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Human Trafficking in the News

Des Moines identified as top 100 human trafficking site

Washington, D.C.-based Polaris began a national initiative in January to crack down on illicit massage businesses, including six raided last month in Indianapolis. Polaris identified Des Moines in the top 100 locales by scraping data from paid online sites, where customers review sex workers. It found eight locations in the city, according to Rochelle Keyhan, who is directing the national effort.

With new enforcement regulations for child trafficking in place, task force considers additional measures

When Rick Walter logs onto Craigslist, he's not just looking for cheap housing or a missed connection. Instead, the Scott County sheriff is investigating for telltale signs that a user may be trafficking underage children. If Walter catches a trafficker, they can now be charged with a felony thanks to House Bill 1562. The bill, which became law Aug. 28, expands Missouri's definition of human trafficking to include "advertising the availability" of a child for sex acts. Previously, trafficking itself was a felony crime in the state, but advertising was not. Aggravated stalking of a minor who is "alleged to be the victim of an offense" is also now a felony thanks to the bill.

TAT works to combat human trafficking on both sides of the border

TAT has joined into an agreement with Mexican hotline Consejo Ciudadano Mx to combat human trafficking on both sides of the border. "Truckers Against Trafficking is excited about working with Consejo Ciudadano to combat human trafficking in both of our countries. Combatting human trafficking on both sides of the border is critical, and we will now be able to equip professional drivers in both Mexico and the United States to recognize the signs of trafficking and to know how to report it to the proper authorities. Drivers are the eyes and ears of our nations' highways, and they are truly able to be heroes of the road. We look forward to a long and productive relationship with Consejo Ciudadano to help end this heinous crime," Kendis Paris stated.



Looking ahead to 2017

by Kendis Paris, TAT executive director



After an exciting and successful 2016, in addition to thanking you for your incredible support in this critical fight to end human trafficking, I wanted to share a few insights with you on where TAT is headed and how we plan on getting there in 2017 and beyond.

First, I want you to know that TAT is working to scale sustainably. Our goal has never been to simply grow TAT as an organization but to extend our influence and reach as much as possible each year in the trucking industry by expanding existing

programs, beginning new ones where necessary, and building the necessary infrastructure for model replication, either internationally or across modes of transportation.

As you know, traffickers use and exploit various means of transportation to move and sell their victims, and while trucking is and will always remain our primary focus, we believe it's important for employees in all modes of commercial transportation to become trained to increase their awareness, so they can recognize this crime any time, any place, but especially when it appears on their doorsteps. Therefore, because our partnerships are expanding, especially when we consider all the government agencies we currently work with (Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Revenue, Department of Licensing), **TAT has expanded its goals** to the following:

- Saturate trucking and related industries with TAT materials.
- Partner with law enforcement and government agencies to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking.
- Marshal the resources of our partners to combat this crime.

While we want to always ensure we're capable of fulfilling our mission of educating, equipping, empowering and mobilizing the trucking industry to fight human trafficking, the expansion of our goals enables us to consider the trajectory of the industry we primarily work with and the abolitionist movement as a whole.

As we look at all we hope to accomplish in 2017 -- like dramatically increasing how many are registered as TAT trained, assisting in developing anti-trafficking legislation, continuing to build out coalitions between industry

stakeholders and law enforcement at the local and state level, along with much more -- we are excited.

But what truly motivates us is unearthing all the amazing TAT champions we find along the way, whether it be a professional driver, state legislator, law enforcement official at any level, safety director, CEO of a manufacturing company, dealer manager, CDL instructor, truck stop GM, STA president, trucking or government official in any role, etc. We are truly in this together and, with your help, can make 2017 the most impactful year yet.

Remember to keep an eye out for our 2016 Annual Report, which will hopefully be out and on our website by the end of this month, to give you an encapsulated version of what we all accomplished as TATs this past year.

Freedom Drivers Project adds to the fun at Heartland Express



The FDP enjoyed lots of sunshine for the Heartland Express Driver Appreciation event in Florida.

The Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) traveled to Jacksonville, Florida in December for its last road trip of 2016 to join Heartland Express for their Driver Appreciation event.

"We had a great time sharing in celebrating drivers with them," said Helen Van Dam, FDP director. "Drivers are vital to the safety of our roads, and we're so thankful for their work to recognize and report sex trafficking. An extra shout out to the Heartland Express drivers who toured the Freedom Drivers Project and committed to call the hotline!"

Thank you to all the Heartland Express staff that made it possible for us to be there. We had a great time enjoying the sunshine, company, and food. Thank you also to Mode Transportation, Grammer Industries, and Quality Distribution for hauling the FDP."



Heartland Express drivers toured the FDP and learned about human trafficking and what they can do to prevent it.

