Human Trafficking in the News

How truckers are breaking the chains of sex slavery
To many girls and women, the world is a dark prison of sex trafficking. And once they’re in it, it’s hard for them to break out. Fortunately, Truckers Against Trafficking is doing its part to curb sex trafficking in the United States.

Child trafficking happening here and pediatricians need to be alert, experts say
Pediatricians who say they have never seen a victim of child trafficking probably haven't been looking. "If it's never on your radar screen, you're never going to see it," said Dr. Lori Frasier, chief of the Division of Child Abuse Pediatrics at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, who is also board certified in child abuse pediatrics. "Especially in central Pennsylvania, we feel insulated."

Lambert airport gets high profile campaign to fight human trafficking
A new "in your face" weapon has just been unveiled in the fight against human trafficking. A big battle in that fight is just getting people to realize it's happening in St. Louis. A conference on human trafficking in St. Louis a couple of months ago opened the eyes of the National Council of Jewish Women here so much, the council felt it had to do something. It started with a newspaper ad and just graduated to high profile signs at both terminals of Lambert Airport.

Happy New Year and stay vigilant in the fight against human trafficking
The Truckers Against Trafficking staff wishes to thank everyone for their hard work in the fight against human trafficking in 2015. Our 2015 annual report will be out later this month. It will highlight many of this past year's achievements and the pathways created to reach deeper
within the trucking industry to bring human trafficking awareness and education to a greater number of people and companies. We also want to remind you that whether you're on the job, at a convention, sporting event, restaurant or even driving around your city, human trafficking is taking place all around you. It is a crime hidden in plain sight. Stay alert; watch for the signs; and if you suspect you're seeing it, make the call to 1-888-3737-888. You could be saving a life.

Coalition build part of coordinated effort in California to involve all modes of transportation in fight against human trafficking

In a lead-up to the 2016 Super Bowl on Feb. 7, the California Attorney General's office, along with a variety of state coalitions and task forces, have worked for months to educate and train many sectors of the state’s population, including healthcare workers and educators, on how to recognize human trafficking and what to do. TAT’s coalition build, scheduled Jan. 13 in Oakland, for members of law enforcement and trucking/travel plaza stakeholders, will be the morning education event for transportation members in the state. In the afternoon, an area anti-human trafficking task force will hold training for airport workers, transit, taxi and bus personnel in the Oakland area. Click here to continue reading about the upcoming event.

Esther Goetsch joins TAT as coalition build specialist

With an increasing number of coalition builds to plan, coordinate and execute each year, Truckers Against Trafficking has hired Esther Goetsch, part-time, as coalition build specialist.

Goetsch has a deep interest in the law, a heart for and experience with ministries seeking justice and equality for the oppressed, enslaved and abused and a bachelor's degree in international relations from Wheaton College. She has worked both domestically and internationally and gained strong speaking, organizational and administrative skills as a youth pastor at Tulsa Christian Church and pre-adoption educator for Dillon International. She believes the work TAT does "is a fight that pushes back against evil both here and abroad. In a country founded on laws establishing the right for all people to be free, it is unconscionable that we allow the slavery of humans to continue."
**TAT's Facebook page exceeds more than 100,000 followers**

One of TAT's major tools for training, educating, equipping and helping to create a shift in perspectives and understanding of those who are victimized by human trafficking, as well as the crime itself, is Facebook. In 2015, TAT's Facebook page reached a milestone of more than 100,000 followers.

These followers include members of the trucking industry, human trafficking survivors, anti-human trafficking folk, the general public, educators, movie stars, politicians, law enforcement and people from many other segments of society.

"TAT's Facebook is more than a page for updates on events, stories about human trafficking and the sharing of both informational and fun graphics," stated Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director. "It is a community where admin and participants alike grow and learn. We sharpen each other's arguments, challenge each other's long-held beliefs and explore tougher topics. At each stage in our growth, whether it was our first thousand followers, ten thousand, and now one hundred thousand, we celebrate collectively. It has also been exciting and encouraging to see those who have been with us from the beginning training/educating others on our page about the basics of human trafficking. There is definitely a sense of ownership."

Click here to read more, including a few comments from some of our followers.

**Upcoming Events**

**Jan. 13** - California Coalition Build, Oakland, CA, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director presenting, Esther Goetsch, coalition build specialist, and the FDP

**Jan. 15-16** - Rotarian World Peace Conference, Ontario, CA, Guido Hajenius, volunteer presenting for TAT, and the FDP

**Jan. 20** - Bridgestone Sales Meeting, Nashville, TN, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

**Jan. 23** - Central Florida 8th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Orlando, FL, Helen Van Dam, FDP director, and the FDP

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