




Kulturalism®




THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

Modern Slavery Defence
for Children in Custody



“Kulturalism CIC’s policy briefing, ‘The Accountability Gap: Modern Slavery Defence for Children,’ examines the failure to apply Section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act to exploited minors involved in county lines.”



SECTION 45 ACCOUNTABILITY BRIEFING — SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS

Headline Findings

Criminal Exploitation

- 14,500 children identified as at risk of criminal exploitation (2023/24).
- No national data on how many exploited children are in custody or protected by Section 45.
- Training failures persist across police, CPS, and judiciary, leading to victims being punished instead of protected.
- *The UK remains in breach of international law (Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, 2005; V.C.L. and A.N. v United Kingdom [2021] ECHR 192).*

Key Statistics

Custody

- 477 children in custody (August 2025) — up from 430 in March 2024.
- 21% rise in custodial sentences — first increase in a decade, with early 2025 data indicating the trend continuing.
- 62% of children remanded to custody do not receive a custodial sentence.
- Ethnic disproportionality: Black children = 6% of population, 27% of remand population.

The Accountability Gap

Protection for children

The UK government can provide detailed youth custody data but cannot answer:

- How many were arrested for county lines offences
- How many showed exploitation indicators
- How many were referred to the NRM or had Section 45 raised

This omission prevents transparency, accountability, and protection for trafficked children.



Five Immediate Recommendations



Mandatory data collection on Section 45 use in youth cases.



Routine exploitation screening at first police contact.



Comprehensive national training on Section 45 and child criminal exploitation.



Independent audit of current youth custody population for missed Section 45 cases.



Annual parliamentary report on progress, compliance, and outcomes.

Understanding County Lines

How Children Are Exploited

County lines refers to the organised criminal networks that use children and vulnerable young people to move drugs, money, and weapons between urban centres and rural or coastal towns. These networks typically operate a single dedicated phone line – the “county line” – through which drug orders are placed.

How Exploitation Happens

Children are groomed and coerced through:

- Promises of money, protection, or belonging, often after identifying a child’s vulnerabilities (family conflict, poverty, exclusion, or care history).
- Debt bondage, where victims are told they “owe” money for lost drugs, accommodation, or transport.
- Threats, violence, and sexual exploitation, keeping them under control.
- Cuckooing, where criminals take over a vulnerable person’s home to use as a drug base.

Once trapped, children are forced to:

- Travel across counties by train, coach, or taxi carrying drugs, weapons or cash.
- Stay in unsafe “trap houses” under constant threat.
- Commit other crimes, including assault, robbery, or weapons offences, to protect drug routes.

The Human and Economic Cost

The Jay Review (2024) described county lines as “a conveyor belt of violence, trauma, and lost potential.”¹

It estimated the wider annual cost of child criminal exploitation to the UK economy at £47 billion, once policing, health, social care, lost education, and justice costs are included.

Behind these figures are children as young as 10 years old being beaten, trafficked, and criminalised for crimes committed under duress – a modern form of slavery in every legal sense.

“County lines is not a youth crime issue – it is a child protection crisis.”

– Shattered Lives, Stolen Futures: The Jay Review of Criminally Exploited Children (2024)

¹ Action for Children. (2024). Shattered Lives, Stolen Futures: The Jay Review of Criminally Exploited Children. London: Action for Children.²

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An estimated 14,500 children remain at risk as of Spring 2025 through county lines operations. The UK government cannot provide basic data on:

- How many exploited children are currently in youth custody
- How often the statutory defence designed to protect them ([Section 45 Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)) is being applied
- Whether judges, prosecutors, and police are identifying exploitation before charging

This briefing exposes a critical accountability gap that allows exploited children to be criminalised rather than protected.

Multiple independent reviews (2016, 2019, 2020) have identified this systemic failure, yet no corrective action has been taken.

Key Findings

NO DATA EXISTS on how many children in Young Offender Institutions are detained for county lines-related offences, despite this being a well-documented form of child criminal exploitation.

NO QUANTITATIVE DATA is collected on the use or outcomes of section 45 MSA defence, making it impossible to assess whether the protection works.

TRAINING FAILURES mean police, prosecutors, and judges lack adequate understanding of section 45, resulting in exploited children being convicted while their exploiters escape justice.