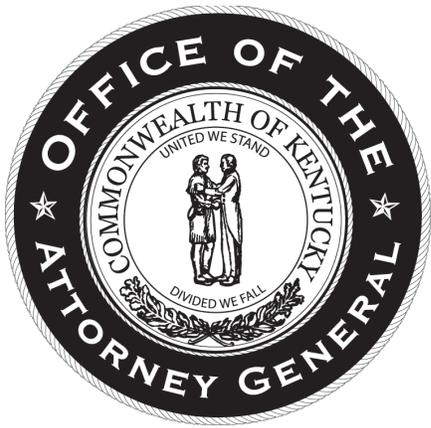
TAT and the FDP head to Kentucky for National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, and Helen Van Dam, Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) director, along with the FDP, will head to Frankfort, Kentucky Jan. 10-12 to commemorate National Human Trafficking Awareness Day Jan. 11.

Kentucky Attorney General Anthony Beshear is planning a media and community event in the rotunda of the state capitol. Paris will speak at that event, which will be attended by some state legislators.

Beshear, whose office hosted a TAT coalition build in 2016, reports that human trafficking is on the increase in Kentucky, despite the fact that the state has some of the "best human-trafficking laws on the books."

He said, "In other words, our structure is in place. What it needs is our focus and our expertise. In



the Commonwealth of Kentucky, there's no such thing as a child prostitute ... that is a child being human trafficked, and people need to see that, whether it's the terrible examples that we've seen of the foster parent selling his foster daughter's body for furniture or people dressing up their kids in scandalous clothing outside a movie theater and trying to pimp them to folks. That's human trafficking. The biggest impediment is people don't understand it when they see it, and they don't know the special investigative techniques that are

needed for the laws that are out there so that we can successfully prosecute them. We're committed to changing that."

Beshear is currently working on partnerships between his office and those in the trucking and hotel industries to combat human trafficking. He hopes to find sponsors for and to file legislation that will make TAT training a mandatory part of entry-level CDL training requirements in Kentucky.

TAT sends two to Mississippi to provide four days of training

Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer and survivor-leader, working with the law enforcement division of Mississippi's DOT, will provide six three-hour training sessions in Mississippi Jan. 10-14 for motor vehicle enforcement and state patrol officers from across the state.



This three-hour, jointly taught training will include human trafficking 101, an overview of TAT's Iowa MVE model, Jacob's story with a focus on using a victim-centered approach, an activity called "Is Prostitution a Profession?" to provoke thoughts of prostitution being the oldest oppression not the oldest profession, and then case studies, giving attendees an understanding of how to handle similar situations and what to look for as signs of a person being trafficked. Jacobs provides a handout with local emergency housing and other resources, tips for using a victim-centered approach and contact information for a survivor leader living in Mississippi and willing to work with law enforcement.

"Organizations such as Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) recognize that members of the trucking industry are an invaluable asset in the fight against the heinous crime of human trafficking," said Chief Willie Huff, Mississippi



Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Enforcement director. "With Mississippi having nearly 150 cases of human trafficking reported since 2007, it's critical that MDOT Enforcement partners with organizations like TAT to further train our officers on ways to combat this increasing issue and uncover these victims in our state."

The trainings will take place in Batesville, Tupelo, Newton, the Mississippi DOT training room, McComb and Hattiesburg.

Beth Jacobs, survivor-leader and TAT field trainer, teaches law enforcement to use a victim-centered approach with trafficking survivors.



Pinnacle Truck Driver Training (TDT) School is not only training their

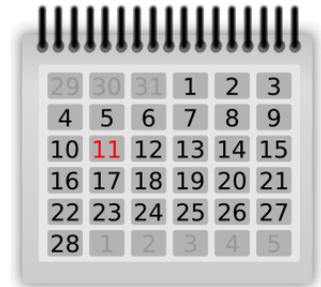
drivers with TAT materials, they have wrapped one of their training trailers with TAT's logo. Tim Martin, Pinnacle TDT president, said, "Every day, the news reminds us of the cruel, horrible, and despicable acts people take toward other people. Near the top of the list of such acts must be kidnapping children and selling them for sex. We are all familiar with the quotation, 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.' Truckers Against Trafficking gives each individual good person the tools to do something effective to fight this blight on our society. And Pinnacle Truck Driver Training, Inc. wants to help promote the fight."

Upcoming Events

Jan. 10-14 - Mississippi LE trainings, State of Mississippi, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting

Jan. 10-12 - National Human Trafficking Awareness Day Event, Capitol Building, Frankfort, KY, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting, and the FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, attending

Jan. 27 - Tulsa Demand Project Human Trafficking Event, Tulsa, OK, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting



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