Human Trafficking in the News

Truckers Against Trafficking; Learning to combat modern-day slavery
It's William Romano's first day driving a big rig with a permit. He's learning to back it up, move it forward and park. But something William Didn't expect to learn at Specialized Driving Training on East Division, how to save victims of human trafficking. "I have a daughter," Romano says. "It worries me that it even happens. That men and women would exploit little girls like that."

Texas bill would require trafficking prevention training for CDL applicants
A bill filed in the Texas Senate would require new commercial driver's license applicants to complete training in identifying and reporting human trafficking. Sen. Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston, held a news conference to announce the filing of Senate Bill 128 on Monday, Nov. 14.

Leader of Virginia sex trafficking ring sentenced to 35 years in prison
A man who was at the center of a violent trafficking ring that sold women and girls for sex throughout Virginia has been sentenced to 35 years in prison. Michael Maynes Jr., of Spring Lake, North Carolina, led a sex trafficking organization known as "Horse Block Pimpin." Maynes prostituted 55 women and girls in Alexandria, Richmond and Charlottesville, according to prosecutors.

Giving to TAT promises bang for your buck!
If you're one of many individuals and companies planning your donation strategy for end-of-the-year giving, please consider Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) as a worthy recipient ... worthy not only because of our mission but also because of the impact we're making.
TAT works with one of the most critical transportation industries in our nation to help their 7-million members function as front-line responders in the fight against human trafficking. In the short seven years TAT has existed, and due, in large part, to the strategic, far-reaching and committed relationships we’ve built, members of the trucking industry are demonstrating their effectiveness in assisting law enforcement in realizing the arrest of perpetrators and the recovery of victims.

Consider, with just seven staff members, four of whom are part-time, TAT’s results include:

* More than 280,000 trucking industry members have been registered as TAT Trained on our website. This is up from 174,761 at the end of 2015.
* Truckers have now made 1534 calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, resulting in 471 potential cases, involving 1033 victims.
* TAT’s survivor-leader Beth Jacobs has trained law enforcement at all of our coalition builds, and in enhanced trainings in Ohio, North Carolina, Kansas, and Maine. She is also leading TAT’s charge alongside AAMVA to help survivors obtain driver's licenses.
* In 2016, TAT held nine coalition builds across the nation … strategic meetings between law enforcement and industry stakeholders designed to close loopholes to traffickers at a local level.
* In 2016, the Freedom Drivers Project attended 37 events in 21 states, traveling 32,044 miles, leaving more than 960,000 impressions along the way. More than 9,300 toured the exhibit this year alone, more than 20,000 since it debuted in August 2014.
* 27 states have adopted the Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement model in part or in whole.
* In Ohio, TAT training is now mandated for all entry-level CDL holders. Multiple states are also looking at implementing this mandate.
* Our Shipping Partners Program has grown this year through new relationships with Costco, Hewlett Packard and Praxair.
* All 50 state trucking associations are now TAT partners.
* TAT presented its Harriet Tubman Award to two TA/Petro employees in Jessup, Maryland, whose observations, quick thinking and follow-up call to police last year helped law enforcement in Howard County arrest three traffickers and recover six of the 12 women they were forcibly prostituting.
* After being approached by representatives of the new Mexican human trafficking hotline, TAT has now added that hotline number to its wallet cards for drivers who may cross the border between the United States and Mexico as part of their jobs.
* Facebook followers as of mid-November were 144,003; Twitter 30,216; and Instagram 6445.

TAT is recognized by legislators, lawmakers, law enforcement, the anti-trafficking world, survivors and many others for applying its efforts on programs and in directions that yield results, for its ability to create partnerships that provide effective problem-solving and mobilization of more people and companies and for its commitment to creating models that can be replicated across the transportation industry and into other industries.
TAT Deputy Director Kylla Lanier, left, asked truck drivers to stand at the Childhood Brasil conference to receive a standing ovation.

Please join TAT's work for this coming year with your end-of-the-year gift now. Together, we can continue to achieve truckloads of results.