RESEARCH EVIDENCE shows "more trafficked persons are being punished than traffickers" with judges sentencing obvious trafficking victims to custody while simultaneously acknowledging they are victims.

THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP violates UK obligations under the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings and has already resulted in one adverse judgment from the European Court of Human Rights (*V.C.L. and A.N. v UK*, 2021).

Kulturalism CIC Actions to Date

Kulturalism CIC has formally requested Section 45 data from the Ministry of Justice through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request (Reference: pending).

In parallel, we have written to the Home Office, CPS, NPCC, and the Youth Custody Service seeking clarification on national compliance with Section 45 obligations, data collection practices, and training standards. The absence of this information reinforces the accountability gap documented in this report.

Importantly, the Home Office's own statutory guidance under Section 49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 clearly states that child victims of exploitation must be identified, safeguarded, and protected rather than criminalised.²

² Home Office. (2025). Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales (under s49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015), Version 4.2. London: Home Office.



THE EVIDENCE

What We Know and What's Hidden.

The Scale of Child Criminal Exploitation

County lines drug trafficking represents one of the most prevalent forms of child criminal exploitation in the UK today. Government data confirms:

- **14,500 children** identified as at risk or involved in child criminal exploitation (2023/24)
- This figure is acknowledged as "a **significant underestimate** of the scale of the problem"
- County lines activity resulted in **2,323 line closures and 6,293 arrests** between July 2024 and March 2025
- An estimated **14,000 children remain at risk** as of February 2025

The National Crime Agency describes county lines as "the most violent model of drug supply" involving organised criminal groups who exploit children through violence, debt bondage, and threats. Children as young as 10 are trafficked across the country to act as drug runners, often held in "trap houses" and subjected to serious violence.

This is modern slavery. It meets every criterion in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 definition.

Children in Custody

The Numbers

Youth Justice Statistics 2023-24 reveal:

- **430 children in custody** (March 2024) - the lowest on record
- **69% held in Young Offender Institutions** (approximately 297 children)
- **12,900 children were sentenced** in year ending March 2024 - an 8% increase from the previous year
- **660 custodial sentences** given - a 21% increase and the **first year-on-year increase in the last 10 years**
- **7% of sentences were immediate custody** - reversing a decade-long declining trend
- **62% of children remanded** to custody did NOT receive a custodial sentence

CRITICAL: After a decade of declining youth custody, custodial sentences are rising again. As custody increases, the failure to apply Section 45 means more exploited children are being locked up rather than protected. We are criminalising victims at an accelerating rate.

However, these statistics do NOT include:

- How many were detained for drug supply offences linked to county lines
- How many had indicators of criminal exploitation
- How many were referred to the National Referral Mechanism
- How many raised or could have raised section 45 defence
- Whether section 45 was considered during charging or sentencing decisions

This data does not exist in any accessible government database.

The Section 45 Modern Slavery Act Defence

Section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015



Section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 provides a statutory defence for victims of trafficking and slavery who are compelled to commit criminal offences. For children, the defence applies if:

- The child was under 18 when they committed the offence
- They committed the offence as a direct consequence of being a victim of slavery or trafficking
- A reasonable person in the same situation with the child's characteristics would have done the same

Communicated

This defence was specifically designed to comply with the non-punishment principle in international law and to ensure that victims are not prosecuted for crimes their traffickers forced them to commit.

The defence does not apply to the most serious offences (Schedule 4 MSA) such as murder, serious sexual offences, or terrorism.

However, it **DOES apply to drug supply offences** - the primary crime for which county lines victims are arrested.

THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

A Clear Picture

Where We Are Now

The UK government meticulously tracks:

- Total children in custody (430 as of March 2024)
- Custody by institution type (69% in YOIs)
- Total custodial sentences (660 in 2023/24)
- Ethnicity breakdowns, age distributions, remand vs sentenced status
- Average sentence lengths and reoffending rates

But the government **CANNOT** tell you

1. How many children in YOIs were arrested for county lines offences
2. How many had indicators of criminal exploitation at arrest
3. How many were referred to the National Referral Mechanism
4. How many received positive trafficking victim decisions
5. Whether section 45 was considered during charging
6. How many times section 45 was raised at trial
7. Success/failure rates of section 45 defences
8. Geographic variations or racial disparities in section 45 application

14,500

According to Home Office data, approximately 14,500 children were identified as at risk of or involved in criminal exploitation in 2023-24 – a figure that underlines the scale of vulnerable young people being drawn into gang and county-lines activity.

