Human Trafficking in the News

Systems change - big or small?
The idea of systems change is gaining momentum. The social sector is improving its tools and frameworks for systems change, and Co-Impact's recent announcement to invest $500 million in systems change initiatives is set to spark serious interest in the donor community.

Dozens of Rochester kids acknowledge they've been sold for sex
In 2014 Rochester's Center for Youth Services received 127 referrals from police, medical officials, and local agencies about kids who could be sexually exploited. Three years later, that number had more than doubled, to nearly 300.

Uber enlists its drivers in the fight against sex trafficking with new national campaign
Uber wants its drivers to help stop sex trafficking, an enduring problem that has prompted activists to press workers on the front lines of the travel industry to alert authorities if they see it happening. Over the past few years, Uber has enlisted its drivers in local and regional efforts to help fight human trafficking of adults and minors. But the new initiative, which begins Monday, at the end of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, targets all 750,000 active U.S. drivers and eventually will expand to other countries.

With a CAP matching grant, your donation can have double the impact: give now!
Between March and May, Change a Path (CAP), an organization providing financial grants to support not-for-profit organizations working in the sex-trafficking space, is providing a $45,000 matching
TAT Deputy Director Kylla Lanier was one of the speakers at the press conference launching the Man-to-Man Campaign.

CAP began supporting TAT in 2015, and has given $90,000 in funding, both in regular grants and in matching grants, for coalition builds.

"The TAT team is thoughtful, strategic, and committed in their mission to engage and empower the trucking industry to address commercial sexual exploitation in our country," said Shannon Rogers, CAP founder. "Their tangible work leads to tangible results. We always know that our grant dollars are being used with great efficiency and have a great impact."

**Annual report highlights employee engagement: Trucking members, take a bow ... you did great work!**

Take time to check out the Truckers Against Trafficking 2017 annual report and see what a powerful presence companies and trucking industry individuals are making in the fight against human trafficking. From coast to coast, innovative thinking, passionate participation and the desire to make a difference are characterizing members of the trucking industry and resulting in collective achievements in this national effort.

**Truckers Against Trafficking launches demand campaign in Washington, D.C.**

At a press conference Feb. 21 at the American Trucking Associations (ATA) Capitol Hill Office in Washington, D.C., Truckers Against Trafficking launched its Man-to-Man Campaign before professional drivers, including the American Trucking Associations America's Road Team, representatives from national trucking organizations, trucking companies such as UPS and Walmart, Congressional aides and anti-trafficking organizations.

Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, spoke to the campaign's mission, "The prostituted person, and more recently, the traffickers, have been the focus of attention and arrests, while the buyer goes home with a warning. This must change. Traffickers meet the demand for commercial sex by luring their victims into this life and keeping them there through force, fraud or coercion. If there were no money to be made, they wouldn't pursue this criminal activity."

To that end, TAT created the Man-to-Man Campaign, featuring a "TAT portrait" of some of the best professional drivers in the trucking industry, due to the fact...
that they are not purchasing, and instead, are keeping an eye out to aid in the recovery of women and children forced into slavery. These portraits will be used on TAT's website, social media pages, on banners at speaking presentations around the country, and, in particular, flanking the Freedom Drivers Project. On the TAT website, each driver will be given a brief profile, and there will be resources highlighting the link between commercial sex and sex trafficking, and action steps individuals and companies can take toward eradicating demand.

Click to read more.

TAT hires to expand outreach to busing and oil and gas

Looking to expand both its outreach to the busing industry and to the oil and gas industry, Truckers Against Trafficking announces its two latest hires, Annie Sovcik, Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) program director, and Ashley Smith, oil and gas program manager.

Sovcik joined TAT in January 2018 with over 12 years of experience as a human rights lawyer, working on anti-human trafficking, anti-torture, and refugee protection policies at a national and international level. Prior to TAT, Sovcik was the director of the Washington D.C. office of the Center for Victims of Torture. She has also worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Human Rights First and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. She is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law and received her B.A. in international studies from the University of Denver.

"Since joining TAT," Sovcik said, "I have been consistently amazed by what a significant difference such a small group of committed staff have been able to make. The partnership model that TAT embraces -- enrolling industry leaders and empowering key personnel within the trucking industry to recognize and report human trafficking throughout the country -- has generated a ripple effect that is far-reaching and deeply impactful, literally touching hundreds of thousands of lives. I'm already starting to see an inspiring level of interest on the part of the bus industry to get involved the way truckers have and am optimistic that the bus industry will tackle this challenge with grace and vigor -- and am really excited to help make that happen!"

