

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



[www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org](http://www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org)

## **Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build Report: Columbia, SC January 11, 2018**

A coalition strives to bring together critical stakeholders to accomplish a single mission. TAT's coalition builds do just that, by gathering law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to close loopholes to traffickers, who exploit victims and legitimate businesses for criminal gain. The primary goal of a TAT coalition build is to establish an effective and sustainable working relationship between the trucking industry and law enforcement statewide, in order to combat the crime of human trafficking. This is done through our short-term and long-term goals. Much of the short-term impact is seen immediately following the meeting, evidenced through the results of the survey and shown below under "same-day impact." The long-term impact is the result of follow up done two months after the meeting. TAT firmly believes that these meetings have far-reaching impact, not only in building strong coalitions between trucking and law enforcement agencies across the United States, but in ultimately saving lives.

**Short-term goals:**

1. Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments, including representatives from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation, as well as county sheriff's offices, in the same room with representatives/executives of local trucking companies and truck stop owners and managers.
2. Offer an initial training on human trafficking to all participants at the meeting, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to combat it.
3. Introduce truck stop owners and general managers to their local law enforcement officers in order to establish a local contact protocol through the contact list.
4. Motivate more trucking companies to train drivers as a result of the build.
5. Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.
6. Provide victim-centered law enforcement training on human trafficking by local law enforcement leaders and a survivor-leader sharing her story.
7. Promote a change in verbiage and mentality in both industries from "prostitute" to victim.

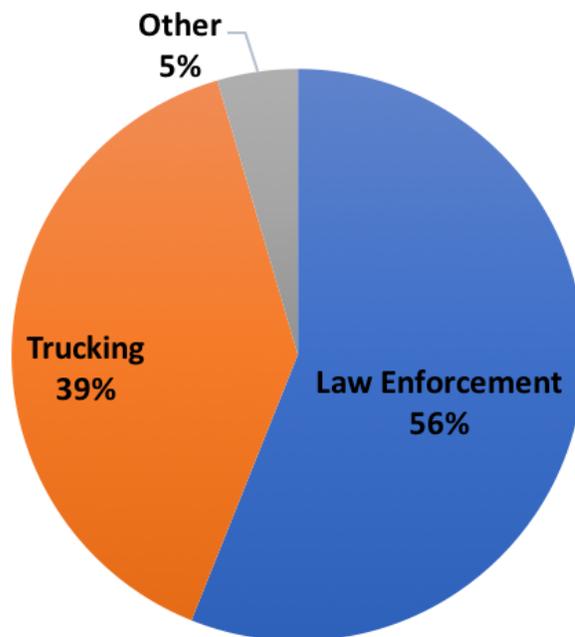
**Long-term goals:**

1. Utilize TAT materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.
2. Chart increase in calls/reports into the hotline.
3. Equip local or statewide anti-trafficking task forces with industry stakeholders.
4. Assist in undercover investigations conducted between law enforcement agencies and industry stakeholders.
5. Aid in the adoption of the Iowa MVE model statewide.
6. Mandate TAT training at the CDL entry-level.