Key Legal Definitions

What Constitutes Modern Slavery for Children

Trafficking (Section 2 MSA 2015):

A person arranges or facilitates the travel of another person with a view to them being exploited. Travel can be:

- Within the UK (e.g., from London to coastal towns)
- Does NOT require crossing borders
- Can be as short as across a city

County lines meets the legal definition

because:

- Children are "arranged/facilitated" to travel by gang leaders
- Travel is "with a view to exploitation" (forced drug dealing)
- Children are subjected to violence, threats, and debt bondage

Relevant Exploitation includes:

- Slavery, servitude, or forced/compulsory labour
- Sexual exploitation
- Securing services by force, threats, or deception
- **Securing services from children** (Section 3(5) MSA) - directly applicable to county lines

"Direct Consequence" (for children):

The MSA does not define this term, creating ongoing legal debate. Case law suggests:

- Must be a clear causal link between exploitation and criminal act
- But does NOT require the child to have no agency or choice
- Considers the "reasonable person" with the child's characteristics (age, vulnerability, trauma)



Defining Modern Slavery³

- **Slavery:** Most serious - exercising rights of ownership over a person as one might an animal or object
- **Servitude:** Imposing an obligation to provide services through coercion
- **Forced/Compulsory Labour:** Making someone work through threats, violence, or other forms of compulsion

These definitions establish that county lines operations constitute modern slavery - children are treated as property, coerced through violence/debt bondage, and forced to work in drug supply.

³SK [2011] EWCA Crim 1691 (Court of Appeal, Criminal Division).

This is the Accountability

Gap We track the children. We don't track whether they're **victims**.



What This Means in Practice

Right now, at this moment:

- Approximately 348 children are currently held in Young Offender Institutions (August 2025).
- **14,500 children are at risk of county lines exploitation**
- **Yet no one can tell you how many children in YOIs are victims of trafficking**

This means

- **Exploited children are invisible** in the data
- **Parliament cannot hold government accountable** for protecting trafficking victims
- **Judges and prosecutors have no feedback loop** on whether they're applying the law correctly
- **Researchers cannot identify patterns** or best practices
- **The public cannot scrutinize** whether justice is being done
- **Victims have no evidence** that the system is failing them



Where We're Headed: The Trajectory

With custodial sentences rising for the first time in a decade (+21%)

County lines exploitation affecting 14,500+ children, the accountability gap is widening at the worst possible time.

If current trends continue

- **2025-2026 Projection** (if 21% increase continues)
- ~800+ children receiving custodial sentences
- ~14,500 children remain at risk of criminal exploitation (2025-26)
- Still **ZERO data** on overlap between these groups

By 2030 (if trend persists)

- Potentially 1,000+ children in custody annually
- Unknown number of trafficking victims imprisoned
- Five more years of reviews recommending the same unimplemented changes
- Continued breach of international obligations

The Hidden Cost

Every day this data gap persists:

- **Victims sit in cells** serving sentences for crimes they were forced to commit
- **Traffickers remain free** while children take the blame
- **Precedent hardens** that prosecution is acceptable
- **Institutional knowledge fails to develop** on identifying exploitation
- **Racial disparities compound** unexamined
- **Parliament operates blind** to systemic failure

The government can tell you the exact custody location of child #297. It cannot tell you if that child is a victim of modern slavery.

This is not a data collection problem. This is a policy choice to remain ignorant.

Evidence of Systemic Failure

The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's 2020 Call for Evidence report documented over 200 cases and identified four critical failures:⁴

1. POLICE NOT IDENTIFYING VICTIMS

"Police are not consistently considering from the outset of an investigation whether a suspect could be a victim of trafficking and whether the statutory defence may apply."

2. CASES DROPPED WITHOUT INVESTIGATION

"Discontinuation of investigations and prosecutions as soon as the defence is raised" - meaning neither the victim receives protection nor the traffickers face prosecution.

3. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

"There is a potential lack of knowledge amongst the judiciary about the use of the defence."

4. VICTIMS NOT PROTECTED

"The operation of the statutory defence is neither adequately protecting victims of trafficking nor adequately protecting the public."

⁴Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (2020). Statutory Defence: Call for Evidence Report. London: IASC.

CRITICAL CASE LAW - EVOLUTION OF SECTION 45

The application of section 45 has been shaped by several landmark cases³⁴⁵ that reveal both the defence's potential and the system's failures:

R v MK and Gega v R [2018] EWCA Crim 667⁵ – *The Burden of Proof Case*

Issue: Who must prove what in a section 45 defence?

Ruling: The defendant has only an *evidential* burden - they must raise evidence of each element of the defence. Once raised, the prosecution must disprove it beyond reasonable doubt.

Impact: This shifted the burden from defendants proving their victimhood to prosecutors disproving it - aligning with standard criminal law principles and making the defence more accessible to trafficking victims.

Why it matters: Despite this 2018 clarification, many practitioners still misunderstand where the burden lies, leading to wrongful convictions.

R v DS [2020] EWCA Crim 285⁶ – *The NRM Decision Case*

Facts: DS, a 17-year-old claiming county lines exploitation, received a positive NRM Conclusive Grounds decision. The trial judge stayed proceedings as "abuse of process."

Issue: Does a positive NRM decision prevent prosecution?

Ruling: No. A positive NRM decision does NOT automatically prevent prosecution. The decision must be considered, but prosecutors can challenge it. The jury decides victimhood and whether section 45 applies.

Why it matters: This case shows the tension between the NRM system (balance of probabilities) and criminal burden of proof (beyond reasonable doubt). It also reveals that even with a **positive trafficking victim decision**, children can still be prosecuted.

R v Breani [2021] EWCA Crim 731⁷ – *The Expert Evidence Case*

Issue: Can NRM case workers give expert evidence about their trafficking victim findings?

Ruling: No. NRM decisions are not admissible as evidence because:

- Case workers are not "experts"
- Decisions may be based on incomplete evidence
- The evidential bar is too low for criminal proceedings

⁵ R v MK and Gega [2018] EWCA Crim 667.

⁶ R v DS [2020] EWCA Crim 285.

⁷ R v Breani [2021] EWCA Crim 731.

Section 45

Why it matters: This creates a catch-22 - the official trafficking victim identification system isn't considered reliable enough for court, yet it's the primary mechanism for identifying victims. Many exploited children don't have access to alternative expert evidence.

V.C.L. and A.N. v United Kingdom [2021] ECHR 192⁸ – *The European Court of Human Rights Case*

Facts: Two Vietnamese children found in cannabis farms (2009). One received positive NRM decision. Both prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced anyway.

Ruling: Violated Article 4 (freedom from slavery) and Article 6 (fair trial) of European Convention on Human Rights.

Finding: By prosecuting despite "credible suspicion" of trafficking, UK authorities failed to take operational measures to protect minors, breaching international standards.

Compensation: UK ordered to pay €25,000 to each child.

Why it matters: This case pre-dated section 45, but the structural failures remain identical: identification failures at arrest, no investigation of trafficking indicators, prosecution despite clear evidence. [The UK government's 2022 response cited section 45 as the solution. Yet as this briefing demonstrates, section 45 is not being systematically applied.](#)

R v O and R v N [2008] EWCA Crim 2835⁹ – *The "Ideal Victim" Case*

Facts:

- N: Vietnamese national, cannabis production, identified as trafficking victim early
- O: Controlled prostitution, identified as victim only after conviction

Issue: When does a trafficking victim lose victim status by exploiting others?

Ruling:

- N's appeal succeeded - clear victimhood, offence directly linked to trafficking
- O's appeal failed - despite victimhood, her exploitation of others was too serious

Why it matters: This case reveals the "ideal victim" problem - children who commit serious crimes (even under coercion) may be denied the defence because they don't fit the image of a "passive" victim. It also shows the difficulty with cycle-of-abuse cases where victims exploit others to survive.

⁸ V.C.L. and A.N. v United Kingdom [2021] ECHR 192, Applications 77587/12 and 74603/12.

