



Volume 8 Issue 2
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Human Trafficking in the News

3 police agencies partner with Truckers Against Trafficking for awareness week

The Michigan State Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol and Indiana State Police have once again partnered with Truckers Against Trafficking to educate motorists on the signs of human trafficking and to enforce laws that crack down on traffickers. From January 23-27, they will be working with TAT to educate the public about human trafficking in the U.S.

Truckers Against Trafficking to partner with UPS on education plan

Truckers Against Trafficking announced this week a new partnership with UPS Freight to harness the power of the trucking community to help address human trafficking in the United States. Through this partnership, which will be deployed throughout 2017, all of UPS Freight's more than 8,000 drivers will receive training on how to recognize and respond to signs of human trafficking activity.

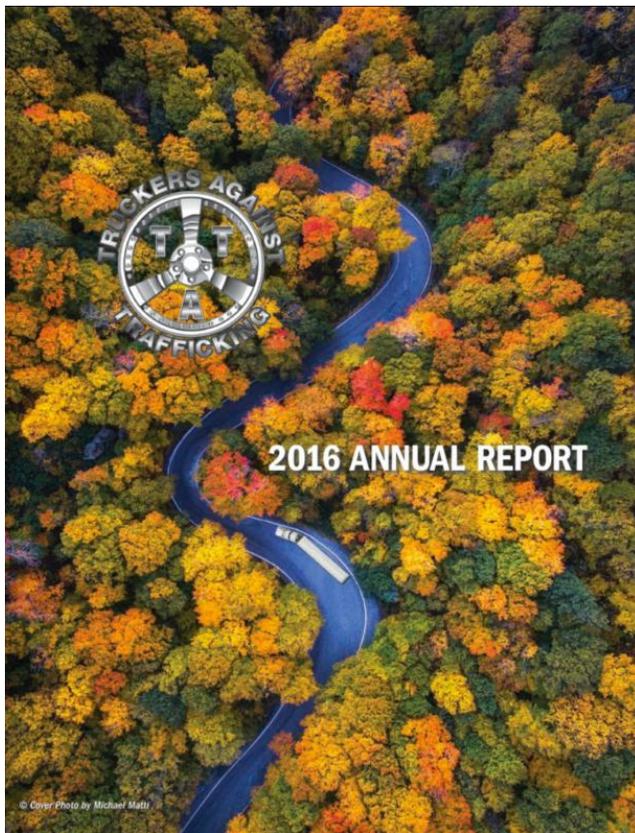
Emotional Senate hearing finds Backpage.com complicit in underage sex trafficking as victim's families testify

"Those children were sold, and they simply tried to sanitize it. That, ladies and gentlemen, is the definition of evil," said Sen. Claire McCaskill, glaring at the five company executives sitting in front of her. Jan. 10 was a day of reckoning on Capitol Hill for the controversial classified site Backpage.com, as the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations released a new report saying that Backpage had knowingly facilitated underage trafficking on its site by actively editing ads posted in the "adult services" section.

[Click here to read these articles on our website](#)

Check out TAT's 2016 Annual Report

Truckers Against



Trafficking invites you to check out our 2016 annual report, which is now [available here](#). The theme for this year's report is Maximizing Partnerships through Program Expansion. If you're interested in obtaining a printed copy of the report, please contact tat.truckers@gmail.com.

TAT hires State-Based Initiatives Director



Stephanie Walton

Stephanie Walton joins the TAT staff as director of state-based initiatives (SBI), responsible for taking TAT's relationships with state agencies to a new level of partnership. In this role, Walton will work to identify necessary pathways in each state for full implementation of TAT's Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement (IA MVE) model, and then build out the necessary relational infrastructure for complete adoption nationwide. Walton will also identify additional ways state agencies can partner with TAT via its applicable programs.

Prior to joining TAT, Walton worked at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, focusing on initiatives to prevent and reduce youth tobacco use. She also worked for many years at the National Conference of State Legislatures, where she provided information, technical assistance and legislative testimony to states on a number of human services topics. Walton received her MA degree in political science from the University of Colorado at Denver, and her BA at Linfield College in Oregon. She lives with her husband near Denver and, in their spare time, they like to explore the outdoors.

