Human Trafficking in the News

Red Classic partners with Coca-Cola Bottling CO Consolidated and McMahon Truck Centers
On July 8th and 9th Red Classic will partner with Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated and McMahon Truck Centers to bring the Truckers Against Trafficking Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) to Charlotte.

Hotline, soap target sex trafficking during All-Star Game
As tens of thousands of people flock to Cincinnati for MLB's All-Star game, there are concerns from law enforcement and social service agencies that the game could bring people to town who are looking to pay for sex.

Backpage.com Adult Entertainment Section linked to 495 child sex trafficking victims; Visa, MasterCard, AmEx cut ties with site
At least 495 victims of child sex trafficking in 46 states and D.C. have been linked to the online classified site Backpage.com, Shared Hope International says, a week after Visa, MasterCard, and American Express announced they will no longer be a payment option on the site.

TAT and the FDP on the move in July

Staff from Truckers Against Trafficking and the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) criss-crossed the country during July. Highlights from major events attended included:
**Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH**

"A big thanks to Walmart for donating the thousands of dollars it cost to get the FDP to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center on July 4-5," said Helen Van Dam, FDP director. "We had a fantastic weekend talking with people from all over the area and that would not have been possible without them or their driver Jason, who was a star volunteer in the hot Cincinnati sun. His hard work, positive attitude and passion for the issue couldn't help but engage and inspire those around him."

At the Underground Railroad Freedom Center, "Frederick Douglas" joined TAT staff and volunteers in front of the FDP.

**Red Classic, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated and McMahon Truck Centers, Charlotte, NC**

"We had a great time in North Carolina on July 8-9 meeting with the wonderful people of Red Classic, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated and McMahon Truck Centers," volunteered Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director. "Some 132 people toured the Freedom Drivers Project, and we know drivers will receive TAT training and continue to learn more about human trafficking and how they can combat it as a result. We're grateful to these three companies for sponsoring this trip out to Charlotte and for being awesome hosts!"

**Trucking Association Executives Council, West Palm Beach, FL**

Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presented to the majority of the state trucking association executives in West Palm Beach, Florida, giving them a broader picture of the anti-trafficking movement, the political will rallying behind it and the ways the trucking industry is working in partnership with TAT. She also covered tangible ways to make that partnership even more effective. As a result of this invitation from Ed Crowell and the Georgia Motor Trucking Association to present, TAT secured new partners and strengthened existing relationships.

"State trucking associations have been invaluable partners in the fight to combat human trafficking," Paris stated. "As a result of these executives’ efforts, the TAT message has spread across the nation much more efficiently and effectively than
TAT staff could have done working on its own. It was an honor to gain new partners at this meeting, but also to thank our existing ones for their outstanding work, and we are so grateful for this opportunity.”

**American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, Hershey, PA**

TAT presented to motor vehicle administrators and DOT personnel at the AAMVA Region I conference in Hershey, PA. TAT’s Iowa MVE model was presented with a special emphasis on how DMV and DOT officials could contribute to the effort to combat trafficking by including TAT wallet cards with CDL issuance and renewal as well as influencing curriculum of trucking schools in their states to include TAT training.

**OKC coalition build, Oklahoma City, OK**

More than 80 representatives from the trucking and travel plaza industry and Oklahoma law enforcement gathered in Oklahoma City on July 23 for a coalition build, hosted by Truckers Against Trafficking, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and the Oklahoma Trucking Association. In addition to the training provided, discussion centered on such topics as the importance of good surveillance cameras and video footage at travel plazas, the financial implications for truckers and their companies if they're caught either purchasing or selling people for sex, the critical role detailed information has in ensuring police respond quickly to calls made reporting suspicious activity and the need for trucking and law enforcement to work together to fight human trafficking and use a victim-centered approach.

**Blogs you'll want to check out**

TAT runs a number of blogs to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of the crime of human trafficking as well as the issues and perspectives of those who have survived it and the viewpoints of truckers who fight it. These blogs appear in part on our Facebook page and in full on our website, [www.truckersagainsttrafficking.com](http://www.truckersagainsttrafficking.com). Have you had a chance to check them out? [Click here](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1121788995462&format=html&printFrame=true) to learn more about each of these informative series.
Salute to Bill Brady - He goes the extra mile

William Brady is an owner/operator with Lodestar Transportation who supports TAT by keeping his eyes open to spot human trafficking and call it in. He goes the extra mile by not only pulling the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) to different events around the country but also staying at the event, setting up and then working alongside TAT staff to raise awareness about human trafficking to both members of the trucking industry and the general public. He also accepted the Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award for TAT at the Congressional Award Assembly in 2015.

"Bill has made a personal sacrifice to work with TAT by turning down higher paying loads in order to bring the FDP to different events," stated Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director. "TAT appreciates Bill. He makes us laugh, lessens our work load, and is an extra team member at events. Thank you, Bill Brady, for rocking it each and every time you work with us. Thanks for being a great friend and partner in this fight!"

Click here to read the entire interview TAT had with Bill.

Upcoming Events

Aug 4 - West Virginia Coalition Build, Charleston, WV, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

Aug. 6 - Idaho Trucking Annual Conference, McCall, ID, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

Aug. 18 - Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition, Denver, CO, Kendis Paris, TAT
executive director, presenting

**Aug. 20** - Mississippi Safety Council, Jackson, MS, Helen Van Dam, FDP director, presenting

**Aug. 20** - Wisconsin Serving Victims of Crime Conference, Wisconsin Dells, WI, Lyn Thompson, TAT communications specialist, presenting

**Aug. 26-29** - TAT and the FDP at GATS, Booth # 21098

**Aug. 28** - Michigan Trucking Association Annual Conference, Traverse City, MI, Capt. Mike Krumm, Michigan State Patrol and Lyn Thompson, TAT communications specialist, presenting

**Aug. 31** - TAT and the FDP at Peterbilt, Denton, TX

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