

(HUM0004)

Written evidence submitted by the Violence, Health, and Society (VISION) consortium and the Violence and Society Centre, City, University of London (HUM0004)

Submission from the [Violence, Health, and Society \(VISION\) consortium](#) and the [Violence and Society Centre](#), City, University of London. We are making this submission as we are research centre that has conducted research on human trafficking.

1. What is the scale and nature of human trafficking in the UK? Considering in particular:

a) Different types of exploitation (including sexual, labour, or criminal exploitation),

b) The profile of victims and perpetrators,

c) The gendered aspects of human trafficking,

1. The European Commission funded a number of studies into sources of data, scale, and nature of human trafficking in the EU. A recent output from that series was a 2020 report that sought to estimate the economic, social and human costs of trafficking in EU28 (EU countries including UK) and EU27 (EU countries excluding UK) (Walby et al., 2020). We seek to inform the Home Affairs Committee that various estimates of the economic, social and mental health costs of human trafficking for the UK can be straightforwardly derived from this report for the UK. The report presented breakdowns of costs by type of exploitation, including sexual, labour, and other forms. It highlighted the importance of presenting gender desegregated estimates.

2. We further seek to highlight that the work of the UKPRP Violence, Health and Society (VISION) consortium involves developing economic costings frameworks, and has used the example of costing the health consequences of human trafficking to critique the common practice of 'discounting' (Walby et al., 2022). Discounting involves reducing the estimated value of the future relative to the present, year by year, by a given percentage. As authors of the EU trafficking report, we instead opted to more fully recognise and account for trafficking's longer-term costs to mental health. We argue that a methodological approach that does not systematically discount the future can bring into focus the greater long-term health burden faced by people who have been trafficked, and in particular by women and the victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

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References

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Walby S, Capelas Barbosa E, McManus S. Costing the long-term health harms of trafficking: [Why a gender-neutral approach discounts the future of women](#). *Frontiers in Sociology*. 2022 Sep 8;7:133.

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