Human Trafficking in the News

Report: Tennessee ranked top state in combating human trafficking
Shared Hope International has ranked Tennessee number one in the country for fighting human trafficking, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation announced Wednesday. The 2017 report card gave Tennessee a 96.5 rating. The report named one flaw the state has: "Tennessee imposes substantial penalties for sex trafficking and provides tools for law enforcement to investigate effectively, but victims may be deterred from pursuing justice due to lack of trial protections and potential...

See who in your county were part of 79 people charged in interstate child sex sting
TRENTON - A statewide investigation into child pornography distribution has led to charges against 79 men, state Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino announced Friday. They include three men from Atlantic County, one from Cape May County and five from Cumberland County, including three brothers. The nine-month investigation, named Operation Safety Net, was a multiple-agency initiative led by the New Jersey Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force that targeted sex offenders using the internet and social media.

Activists pitch anti-sex trafficking training proposal for hotel employees
Human trafficking is an issue that rarely makes the news and can quickly fall out of sight and out of mind, especially when it takes place in locked hotel rooms off highway exits. The victims of this crime, what advocates call "modern day slavery," are mostly anonymous - women, children and men kidnapped or otherwise coerced into a nomadic, sexually exploitative way of life. But in Worcester, activists want to see something done about it.

Looking ahead as 2018 begins
Last year, Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) capitalized on opportunities to expand and deepen relationships with trucking and shipping industry partners as well as with law enforcement agencies around the nation. Highlights include the first international model replication of TAT launched in Mexico with Guardianes del Asfalto last month; new relationships we’re fostering with a number of corporate entities; the release of TAT’s law enforcement training video with over 2000 copies distributed to officers and agencies around the nation; increasing numbers of TAT trained professional drivers and travel plaza employees.

This year, the opportunities we see include expansion into the commercial and school bus industries with Busing on the Lookout (BOTL), a greater presence in the oil and gas industry, continued law enforcement trainings and coalition builds nationwide, a continually busy tour schedule for the Freedom Drivers Project to help raise awareness about human trafficking, and of course, working with trucking companies, travel plazas and trucking schools to see our training implemented as a part of orientation and safety meetings.

"We recognize that for true change to happen in the area of sexual exploitation, we need to continually challenge societal norms that have made it acceptable or perhaps normalized it," said Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director. "We’re grateful for the men and women, both in the broader anti-trafficking movement as well as within the trucking industry, who are questioning jokes, media and attitudes that minimize this form of exploitation. We are proud to stand with our fellow activists and trucking industry partners against the evil that normalizes the commercialization of people."

In January, the nation recognizes National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month (See article below.) Organizations and agencies around the nation put on events and conferences to educate their communities about this crime, and to also help point people in a direction where we can take direct action to combat it.

"As we look forward to a full and productive 2018, we want to thank all of our amazing partners, whether trucking companies, trucking schools, corporations, law enforcement officers, shippers, our corporate sponsors, travel plazas, associations and the individual drivers and truck stop employees who make our work possible," stated Lanier. "We’re grateful for the work that has been happening, is happening now, and will continue into the future, both with those we work with and across the country. We know, with your continued help and partnership, we will continue to advance TAT’s mission which always comes back to our motto: make the call, save lives! We wish you a most wonderful new year!"
We wish you a very happy 2018!

Start 2018 with a punch: Join the fight against human trafficking

By presidential proclamation in 2010, January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, with Jan. 11 named as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Throughout this month, and particularly on Jan. 11, many cities and communities, colleges and churches across the nation will hold a series of anti-human trafficking events and activities, host anti-trafficking films, talk about the subject on television and radio, and provide multiple opportunities for community members to become engaged in the fight. It’s a good month and a good day to recommit to the fight to end human trafficking in the United States.

Some steps anyone can take to be involved are:

- Learn to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to report it to the National Human Trafficking Hotline - 1-888-3737-888 - and to local police.
- Be an informed consumer and discover your slavery footprint - ask who picked your tomatoes or made your clothes; take steps to influence companies to prevent human trafficking in the supply chains of goods you buy.
- Volunteer and support anti-trafficking efforts in your community.
• Become informed about human trafficking by watching films about human trafficking or reading books about it.
• Host an anti-human trafficking event in your community.
• Organize a fundraiser for and donate to an anti-trafficking organization.
• Spread awareness about human trafficking in your community.
• Encourage your schools to include modern slavery in their curricula and educate your own children.

**Book Recommendations**
- *Girls Like Us* by Rachel Lloyd
- *Paid For* by Rachel Moran
- *Nobody’s Girl* by Barbara Amaya
- *In Our Backyard* by Nita Belles
- *Walking Prey* by Holly Smith
- *And Life Continues* by Wendy Barnes
- *The Same Kind of Human* by Christine McDonald

**Documentary recommendations**
- *I am Jane Doe* (Netflix)
- *Rape for Profit* (iTunes)

**Invest in TAT**

**INVEST IN TAT!**
Help us raise up a mobile army to combat sex trafficking! Donate to Truckers Against Trafficking today.
TRUCKERSAGAINSTTRAFFICKING.ORG

**Download the TAT phone app today**
If you haven't downloaded the free TAT phone app for either iPhone or Androids, do so today. It has the National Human Trafficking Hotline number on it as well as red flag indicators and basic information about human trafficking. It only takes a second. Don't delay; do it today!

**Upcoming Events**

**Jan. 11** - South Carolina coalition build, Columbia, SC, FDP, Esther Goetsch, TAT coalition build specialist, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting

**Jan. 16** - Strategic meeting with Protective Insurance, Indianapolis, IN, Laura Cyprus, TAT operations director, attending

**Jan. 17** - United Against Trafficking: Industry and the Arizona Attorney General event, Phoenix, AZ, FDP, Helen Van Dam, FDP director, and Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

**Jan. 22** - American Moving and Storage Association Safety and Operations Conference, Dallas, TX, Laura Cyrus, TAT operations director, presenting

**Jan. 21-22** - California Trucking Association, Monterrey, CA, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

**Jan. 24** - Washington coalition build, Seattle, WA, FDP, Esther Goetsch, TAT coalition build specialist, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting

Thank you to our Freedom Driver, Diamond, Platinum and Gold level sponsors!

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