



WE FEEL SAFE

Case Study – Reza (name changed)

Reza (name changed) is a survivor of modern slavery and work exploitation originally from Iran. He arrived in the United Kingdom as a child and was granted refugee status. However, later in life he lost his refugee status, which left him facing significant immigration difficulties and uncertainty about his future in the UK.

Despite receiving a positive Reasonable Grounds decision recognising him as a potential victim of modern slavery, Reza's application for leave to remain in the UK was subsequently refused. This had a substantial impact on his financial situation, housing security, and overall wellbeing. During this period, he experienced hardship and was struggling to meet his basic needs.

ICOS provided practical and advocacy support to help Reza navigate these challenges. Due to his financial difficulties, ICOS issued food vouchers on two occasions to ensure that he had access to essential food supplies while his situation remained unresolved.

The client was also experiencing difficulties relating to a refusal of Section 4 support. ICOS maintained regular communication with his solicitor to obtain updates and ensure that appropriate legal action was being taken. An appeal against the refusal was lodged; however, Reza later decided not to proceed with the appeal because he was unable to obtain sufficient supporting evidence and found the process of gathering evidence particularly challenging. To reduce additional stress and prevent unnecessary proceedings, ICOS notified the Tribunal of the client's decision and arranged for the appeal hearing to be cancelled.

Recognising the importance of obtaining specialist immigration advice, ICOS also assisted Reza in securing an appointment with a solicitor who could provide guidance regarding his immigration status and future options. Throughout the support period, ICOS acted as an advocate, liaising with legal representatives, providing practical assistance, and ensuring that the client remained informed and supported while facing complex immigration and welfare issues.

This case highlights the significant barriers that survivors of modern slavery can encounter even after receiving recognition as victims. It also demonstrates the importance of holistic support, combining practical assistance, advocacy, and access to specialist legal advice to help vulnerable individuals navigate complex systems and work towards greater stability.