anywhere in the supplier's business or by any of the suppliers in its supply chain and that all necessary processes and policies have been put into place to ensure that this remains the case;
  - Obtaining, where appropriate, a contractual right to request compliance-related information and the right to audit suppliers at our discretion;
  - Adding rights where appropriate to terminate for breach of the Act into our contracts;
  - Providing specialist modern slavery training to relevant staff involved in the procurement or supply chain management cycle;
  - Ensuring modern slavery is addressed throughout the procurement process, by evaluating all potential suppliers in relation to modern slavery risks before they enter the supply chain; and
  - Taking steps to ensure that suppliers are risk assessed and risks identified are appropriately addressed in respect of the Act.

A copy of this policy statement, a full copy of the Act and a simplified overview is accessible to all employees electronically on The Children's Society Intranet. If any staff are concerned that modern slavery or human trafficking is taking place in our business or supply chains they should raise their concerns to the Director of Finance and Corporate Services or through the Whistleblowing policy.


This policy statement will be reviewed annually and published accordingly by The Children's Society on its website.

## Approval

This policy statement has been approved by the Trustees of The Children's Society and the Boards of Directors of The Children's Society (Services) Limited and The Children's Society (Trading) Limited and signed on their behalf. The Board of Trustees of The Children's Society delegated approval of this statement on its behalf to the Chief Executive Officer at its board meeting on 29 January 2018.



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Matthew Reed  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Children's Society



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Elizabeth Walker  
Director  
The Children's Society  
(Trading) Limited



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Chris Gillies  
Director  
The Children's Society  
(Services) Limited