Also joining the TAT team in January, Smith is working to expand TAT's reach into trucking within the oil and gas industry. She started her professional career as a high school educator, then moved on to work in community relations and training. A graduate of Texas Tech University, she is equipped with both knowledge of and connections in oil and gas.

"It's exciting to be part of an organization that mobilizes an existing workforce to combat such an important issue," Smith commented. "I'm ready to harness the energy of our oil and gas industry to fuel the fight against human trafficking."
Busing on the Lookout already clicking off the miles

In the first two months of this year, Busing on the Lookout (BOTL), TAT’s outreach to the American busing industry to partner with them in the fight against human trafficking, is already in high gear.

Annie Sovcik, BOTL director, has:

- Presented to the board of directors of the American Bus Association and participated in their annual marketplace in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Trained the drivers from Trans-Bridge Lines at Port Authority in New York City.
- Presented at the Trailways annual shareholder conference in Destin, Florida.
- Announced a partnership between TAT and the Wisconsin Department of Justice to disseminate the BOTL training.

"As I've been doing outreach to leaders in the bus industry to make sure they are aware of BOTL and to encourage them to adopt our industry-specific training materials, the response has been incredible," she said. "The immediate interest on the part of so many -- from national, regional, and state associations to companies large, medium, and small -- to partner with BOTL and ensure that all of their employees and/or members receive training on human trafficking is a sign that we're helping to fill a need that has thus far gone unmet. We are so grateful to Bridgestone, the American Bus Association, and Trailways for helping to open doors to industry leaders with us. I also want to recognize Trans-Bridge Lines, which operates in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey, for being the first company to commit to training all of its employees with BOTL materials and the Wisconsin Department of Justice for being an early and enthusiastic partner. We still have so much more work to do but are off to a great start!"

Law enforcement trainings stimulate new anti-trafficking actions

In the first of multiple law enforcement trainings requested in Tennessee, TAT Deputy Director Kylla Lanier and TAT Field Trainer Tajuan McCarty met with 43 Tennessee Highway Patrol troopers from across the state and Averitt Express safety directors in Nashville on Feb. 6. A week later, Lanier and McCarty were in Springfield, Illinois, providing training to 110 officers, agents from the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA), lawyers from the U.S.
Survivor Leader Tajuan McCarty presented at both the Tennessee and Illinois law enforcement trainings.

Training in both instances consisted of human trafficking 101, an overview of TAT's work and the Iowa MVE model, case studies of interdiction and inspection stops that led to human trafficking cases and survivor leader testimony and training tips, including taking a victim-centered approach. At both trainings, TAT provided materials to stock scale houses, as well as a law enforcement training video and handouts with local resources and best practices for interacting with potential trafficking victims to the attendees.

As a result of the training, the Tennessee Highway Patrol incorporated the TAT law enforcement video into their orientation and ongoing training protocol; they will be stocking their weigh stations with wallet cards and posters; and they are seeking permission to begin showing the Kevin Kimmel, Everyone a Changemaker video in the weigh stations on a loop.

In Illinois, prior to the training, five of the 29 ports of entry in Illinois were stocked with TAT materials. By Feb. 19, all 29 were scheduled to be stocked. "We also have a contact through Master Sgt. Armstrong with the Secretary of State," explained Lanier, "who can possibly have a TAT wallet card issued at CDL issuance and renewal. While it is not possible this year as curriculum is set, the Illinois State Patrol (ISP) will look at adding the TAT law enforcement training video to the Academy next year. We were also approached by the U.S. Attorney's office, which is launching a Central Illinois Task Force, as well as the mayor of a smaller town (also a trooper), who would like us to come back to speak to them as well. We spoke about arranging those events around the next ISP training or train the trainer. The Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) video will be sent to all troops as well as the FMCSA. Individual officers spoke about visiting truck stops and companies in their jurisdictions with TAT materials, but, as of yet, we don't have a way to gather that information."

**Upcoming Events**

**March 6-7** - American Chemistry Council Member and Partner Supply Chain Responsible Care Conference, New Orleans, LA, Laura Cyrus, TAT operations director, presenting

**March 8** - Lower Columbia Transportation Association, Kelso, WA, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

**March 12** - Port of Entry training, Golden, CO, Helen Van Dam, TAT FDP director, presenting

**March 20** - Michigan Trucking Association Safety Conference and Banquet, Lansing, MI, Laura Cyrus, TAT operations director, presenting

**March 21-25** - Mid-America Trucking Show, Louisville, KY, TAT staff attending
March 28 - Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles CDL 3rd Party Tester training, Orlando, FL, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

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Truckers Against Trafficking
PO Box 816 | Englewood, CO 80151
tat.truckers@gmail.com
www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org

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