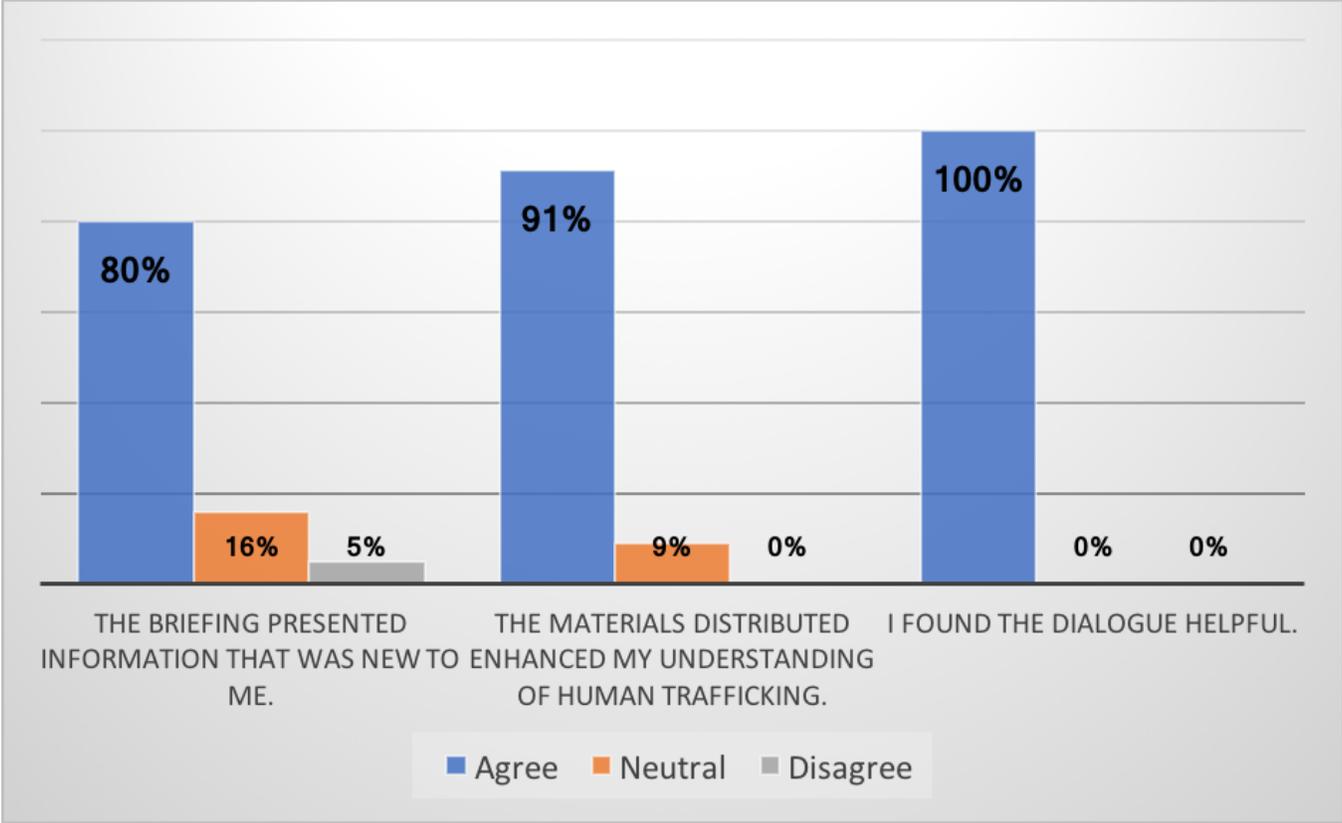
## Same-day impact:

***Goal #1. Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments, including representatives from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation, as well as county sheriff's offices, in the same room with representatives/executives of local trucking companies and truck stop owners and managers.***

TAT co-hosted this coalition build with the South Carolina Trucking Association (SCTA) and the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General (SCOAG). There were representatives from 12 local truck stops, five trucking companies, eight police departments, six sheriff's offices, South Carolina Department of Public Safety, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Spartanburg County Detention Facility, Homeland Security Investigations and the FBI. The following results are based off the survey gathered the day of the meeting, which 67% of participants completed.



**Goal #2. Offer an initial training on human trafficking to all participants at the meeting, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to combat it.**



**89%** of respondents said they know what next steps to take in order to combat human trafficking.

**100%** of respondents said presenters were knowledgeable and approachable.

**98%** of respondents said the briefing was a good use of their time.

**98%** of respondents said they would recommend attending a briefing like this to others in their field.

**84%** of respondents said they are better prepared to identify human trafficking after attending this briefing.

**Here is what attendees had to say about the meeting:**

*“Great speakers and knowledge regarding human trafficking.”*

*“I really enjoyed this training and thought it was a great use of my time. I loved listening to the panel talk and answer questions. Their insight was powerful.”*

*“Thank you for the presentation. It was very helpful, and I will provide all the information to my drivers.”*