⁹ R v O; R v N [2008] EWCA Crim 2835.

What This Case Law Reveals

- **The law exists and has been clarified** - burden of proof, definitions, and process are established
- **But application remains inconsistent** - despite legal clarity, practitioners still fail to identify victims
- **The "ideal victim" bias persists** - children who don't appear passive are denied protection
- **The NRM system is inadequate** - the official victim identification process isn't robust enough for court
- **International obligations are being breached** - UK was found in violation by **ECHR**, yet practices haven't changed

Training Failures Persist

Every review has identified inadequate training:

- **2016 Review (Haughey):** "Training for police officers, investigators and prosecutors is patchy and sometimes absent"
- **2017 HMICFRS Inspection:** "Lack of awareness of the statutory section 45 defence means that officers attending incidents or crime scenes may not consider or gather sufficient evidence"
- **2019 Review (Field et al):** "The recommendations made in Caroline Haughey's 2016 Review... should now be implemented"
- **2020 IASC Report:** Reiterated concerns about inadequate training five years after the Act's implementation

Despite these repeated findings, systematic training gaps remain.

Haughey, C. (2016). The Modern Slavery Act Review.

HMICFRS (2017). Stolen Freedom: The policing response to modern slavery and human trafficking.

Field, F. et al. (2019). It Still Happens Here: Fighting UK Slavery in the 2020s.

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (2020). Statutory Defence: Call for Evidence Report.

THE IMPACT

REAL-WORLD CONSEQUENCES

Exploited Children Are Being Imprisoned

Academic research by Dr Emily Burland exposed a disturbing pattern: judges sentencing trafficking victims to custody while simultaneously acknowledging they were victims of modern slavery.

In one documented case, a judge sentenced two Vietnamese men to 12 months imprisonment for cannabis production while stating their cases were "an example of modern slavery." The cognitive dissonance is staggering - recognising exploitation while punishing the exploited.

Dr Burland's research concluded: ***"More trafficked persons are being punished than traffickers."*** This is the system working exactly as it shouldn't.

Ethnic Disproportionality

Youth Justice Statistics 2023-24 reveal concerning patterns:

- Black children represent 6% of the 10-17 population but **27% of children in custody on remand**
- Mixed ethnicity children represent 6% of the population but **19% of children on remand**
- The proportion of Mixed ethnicity children in custody has **DOUBLED over the last decade**

County lines exploitation disproportionately affects **Black and Mixed ethnicity children**. If section 45 is not being properly applied, this creates a compounding injustice: children are exploited because of their vulnerability, then criminalised rather than protected, **with ethnic minority children bearing the greatest burden.**

Case Study: V.C.L. and A.N. v UK ¹⁰

The consequences of failing to identify and protect trafficked children reached the European Court of Human Rights in 2021.

Two Vietnamese children were found working in cannabis farms in 2009. One received a positive NRM decision confirming he was a trafficking victim. Both were prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced anyway.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled this violated:

- Article 4 (freedom from slavery and forced labour)
- Article 6 (right to a fair trial)

The UK was ordered to pay €25,000 to each child in damages.

This case pre-dated section 45, but the structural failures remain identical: identification failures, investigation failures, prosecution despite clear indicators of exploitation.

How many children currently in custody are V.C.L. and A.N. 2.0?

We cannot answer this question because we do not collect the data.

¹⁰ V.C.L. and A.N. v United Kingdom [2021] ECHR 192, Applications 77587/12 and 74603/12 (European Court of Human Rights, 16 February 2021).

UK OBLIGATIONS

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK



Domestic Law

Section 45 Modern Slavery Act 2015 creates a statutory defence specifically for this situation. Parliament intended exploited children to be protected, not prosecuted.

Crown Prosecution Service guidance (updated 2021) states: *"Modern slavery victims who are often given little or no choice but to follow orders by unscrupulous criminals should not usually be prosecuted."*¹¹

Yet the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner found: *"police and CPS are still not identifying and addressing a possible s.45 defence within an investigation."*¹²

The law exists. The guidance exists. Implementation fails.

International Obligations

Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005)¹³

Article 26: Non-punishment provision

"Each Party shall, in accordance with the basic principles of its legal system, provide for the possibility of not imposing penalties on victims for their involvement in unlawful activities, to the extent that they have been compelled to do so."

