



Marshalls Becomes a Bright Future Business Partner Offering Employment to Survivors of Modern Slavery.

Marshalls has announced its engagement with the Co-op's Bright Future programme which offers the opportunity of a paid work placement and a job for those who have been rescued from modern slavery in the UK.

Marshalls is the first in the construction sector to join Bright Future and become a Bright Future Business Partner. The Co-op launched this job creation programme in April 2017 which was developed in partnership with anti-slavery charity City Hearts. Bright Future is a new approach, and is a UK first in terms of major businesses offering work placements to survivors of modern slavery. Together with City Hearts, a charity dedicated to supporting modern slavery victims, the Co-op is creating a national matching system that will enable companies to work with local charities to create jobs for victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Chris Harrop, Group Marketing Director responsible for sustainability, commented, "We are delighted to join forces with the Co-op, City Heart and other like-minded businesses. As a Bright Future Business Partners, Marshalls will provide survivors with a four-week paid work placement leading to a non-competitive interview. If this is successful and there is a position available, the candidate will be offered a job within the business."

Paul Gerrard, Policy and Campaigns Director at the Co-op says, "Marshalls has set the standard in so many ways about what a responsible business should do when it comes to addressing slavery. The Co-op are, therefore, delighted that Marshalls have chosen to commit to being a Bright Future Business Partner and offer employment opportunities to victims of modern slavery through the National Matching System. We're looking forward to working with them to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable in our society"

Elaine Mitchel-Hill, Business & Human Rights Lead at Marshalls added, "Survivors of modern slavery have been through terrible ordeals and we want to make sure that as a business we can

assist them in a positive way. With 50+ sites across the UK Marshalls is in a great position to assist. Bright Future makes sense for the survivor, for communities and for our business.”

ENDS

Editors Notes:

Marshalls Modern Slavery Statement: <https://www.marshalls.co.uk/documents/policies/modern-slavery-and-anti-human-trafficking-policy.pdf>

Marshalls Modern Slavery Risk Mapping:

<https://www.marshalls.co.uk/documents/presentations/modern%20slavery%20country%20profiling%202018.pdf>

Marshalls Modern Slavery Report 2018:

<https://www.marshalls.co.uk/documents/reports/modern-slavery-report-2018.pdf>

Marshalls became a UNGC signatory in 2009 and a member of the UNGC UK Network later the same year. The organisation is required to report on its progress each year in Marshalls UNGC Communication on Progress Report (COP). You can view the most recent COP here:

<https://www.marshalls.co.uk/documents/reference/ungccopreport2017.pdf>

Bright Future: <https://www.co-operative.coop/ethics/bright-future>

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