*“I am very glad I attended. I hope to make an impact in the future ... which is now!”*

*“This is a great training and should be presented all over to raise awareness, because human trafficking is a real problem.”*

*“All presenters were very knowledgeable and good speakers.”*

*“I thought the meeting went well and I learned many new and interesting things I was not aware of prior to the meeting.”*

**Goal #3 Motivate more trucking companies to train drivers as a result of the build.**

- As a result of the coalition build, the South Carolina Trucking Association is working on the following action steps in spreading awareness and training:
  - Get the program and materials (print or electronic) into as many of their carriers' new hire/monthly safety programs as possible.
  - Work with the SCDMV to include the TAT training (and specific case studies) in one of their weekly staff training sessions for all DMV employees in the state.
  - Have materials available to be handed out with CDLs at DMV office.
  - See if the SCDMV third-party ad group will allow SCTA to place TAT information on the scrolling display monitors in all offices.
  - Introduce the materials to the SC State Ports Authority for them to have available (include labor trafficking information as well) for staff, employees, and drivers.
  - Provide material to SCTA dealer members, and those maintenance-related companies, with driver lounges, for their customers to peruse.
  - Train SCTA Road Team members to add TAT/anti-HT information into their presentations at local schools and organizational events.
  - Make an introduction between TAT and JJ Keller to have JJK add the training to their On-Demand system.
  
- Southeastern Freight Lines is considering training all drivers with TAT materials.

- WP Rawls has now trained all their drivers.

**Goal #4: Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.**

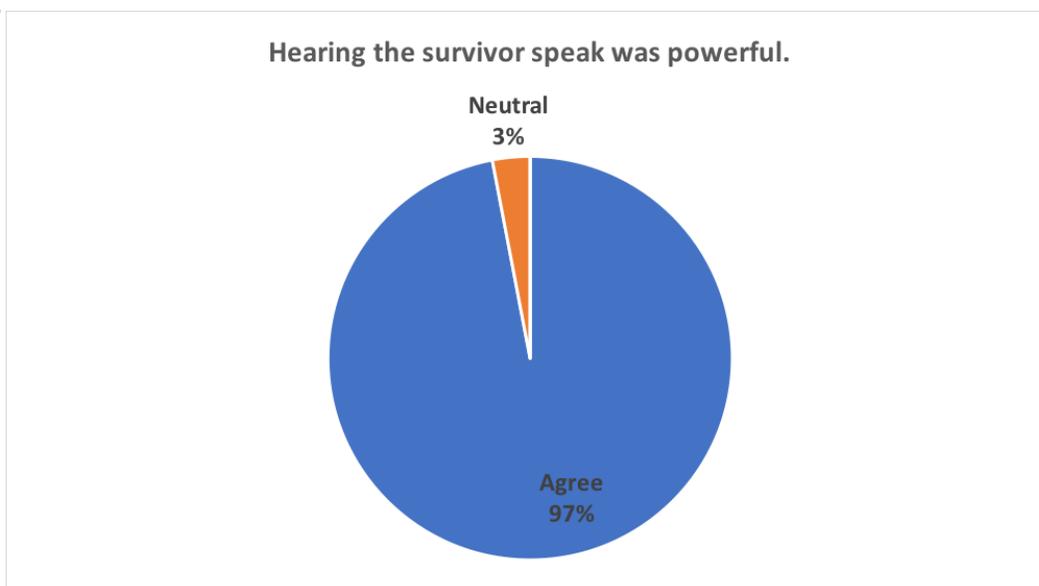
- A trafficking case involving a minor is under investigation and is the direct result of the call of a general manager who attended the coalition build. Though a local sheriff's office was called, Homeland Security Investigations, which was also at the coalition build, is now investigating the case and had this to say about the truck stop employees:

*"The staff at the truck stop had been at your training in Columbia and knew exactly what to do. They immediately called 911. After approximately 30 minutes, deputies had still not arrived, and the girl was seen exiting the truck and leaving with at least one other person in a car. The truck stop workers were fantastic and gathered enough details in the case that we will be able to follow up and hopefully identify both the victims and perpetrators."*

- After the meeting, one general manager had a meeting with all his employees, security officers and their superiors to show the TAT video and hand out wallet cards. He let them know how committed he was to this issue. As a result, it was his employees who called law enforcement about the potential trafficking case involving a minor.

