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Human Trafficking in the News

Predators turn to social media to lure teenagers into sex trafficking

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WKRN) - Predators are turning to social media as a way to lure teenagers into human trafficking. The danger is literally lurking in the palm of your children's hands. This August, 41 people were arrested in a three-day operation aimed at combating sex and human trafficking in Nashville. It was all part of a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation sting called "Operation Someone Like Me."

Texas working with truckers in fight against human trafficking

SAN ANTONIO - As Texas continues to ramp up its efforts to combat human trafficking, truck drivers will be an integral part in detecting suspicious activity, Attorney General Ken Paxton said Thursday as he highlighted the partnership between the state and a pair of trucking associations.

Hundreds of young people trafficked into door-to-door sales in the US

Hundreds of young people are being abused and exploited within the travelling sales industry in the US. In a report published on Thursday, entitled Knocking at Your Door, the anti-trafficking charity Polaris describes how unemployed young people are targeted by recruiters who promise them an enjoyable job involving travel and high profits.

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TA Travel Plaza employees receive TAT's Harriet Tubman Award

Debo Adepiti and Alan Bailey, two TA Travel Plaza employees in Jessup, Maryland, have been awarded the Truckers Against Trafficking Harriet Tubman Award for their actions last year which resulted in the arrest of traffickers and the recovery of victims.

The award, which carries with it a \$2500 check, is named in honor of famed abolitionist Harriet Tubman, whose courageous personal actions resulted in

the transportation of 300 slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad and whose overall role in the freedom movement was instrumental in the freeing of thousands more. Born into slavery in 1820, Miss Tubman was the first African American woman buried with full military honors and the first to have the inaugural Liberty ship named after her - the SS Harriet Tubman - by the US Maritime Commission.

"Because of Harriet Tubman's connection to transportation through the Underground Railroad and her heroic work to free thousands of slaves, TAT believes she epitomizes the symbol of freedom a trucking anti-trafficking award represents," said Kendis Paris, TAT executive director.

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Tom Liutkus (center), senior vice president of marketing and public relations for TravelCenters of America, presented the Harriet Tubman award to Debo Adepiti (left), TA general manager at Jessup, and Alan Bailey (right), porter.

Oregon becomes 47th state trucking association to partner with TAT



Kylla Lanier (left), TAT deputy director, and Jana Jarvis, OTA president

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is delighted to welcome the Oregon Trucking Association as one of its state trucking association partners. Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presented at the Oregon Trucking Association's Annual Leadership Conference in Redmond, Oregon on Sept. 24. OTA president Jana Jarvis pledged the association's support in furthering TAT's message among their 450 member companies. TAT was warmly welcomed, and carriers in the room took training materials back to their companies in the hopes that their drivers can be "changemakers" in someone's life.

"The sincerity of the OTA staff's response to TAT's message was very encouraging. We look forward to working with them to make sure Oregon's trucking industry is educated and equipped to stand up against the scourge of human trafficking," said Lanier.



TAT message well-received at CVSA annual conference

With law enforcement officers and commercial transportation industry members gathered from across the nation to strategize on and discuss road safety issues, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) annual conference, held in Little Rock, Arkansas this year, was an ideal audience for the message of Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT).



On Sept. 19, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presented in both the Region III jurisdiction meeting, which includes law enforcement and industry representatives from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin, as well as the associate members meeting, which includes transportation safety organizations and trade associations, trucking and bus companies, industry suppliers and vendors, training institutions, consultants, insurance companies, state and provincial trucking associations and small-fleet owner operators.

"The TAT message was extremely well-received in both meetings, and, afterwards, I had law enforcement personnel, large and small fleets, as well as multiple bus companies, introduce themselves and pledge to TAT train. I'd love to give a big TAT shout-out to both Chief Lorenzen, of the Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement, for arranging the Region III presentation time, and to Jason Wing, director of fleet safety for Walmart, for making sure TAT was able to present at the associate members meeting. Both men are classic examples of using your influence well, and their simple action will have an exponential effect."



Over 250 associate members attended the CVSA meeting.

Freedom Drivers Project helps Covenant Transportation celebrate its drivers



Covenant Transportation, a new TAT silver level sponsor and partner, hosted Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) on Sept. 12-13 in Chattanooga, Tennessee for their driver appreciation days. Over 200 employees toured the FDP, and 75 attended training sessions to learn more about human trafficking and how they could be part of the solution.

Andrew Scharff, Covenant program manager and the man who coordinated TAT's visit, said, "At Covenant, one of the values we are built on is putting others before ourselves and feel this makes our relationship with TAT and its mission a perfect fit. We are excited about our growing partnership and the lives that can be changed forever through it."

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Kylla Lanier (facing camera), TAT Deputy Director, takes two Covenant Transportation employees through the FDP.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 1-4 - American Trucking Associations Management Conference, Las Vegas, NV, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

Oct. 2 - Justice Run, Denver, CO, Helen Van Dam, FDP director, Laura Cyrus, TAT administrative specialist, and Michelle Bishop, TAT programs coordinator, attending

Oct. 11 - Coalition Build, Salt Lake City, UT, Esther Goetsch, TAT coalition build coordinator, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting



Oct. 20 - Daseke Event, Birmingham, AL, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, attending

Oct. 22-23 - Arkansas State Fair, Little Rock, AR, Helen Van Dam, FDP director, and FDP, attending

Oct. 26-28 - Maine law enforcement training, Augusta, ME, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting

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