



# **SURVIVORS, NOT CLICKBAIT**

**A quick guide to complaining about inaccurate  
press coverage on modern slavery**



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# WHY COMPLAIN?

## ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN ACTION

On 17 August 2022, The Telegraph's front page claimed: "Modern Slavery law is biggest loophole" for immigration. The claim is shocking, not only because it lacks accuracy (most new trafficking referrals since 2017 are for UK victims), but because **there is no law guaranteeing support for trafficking survivors**. As a country, we should be fighting for more survivor protection, not less.

It is vital that we set the record straight, and that attempts by the press, or Government, to exaggerate help for survivors are combatted. This issue is too important to be poorly reported.

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The below guide explains how to make a media complaint about **The Telegraph article published on 17 August**, but the information should also apply to other inaccurate reporting on modern slavery in the UK.

## ABOUT IPSO

The Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) handles complaints for most national newspapers in the UK, and can decide to order a correction if serious mistakes are made in reporting.

**SURVIVORS MUST NOT BE  
PUNISHED FOR COMING  
FORWARD.**

# MAKING A COMPLAINT

First, visit [IPSO.co.uk/complain/complaints-form](https://www.ipsoco.uk/complain/complaints-form)

In this case, we're clicking 'material published in print and/or online', then clicking 'print' and highlighting 'The Daily Telegraph (Telegraph Media Group Ltd)' in the search box.

## Why are you complaining?

- Behaviour of journalist or photographer  
 Material published in print and/or online

## Name of publication(s)

Please select

Print	Online	Both
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The Daily Telegraph (Telegraph Media Group Ltd)

NB: Type in the name of the publication and then select that publication from the drop down list. If the title you want does not appear then it may be that IPSO do not regulate that publication. If you don't see your publication, please select other from the list.

In this case, we're clicking '**no**' to previously having complained (unless you have written separately to this action) and typing the headline '**Modern slavery law 'is biggest loophole' for migrants Theresa May's legislation exploited by criminals to escape deportation, says former minister**' on 17 August 2022.

## Have you previously contacted this publication? (The Daily Telegraph (Telegraph Media Group Ltd))

- Yes  
 No

Add each headline or photograph from this publication related to the complaint.

Modern slavery law 'is bigge	17/08/2022
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Next, click '**1. Accuracy clause**' and enter the complaints letter page.

## Clauses breached

Specify which clauses of the Editors Code have been breached

- 16 Payment to criminals
- 15 Witness payments in criminal trials
- 14 Confidential sources
- 13 Financial journalism
- 12 Discrimination
- 11 Victims of sexual assault
- 10 Clandestine devices and subterfuge
- 9 Reporting of crime
- 8 Hospitals
- 7 Children in sex cases
- 6 Children
- 5 Reporting suicide
- 4 Intrusion into grief or shock
- 3 Harassment
- 2 Privacy
- 1 Accuracy

This complaint is for a breach of accuracy, but there may also be times where other aspects of the Editors' Code are breached. You can read the full Code here:

**TINYURL.COM/  
IPSOEDITORS CODE**

# ARGUMENTS

You may wish to use the below arguments in your IPSO complaint:

Misleading statements as to the nature of modern slavery support, undermine the already-inconsistent rights afforded to victims of this serious crime. On 17 August 2022, The Telegraph ran a front-page story entitled Modern slavery law 'is biggest loophole' for migrants, whilst an accompanying opinion piece entitled 'End the scourge of bogus modern slavery claims', an opinion piece by former Minister Chris Philp MP, formed the basis of this story and ran in the same edition. Within this reporting, inaccurate claims were made about the scale and nature of protections offered to trafficking victims under UK law. A fuller account of breaches of the Editor's Code are highlighted below:

## 1. Misrepresentation of law

Philp's Telegraph article claims that "Crucially, once someone's modern slavery claim has been accepted, they cannot be removed from the UK - even if they are a dangerous foreign criminal." This is untrue. There is no automatic grant of leave to remain for trafficking victims, as a trafficking status alone cannot protect individuals from deportation. In February 2021, then-Safeguarding Minister, Victoria Atkins, confirmed that there is no automatic grant of leave to remain for trafficking victims, and such a measure would not be supported in the foreseeable future.

## 2. Misrepresentation of support

The 17 August article, Modern slavery law 'is biggest loophole' for migrants, claimed: "A review of the Act would...make sure the system was about the recovery of victims rather than an open immigration route". As stated by Government spokespeople, the National Referral Mechanism does not contain any immigration provisions, nor will it do so in the future. These functions are separate.

## 3. Misrepresentation of data

As clarified, trafficking status does not include a grant of immigration protection for victims. However, The Telegraph's front-page article states: "The numbers [trafficking victims] allowed to stay had risen from 3,000 in 2015 to 16,000 this year". This total includes UK victims, not subject to immigration control and is therefore misleading.