



Truckers Against Trafficking Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 1
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TAT 2014 annual report
available soon

We look forward to sharing
TAT's 2014 annual report with
you. It will be
available later this month.

Notable Quotes

On TAT's Facebook page,
followers were asked: Since
you've first heard about human
trafficking, what's something
new about it you have learned
from our page OR from some
other source?

*"It has happened to my friend's
daughter. She was taken to
Mexico, but is now home
healing. I have learned that it is
just happening everywhere,
and you guys are doing a great
job spreading the word, and I
thank God for the help you are
giving to our children."* Coni S.

*"I've learned that it involves
every class of people, every
race and all ages. I've learned
that there are adults that have
been trafficked since they were
children and may even still be
in the missing children
database. I've learned that
many kids that are considered
endangered runaways may
have been lured by
traffickers."* Jan M.

*"That such a high percentage of
'johns' know they are buying
sex from women who are
victims.
When I read that, it literally*

Human trafficking in the news

Truck drivers, nuns unite against human trafficking

Nuns and truck drivers may not seem the most obvious of partners. But in Cedar Rapids, they're working together to fight human trafficking. [Click here](#) to read more.

Survivor of human trafficking speaks to King High School students

Connie Rose's story is a difficult one to hear. During her childhood, she was sold out of her home by her own father for sex. She said she even serviced johns in the parking lot of the Tampa high school she attended. [Click here](#) to read more.

To fight sex trafficking, we need to change the culture (and legislation)

Part of the problem: The Trafficking Victims Protection Act is generally only enforced when it comes to prostituted children. Suddenly, when a woman turns 18, she's on her own, viewed as an adult making fully empowered choices, says Melissa Farley, a psychologist and founder of Prostitution Research and Education. Our desire to separate trafficking from prostitution, and girls from women, is part of what supports society's acceptance of the sex industry. Many believe women become prostitutes simply because they made bad choices and erase (or are ignorant of) all the factors leading up to this supposed choice -- sexual abuse, neglect, addiction, incest, poverty, racism, and, of course, gender inequality and a culture that turns women and girls into sexualized objects. [Click here](#) to read more.

TAT uses whiteboard animation to share mission

Beginning this month, TAT will share its mission with

made me sick to my stomach and cry. I don't know how they could go through with it."
Rosalyn Y.



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potential partners in a new way -- whiteboard animation. The whiteboard animation, which lasts approximately 1:20 minutes, will be available for viewing on the TAT website, on the About Us section.

Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, explained, "In order to answer the ever-relevant questions of who we are and what we do, TAT wanted to employ a creative and interesting medium in whiteboard animation. We hope it will help communicate our mission effectively and, in doing so, attract new partners to this important and necessary work."



To view TAT's new tool, [click here](#).

Helen Van Dam joins TAT as new director of the Freedom Drivers Project

Helen Van Dam, the former events and communications manager for iEmpathize, a non-profit organization focused on preventing the abuse and exploitation of children, is the new director for TAT's Freedom Drivers Project (FDP). Van Dam, who has worked four major trucking shows with TAT in the past few years, as well as a customer appreciation day at the Davis Travel Center in Virginia, learned about human trafficking while a student at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She knew she wanted to do all she could to fight for the freedom of others. During her junior and senior years, she became the leader of CU Students Against Modern-day Slavery and received a grant to complete a summer research project on human trafficking organizations in Russia. Meanwhile, she also volunteered and interned for iEmpathize, eventually becoming a full-time team member in May 2012.

"I wanted to work as the FDP director, because I love walking with people through the realization of what human trafficking is and that it's happening in America and then helping them see how they are a vital part of ending it," explained Van Dam. "I love empowering others with the tools to make an impact on this issue in their daily lives, and I believe TAT does an phenomenal job of doing just that for the trucking industry. I am brand new

to the trucking industry and am looking forward to getting to know the lingo. I've met such great people at the truck shows I've worked and am looking forward to working with more of the fantastic people in this industry!"



Helen Van Dam

Upcoming Events



Jan. 6 - Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, will speak to the board of the Wyoming Trucking Association in Casper, WY.

Jan. 8 - Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, will be in Florence, AZ, with the FDP, doing an Arizona Coalition Build.

Jan. 22-23 - Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and Helen Van Dam, TAT FDP

director, will be at the Landstar Driver Appreciation Days with the FDP in Jacksonville, FL.

Jan. 31 - Lyn Thompson, TAT communications specialist, will be speaking at the Atlanta Justice Conference in Johns Creek, GA.

What is TAT?

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is a non-profit organization that exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize the trucking industry to combat human trafficking as part of their regular jobs. Domestic sex trafficking occurs along our nation's highways and at its truck stops, where traffickers can sell their victims to a transient population they believe are less likely to attempt rescue. In response, TAT is asking the 3 million domestic truckers, as

well as other members of the trucking industry, to become aware of this issue, and, when they suspect a human trafficking case, to call the national hotline and report it. Visit our website at www.truckersagainstrafficking.org to learn more.

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