**Click here to donate today!**

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**TAT presents on coalition builds to Childhood Brasil's On the Right Track program**

Speaking before two select audience groups in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presented TAT's coalition build program on Nov. 22 at the request of Childhood Brasil, and its anti-trafficking trucking program, On the Right Track.

Recognizing that Brazil's most important mode of transportation was trucking, Childhood Brasil, an organization created in 1999 to fight for children in Brazil to have a childhood free of exploitation and abuse, started its On the Right Track Program after conducting a nationwide study of drivers in 2005. The studies looked at, among other things, what life on the road is like, what drivers experience on the road, their sexual life, what exploitation they are seeing and what it looks like, whether they're purchasing sex, etc.

Over 1500 companies in transportation and shipping participate, and drivers are referred to as "Protective Agents." Because they see the exploitation, have information and intel, understand the lay of the land and know the hotspots, they are deemed the ones in the best position to help in the recovery of children who are being exploited.

Childhood Brasil trains company trainers who then train the drivers, but the training is much more comprehensive than just sex trafficking. Childhood Brasil covers the security of the roads, exploitation (sexual and otherwise), family communication, health, emotional health, etc. **Click here** to continue reading.
All 50 state trucking associations now work with TAT

With the inclusion of Alaska and Hawaii this fall, all 50 state trucking associations have now pledged their support to Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) in raising awareness throughout their membership about the issue of human trafficking and the need for all companies to train their drivers and employees with the free training materials available through TAT.

Many of the state trucking associations not only have TAT speak at their annual conference, but they send out regular reminders to their members about the need to train with TAT materials; they use their influence to obtain additional speaking engagements for TAT staff when in the area; they hold fundraisers for TAT and/or become corporate sponsors; and they work with law enforcement in the state to expand distribution of TAT materials to trucking wherever possible.

A recent example of this kind of support came from Louis Campion, president of the Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA), who invited TAT to speak at the MMTA board of directors meeting in November. He then maximized the effectiveness of that trip by securing TAT two additional speaking engagements, one with the MMTA Eastern Shore Chapter meeting and one at the National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools regional meeting, which was occurring nearby during the same week.

"I think the work Louis did to use his relationships on behalf of TAT and getting the message out about human trafficking and the need for training with TAT materials is that latest example of how state trucking association partnerships are so imperative and helpful to TAT," commented Kendis Paris, TAT executive director. "We are very grateful that one trip provided us with those three important opportunities."

Freedom Drivers Project racks up the miles thanks to hauls from our partners

Anyone in trucking responsible for keeping trucks moving down the road is intimately acquainted with the cost per mile per truck, and the numerous expenses which contribute to the total amount.
For a non-profit organization like Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), focused on the education, equipping, empowering and mobilizing of the members of the trucking industry to fight human trafficking as part of their everyday jobs, as well as on raising awareness of the issue among the general public, keeping the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) on the road is a major undertaking. Without the generous help of partners, it would mean a significant expense impacting and perhaps curtailing or limiting other areas of the mission, including the production and distribution of training materials, travel to speaking engagements or the amount of activity for the FDP itself.

Last year, the FDP attended 32 events around the nation at a driver/gas cost alone of $42,000. This year, thanks to free hauls provided by a number of TAT partners, the FDP attended 37 events in 21 states, traveling 32,044 miles, leaving more than 960,000 impressions along the way, and the cost to TAT was only $6,300. More than 9,300 toured the exhibit in 2016.

"We are so appreciative of the companies and individuals who generously provided these hauls for the FDP," said Helen Van Dam, FDP director. "They have proven themselves to be committed truckers against trafficking, and their investment in TAT and the FDP has resulted in thousands being visibly moved by the exhibit and equipped to join the fight to end this crime."

[Click here](#) to continue reading about our generous partners that helped
Upcoming Events

Dec. 6 - Bridgestone National Sales Meeting, Nashville, TN, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

Dec. 7-8 - Heartland Express Driver Appreciation, Jacksonville, FL, FDP present with Helen Van Dam, FDP director

Dec. 14-15 - TAT Bootcamp, Denver, CO, all staff participating

Thank you to our Platinum and Gold level corporate sponsors!

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