Human Trafficking in the News

Is the New York Times endorsing legalization of prostitution?
In the early 2000s, the New York Times published a series of articles by Pulitzer Prize winner Judith Miller about the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. In an era of intense media competition and feverish quests to eke out profits, the Times appeared to welcome the heightened buzz ... This chapter in irresponsible journalism resurfaced with the Times' magazine publication of Emily Bazelon's feature piece, "Should prostitution be a crime?"

Human trafficking survivor who smashed triathlon world record
What does it sound like inside Norma Bastidas' head? The 49-year-old mother-of-two is a celebrated ultra-marathoner, known to have trekked 150 miles across the scorched deserts of Namibia or run double-marathons over an icy tundra in Antarctica.

When sex trafficking is a family affair
A couple of weeks ago, we posted a story involving six local men who were arrested during an undercover operation that involved child rape and domestic minor sex trafficking.

Freedom Drivers Project continues to be popular exhibit across the country
From trucking events to TAT coalition builds, state fairs and anti-trafficking events hosted by government officials and others, the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) continues to make an impact.
and change lives and hearts with its information on domestic sex trafficking and what the trucking industry is doing to fight it.

Most recently, the FDP was parked in front of the capitol building in Albany, New York for the New York State Motor Association's Trucking Moves NY: Day at the Capitol. "It was a fantastic day to make connections with trucking, law enforcement and legislators," commented Helen Van Dam, FDP director. "We're looking forward to training more drivers and law enforcement in New York in the months to come!"

Earlier this year, one of the FDP's stops was at Boyd Brothers Transportation in Birmingham, Alabama. The company hosted the trailer to further educate its employees on the role the trucking industry plays in combating human trafficking. They already have all employees going through TAT training and have TAT decals on all their trucks.

Company driver Mike Usery, a Boyd Brothers employee for 26 years who has driven over three million safe miles, picked up the FDP trailer in Gulf Port, Mississippi in his company truck and hauled it to Boyd Brothers in Clayton, Alabama before bringing it to the headquarters in Birmingham. He then took it to Georgia Truck Driving Championship.

"It's truly been an honor to pull this trailer and be part of something this special," he said. "There are people out there that don't know about this, that it's really going on. It needs to get out there, so it's truly been an honor to be a part of this."

In 2016 alone, the FDP has already been driven 15,148 miles to 17 events in 13 states and been toured by 4,906 people. Its summer schedule is hectic, including four events in June alone in Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois and Colorado. Then it will head to Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, back to Colorado and down to Dallas for the Great American Trucking Show Aug. 25-27.

None of this travel would be possible without the help of those companies who have donated hauls and often volunteered to help TAT man the exhibit as well. These include, in 2016 alone, MJ Tank Lines, Walmart, Central Tech, Twin Eagle, CAST Transportation, Knight Transportation-Las Vegas, Total Transportation of Mississippi and Boyd Bros.

And a shout-out as well to the sponsors who keep TAT and the FDP on the road:
Field Trainer and Survivor Leader Beth Jacobs presented
**Courage Award**

Beth Jacobs, TAT's field trainer and a survivor leader, was honored with the Courage Award at the 18th annual *From Slavery to Freedom Gala* hosted by the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) in Los Angeles, California on May 10. This event brings together survivors, celebrities, civic leaders and socially-conscious entrepreneurs for the cause of ending modern slavery.

Jacobs, the founder of Willow Way, a support group empowering victims of trafficking, is well known nationally for her public policy work to help survivors clear their records and obtain the necessary legal/documentation support to succeed in their lives after recovery from trafficking.

[Click here](#) to continue reading.

Beth Jacobs displayed the Courage Award she received.

**More states adopting the Iowa MVE model**

In recent months, following increased presentations to law enforcement and DOT officials, more states have adopted TAT's Iowa MVE model, either fully or in part, bringing the total number of states using this model to 22. Iowa, Ohio and Michigan have all adopted it fully, and the other states have adopted parts of the model.

"Once TAT is able to get the IA MVE model in front of decision makers in a state, adoption and implementation seem to follow rapidly," Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, said. "We are extremely encouraged to see 'often overlooked' agencies in the fight against human trafficking become activated upon understanding the critical role their office can play."

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Survivor's Ink helps survivors reclaim their bodies

Branding, burning and scarring are all marks purposely left by traffickers and abusers on the bodies of their victims to remind them that they're "property," owned by someone other than themselves. Brandings propagate psychological enslavement for survivors, serving as constant reminders of the violence they've suffered.

Jennifer Kempton, founder and director of Survivor's Ink, joined TAT on the Dave Nemo Show, Sirius XM Radio, on May 10 to discuss branding and what her organization does to reverse the hold those marks have on victims. Survivor's Ink works to empower survivors to break those psychological chains by reclaiming their bodies through the beautification, removal or covering of their physical scars, markings and brandings. This de-branding experience enables the victim, now a survivor, to reclaim his or her body and stand up against the trafficker.

Click here to read more.
Upcoming Events

**June 1** - Washington State Patrol training, Leavenworth, WA, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

**June 3-4** - Oklahoma Truck Driving Championships, Oklahoma City, OK, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director and the FDP attending

**June 7** - Coalition Build, Tyler, TX, Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, and Esther Goetsch, TAT coalition build specialist, presenting

**June 9** - Super Rigs, Joplin, MO, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, and Tony Justice, attending

**June 9-12** - Florida Truck Driving Championships, Daytona Beach, FL, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, attending

**June 11** - Illinois Truck Driving Championships, St. Charles, IL, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, presenting

**June 14** - Denver Transportation Club, Denver, CO, Helen Van Dam, FDP director, presenting
June 16 - National Tank Trunk Council Safety Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

June 24 - Colorado State Patrol law enforcement academy, Golden, CO, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director attending

June 27 - Ohio Transportation Coalition Meeting, Columbus, OH, Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting

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