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Human Trafficking in the News

Conversation with my daughter about human trafficking

As we take turns pushing her one-year-old brother in his stroller, my daughter asks me why people don't just stay away from bad people, then they won't be trafficked. I tell her that usually the story starts out with hope.

Chicopee arrest 3 truckers for soliciting sex for money in truck stop sting

Three truck drivers were charged with soliciting prostitution Wednesday night during a police sting at the Pride truck stop on Burnett Road, police said.

Truckers join fight against human trafficking

Truckers Against Trafficking are working with the FBI to be on the lookout for anything suspicious they might see on the road. The effort is part of a crack-down on what's often an organized and hidden crime of human trafficking.

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OOIDA driver and truck stop operator work together to save runaway girl

Bill Underwood, of Alta Vista, Kansas and owner of Underwood Farms with four trucks, recently picked up a young girl stranded on the side of the road in Mississippi. He was concerned about her welfare, due to "how young

and innocent she looked." She told him she was almost 19 and that her car had broken down while she was trying to get back to Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Underwood, a father of eight children, stated "he just couldn't leave her there on the side of the road." He gave her a ride to the TA Travel Store in Greenwood, Louisiana and contacted Dean Barnett, general manager. Barnett called the Greenwood police to see if they could assist with the girl's safe return home.

"There's a local Methodist church which is also involved in the TAT program and tries to help people in this situation," Barnett said. "I was hoping they would be able to get her a bus ticket home, so she wouldn't have to hitch a ride, if she was who she said she was. She didn't have any ID with her."



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Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, and Hal Miller, president of the Mississippi Trucking Association (MTA), met at the MTA annual conference.

Mississippi Trucking Association learns about human trafficking at annual conference

Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, spoke at the Mississippi Trucking Association annual conference in San Destin, Florida on June 13 to educate them on the realities of domestic sex trafficking and how they can combat it.

"Mississippi's governor is about to form a task force on human trafficking, so it's a pivotal time for their state in terms of awareness and involvement," said Paris. "The message was well-received by the member companies in attendance, and TAT will continue to work with the MTA staff to keep this issue on their radar screens and ensure more Mississippi-based companies become TAT trained."

Truckers Against Trafficking participates in United Way event to fight human trafficking

United Way invited many of the nation's top anti-trafficking leaders, including Truckers Against Trafficking and the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP), to gather at its headquarters in Alexandria, VA on June 22-23 to launch a new center to combat human trafficking. [Click here](#) to read more about the event.



Dale Bennett, president of the Virginia Trucking Association, Tanya Street, survivor leader, and Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, all participated in the Virginia coalition build.

Virginia coalition build successful

TAT co-hosted a coalition build with the Virginia Trucking Association and the FBI in Richmond, Virginia, on June 24, with a full house of law enforcement and trucking industry members collaborating about closing loopholes to traffickers in their area. The Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) was also there.

Dale Bennett, president of the VTA, said, "This is a first-of-its-kind event in the state of Virginia. We have never had law enforcement, travel plazas, prosecutors and trucking companies in the same room together working to combat a crime. This was great!"

Survivor leader Tanya Street said, "The Freedom Drivers Project helps start conversations. It is a safe place to dialogue, and it acts as a glue bringing people together to tackle this problem." [Click here](#) to read more

about the event.

Ohio collaboration meeting addresses awareness of human trafficking in transportation

Reminding people that almost all crime at some point involves transportation, and that this is especially true of human trafficking, whether it's transporting a victim across town, across the state, or across state lines, Capt. Mike Crispen of the Ohio State Patrol (OSHP) opened the first Ohio statewide collaboration meeting to discuss human trafficking awareness throughout the transportation industry.



Lyn Thompson, TAT communications specialist, spoke at the Ohio statewide collaboration meeting which was organized and put on by Capt. Crispen of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The meeting was held on June 4 at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy and was sponsored by the Ohio State Patrol, the Ohio Department of Public Safety and Truckers Against Trafficking. Participants included representatives from the

trucking and travel plaza industry, the bus and taxi industries, numerous Ohio state government offices and law enforcement and many non-profit entities in Ohio which are working to end human trafficking.

[Click here](#) to read more about the event.

Upcoming Events

July 4-5 -- National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH, FDP present with Helen Van Dam, FDP director

July 8 -- Red Classic, Coca Cola and McMahon Truck Centers, Charlotte, NC, FDP present with Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director presenting

July 13 -- Trucking Association Executives Council at The Breakers in Palm Beach, FL, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

July 15 -- American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators in Hershey, PA, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

July 16 -- Aurora Youth 4 Success Lunch and Learn, Aurora, CO, FDP present with Helen Van Dam, FDP director

July 23 -- Oklahoma coalition build, Oklahoma City, OK, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, facilitating



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