A shout out to Hoekstra Transportation LLC for their anti-trafficking efforts

Working to partner with their local Zonta group, Hoekstra Transportation LLC went the extra mile in 2016 and wrapped three of their trailers with anti-human trafficking messages. Additionally, Hoekstra hauled the Freedom Drivers Project from the 2016 SuperRigs event to the Illinois Truck Driving Championships last year.



Thank you to the California Trucking Association!



The California Trucking Association (CTA), the first state trucking association to partner with TAT back in 2011, has presented TAT with \$10,900, as a result of a call for donations by CTA Policy Director Eric Sauer. The Bay Area presented a portion of the money in December, and the rest came to TAT through the CTA board meeting in January. The money was donated through fundraising efforts including golf tournaments, driver and member company donations and employee donations.

"Since 2011, CTA and its members have proudly partnered with Truckers Against Trafficking to do what we can to stop human trafficking. In

addition to our members frequently serving as the eyes and ears of what's happening on our roads and highways and working with TAT to alert authorities to incidents of trafficking, our members have also contributed more than \$38,800 to TAT over the last 5 years," said Shawn Yadon, CEO of the California Trucking Association.

Jacobs and Lanier receive high marks for law enforcement training in Mississippi

Between Jan. 10-14, TAT Deputy Director Kylla Lanier and TAT Field Trainer and survivor leader Beth Jacobs traveled the state of Mississippi training the law enforcement division of the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). In four different locations, they conducted six three-hour trainings. As a result of the trainings, MDOT will now be stocking all weigh stations and ports of entry with TAT materials. The officers will be visiting truck stops and trucking companies within their jurisdiction and will use their position to raise awareness about TAT. There was also interest from the Highway Patrol for possible trainings as well.



As a result of TAT training for law enforcement in Mississippi, officers will be passing along what they learned to trucking and travel plaza representatives throughout the state.

Chief Willie Huff, MDOT Law Enforcement Director, said, "I have heard many compliments from the officers ... Hopefully this knowledge will enable us to look a little deeper into a situation we may have never looked into before and allow a victim to be given their life back ... Thank you again."

[Click here](#) to read more.



Texas Attorney General, legislators, Texas Trucking Association and TAT partner on CDL training bills

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, State Senator Sylvia Garcia, State Representative Senfronia Thompson and Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, were among the speakers at a Children at Risk Human Trafficking Advocacy Day Rally and press conference Jan. 25 at the Texas state capitol in Austin to announce mirror bills by Garcia and Thompson which have the potential to include TAT training in requirements for CDL licensing in the state of Texas.

TAT Deputy Director Kylla Lanier and Texas Trucking Association President John Esparza were both present at the Texas capitol for the announcement on upcoming bills regarding CDL training in Texas.

House bill 272 and Senate bill 128 both have the goal of increasing anti-human trafficking training for truck drivers in Texas, recognizing that members of the trucking industry play a critical role in the fight against human trafficking. [Click here](#) to read more.

Upcoming Events

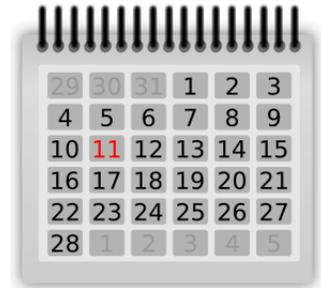
Feb. 2 - Human Trafficking Rally, Columbus, OH, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

Feb. 3-4 - Mid-West Truck and Trailer Show, Peoria, IL, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, attending

Feb. 23 - Coalition build, El Paso, TX, Esther Goetsch, TAT coalition build specialist, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting

Feb. 27-March 2 - ATA Technology and Maintenance Council, Nashville, TN, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, attending

Feb. 28 - Missouri law enforcement training, Jefferson City, MO, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting



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