

# Seafarers (fishermen): Do you know your rights?



### PAY

You should be paid regularly, receive regular accounts of wages and be given the opportunity to send remittances back home.

## **CONTRACTS**

Contracts should be agreed and signed by both the fisher and employer.

# **WORKING HOURS**

You should be afforded regular periods of rest of sufficient length to ensure safety & health.

### **FOOD & WATER**

The water carried and the food served on board must be of sufficient nutritional value, quality and quantity to feed all crew members.

### **ACCOMODATION**

Accommodation should be clean and habitable with adequate lighting, ventilation and temperature control. Sanitary and laundry facilities should be provided.

### **MEDICAL CARE**

In the event of injury due to an occupational accident or disease, you are entitled access to appropriate medical care.

# Other indicators that you may be a victim of exploitation/slavery:

- If your contract is substituted, without agreement, once you arrive in the UK or upon departure from the Philippines.
- If working conditions change upon arrival in the UK, such as location, vessel, pay or the nature of the job itself.

A quote from the Home Secretary as the **Modern Slavery Act** received Royal Assent on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015: "Together, we must send a powerful message to all traffickers and slave drivers that they will not get away with their crimes. And we must do all we can to protect, support and help victims, and ensure that they can be returned to freedom."

-UK Home Secretary: The Rt Hon Theresa May MP

# The UK Government in Manila

The British Embassy in Manila houses a dedicated team that work towards identifying victims of trafficking and exploitation and investigating the criminal groups involved. Our aims are to identify this threat and investigate facilitators of trafficking so we can prevent future occurrences and protect potential victims.

The Philippines exports a large number of OFWs to the UK, particularly seafarers and we want to ensure these workers are treated fairly are able to fulfil their obligations as an OFW. Any reports of exploitation will not harm the ability to continue as an OFW in the UK. We want to stop the perpetrators while protecting the right of a Filipino to work overseas and provide for their family.

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU FEEL YOU MAY HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF SLAVERY?

MANILA.antislavery@fco.gov.uk