The UK ratified this Convention. Section 45 was created to comply with it. Failure to implement section 45 effectively breaches this obligation.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)¹⁴

- Article 3: Best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration
- Article 19: Protection from all forms of violence and exploitation
- Article 39: Recovery and reintegration of child victims

Prosecuting exploited children violates all three articles.

¹¹ Crown Prosecution Service (2021). Modern Slavery: Statutory Defence under section 45.

¹² Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (2020). Statutory Defence: Call for Evidence Report.

¹³ Council of Europe (2005). Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Warsaw, 16 May 2005.

¹⁴ United Nations (1989). Convention on the Rights of the Child.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Kulturalism CIC calls for immediate action on five fronts:

1. Mandatory Data Collection

The Ministry of Justice must immediately begin collecting and publishing quarterly data on:

- Number of children in custody where county lines/criminal exploitation was a factor
- Number of section 45 defences raised in youth cases (by offence type, age, ethnicity, gender)
- Outcomes of section 45 defences (pre-charge decisions, discontinued cases, successful/unsuccessful)
- Number of children arrested for drug offences who were screened for exploitation indicators
- Geographic variations in section 45 application rates

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY: Ministry of Justice | **IMPLEMENTATION:** Within 6 months

2. Routine Exploitation Screening

All children arrested for drug supply offences must be routinely screened for indicators of criminal exploitation using a standardised assessment tool.

The screening should be:

- Mandatory at first contact with police
- Conducted by officers trained in child criminal exploitation
- Trauma-informed and age-appropriate
- Documented in case files and shared with CPS for charging decisions
- Trigger automatic NRM referral if indicators present

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY: National Police Chiefs' Council / College of Policing |

IMPLEMENTATION: Within 12 months

3. Comprehensive Training Programme

All youth justice practitioners must receive mandatory training on:

- Child criminal exploitation and county lines operations
- Section 45 MSA defence application in practice
- Trauma-informed practice and "ideal victim" bias
- NRM process and evidential weight of decisions

Training must be mandatory, refreshed annually, and evaluated for effectiveness.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY: College of Policing, CPS, Judicial College, Law Society |

IMPLEMENTATION: Within 3 months

4. Independent Audit of Current Youth Custody Population

The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner should conduct an urgent review of all children currently in custody for drug-related offences to identify:

- Whether exploitation indicators were present and identified
- Whether section 45 was considered
- Whether cases may qualify for appeal or sentence review

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY: Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner | **IMPLEMENTATION:** Begin within 3 months, complete within 12 months

5. Annual Parliamentary Accountability

The Home Secretary should be required to report annually to Parliament on section 45 application rates, training delivery, compliance with non-punishment obligations, and progress on implementing review recommendations.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY: Home Office | **IMPLEMENTATION:** First report due within 12 months

THE MORAL IMPERATIVE

Children exploited through county lines are some of the most vulnerable in our society. They are groomed by organised criminals, subjected to violence and threats, separated from families, and given no realistic alternative to complying.

Parliament created section 45 MSA to protect them. The law is clear. The guidance is clear. The UK's international obligations are clear.

Yet we cannot answer the most basic question: Is it working?

The accountability gap is not a technical problem. **It is a moral failure.**

Every day we fail to collect this data is another day that exploited children may be sitting in Young Offender Institutions serving sentences for crimes their traffickers forced them to commit.

Every prosecutor who doesn't consider section 45 is failing a child. Every judge who doesn't identify exploitation is failing a child. Every police officer who treats an exploited child as a criminal is failing a child.

And every policymaker who refuses to collect the data that would expose these failures is complicit in them.

This is not acceptable. This is not inevitable. This is a choice.

The system can change. It must change. These recommendations provide a roadmap.

Kulturalism CIC demands:

ACCOUNTABILITY | DATA | TRANSPARENCY | PROTECTION FOR EXPLOITED CHILDREN

The law exists to protect them. Let's ensure it does.

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Kulturalism Initiatives

SHE Voice™ – Women's Safety

HE Voice™ – Men in the Criminal Justice System

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to Safer Streets.

KULTURALISM® | Safer Streets, Reduced Crime, Prison Reform

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