**Goals #5 & #6: Provide victim-centered law enforcement training on human trafficking by local law enforcement leaders and a survivor-leader sharing her story. Promote a change in verbiage and mentality in both industries from "prostitute" to victim.**

While a cultural shift in how prostituted people are viewed is not easily quantified, it is a critical piece of these meetings. From the HT 101 training to the presentation from a survivor's perspective to the law enforcement training, all aspects of the day are geared towards promoting a victim-centered approach and the belief that every person has a part to play in ensuring that more lives are saved.



**Here is what respondents had to say about the presentation by Beth Jacobs:**

*"Wonderful testimony! Very eye opening."*

*"Very powerful and touching and opened my eyes to the other side we don't think about."*

*"I am happy that she didn't allow her circumstances to keep her down and that she was able to find a way out."*

*"Hard to hear but great to explain the 'life' to law enforcement so they can approach the situation more professionally in future cases."*

*"You are an amazing person. Congrats on your accomplishments. I enjoyed your speech."*

*"Great speaker! I loved hearing her story and perspective. We need more of this."*

*"I got a good point of view from the beginning to getting out. I also gained a better knowledge of what to ask and what not to ask or be concerned about."*

*"Great presentation. Keep it going!"*

**Long-term impact and assessment:**

The following results are based on follow up conducted two months after the meeting. Another follow up will be done in six months, and the report will be periodically updated.

***Goal #1. Utilize TAT materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.***

- Pageland Police Department has visited four truck stops in their jurisdiction and passed out TAT flyers and stickers. They have also posted the information in the lobby of their department, because they have truckers come through from time to time. They have also trained four additional officers with TAT's law enforcement video and are using it to continue to raise awareness and spread the information they gained at the meeting.
- Orangeburg Department of Public Safety added the TAT training video to their monthly training in February and said it was very well received.

- The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has used TAT's law enforcement training video to train other officers and has requested more TAT materials.
- Beaufort County Sheriff's Office has used TAT materials to train and distribute to over fifty officers.
- An officer with the Spartanburg County Detention facility has used TAT's law enforcement training video to train other officers, has visited truck stops with TAT materials and had this to say about the meeting:

*"I really enjoyed the meeting and learned so much more about what I thought I knew. I enjoyed being able to tour the truck that had original evidence of what the victims had been through."*

**Goal #5: Aid in the adoption of the Iowa MVE model statewide.**

- The South Carolina Department of Public Safety is now stocking all 14 weigh stations in the state with TAT materials. They also plan to show the TAT training video to all troopers.
- The South Carolina Attorney General invited the South Carolina Trucking Association to sit on the statewide human trafficking task force and they have accepted.
- TAT and SCTA have sent a letter to all CDL schools, encouraging them to implement TAT's training, and TAT has sent them all the free training materials.

**Assessment:**

The South Carolina coalition build was very well attended by trucking and law enforcement and has already had an impact in addressing human trafficking in South Carolina. This report shows the impact that one call can make in potentially saving a young girl's life and the power of every industry (and every individual) to make a difference! By stocking all the weigh stations in South Carolina with TAT materials, thousands of drivers will be reached every month with TAT's message. By sitting on the statewide human trafficking task force, the SCTA is now in a unique position to be leading the conversation around the transportation industry's role in combatting human trafficking in South Carolina. The human trafficking case involving a minor demonstrates the importance of the coalition builds, because not only will a victim potentially be recovered, but law enforcement now sees the truck stop industry as a valuable partner in catching the perpetrators and recovering victims. Building reliable partnerships between law enforcement and members of the trucking industry is a critical component in closing loopholes to traffickers.