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Human Trafficking in the News

Sheriff to staff: stop arresting children on prostitution charges, stop saying 'child prostitute'

Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell announced Wednesday that his department will immediately stop arresting children on prostitution charges. "They are child victims and survivors of rape," McDonnell wrote in a letter to his employees. "We must remember that children cannot consent to sex under any circumstance."

Anti-human-trafficking strategy focuses on traffickers, buyers

Two teenage girls found themselves stranded in a snowy ditch after running away from a sex trafficking operation five years ago. Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson told their story Tuesday at a news conference announcing how the state plans to use a \$1.5 million federal grant for anti-human-trafficking efforts.

Local communities learn to fight back against child sex traffickers

The statistics are truly frightening. Hundreds of young girls are exploited for sex by thousands of men each month. And that's just here in Georgia. But communities are learning how to fight back. Out of necessity. The business of prostitution is brutal. And it is booming. In fact, experts say sex trafficking is a \$300 million industry in Georgia.

[Click here to read these articles on our website](#)

Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officers and TAT hold first-ever, quad-state coalition build

Iowa's Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officers (MVE) and Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) held a first-ever, quad-state coalition build between key members of law enforcement at every level and management from the trucking/travel plaza industry in the states of Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota on Oct. 27 in Sioux City, Iowa.



Iowa MVE Chief Dave Lorenzen and his department have been working with TAT since 2013. Chief Lorenzen, a TAT board member since 2014, and his department members developed a training model with TAT materials for commercial vehicle enforcement or motor vehicle enforcement officers to use in any state. Called the Iowa MVE model, it is now in partial or full use in 19 states across the country.

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United States Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota invites Freedom Drivers Project to state event



Senator Heidi Heitkamp

Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) joined Marlin Kling from the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association and Nate McCarty of America's Road Team on stage at a press conference and event held by U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota in Bismark on Oct. 24. Sen. Heitkamp held the event to raise awareness about human trafficking and issue a call to action to truckers in the state to join the

fight against it.

[Click Here](#) to read more about this event.

Freedom Drivers Project visits its first state fair

The Mississippi Trucking Association and the Mississippi Department of Transportation brought the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) to its first state fair in October in Jackson, Mississippi. Both organizations also volunteered at the FDP, helping to raise awareness among fair goers about human trafficking.

"They worked with the state fair to get a space donated for the FDP," commented Helen Van Dam, FDP director, "and John Stomps, owner of Total Transportation of Mississippi, a TAT silver level sponsor, donated the haul down to Mississippi. We can't do these things without the support of our partners, and we are grateful for the incredible welcome and gracious hospitality of our Mississippi partners."



The Mississippi DOT officers volunteered with TAT for one of the days of the fair.

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Michelle Bishop joins TAT staff



Michelle Bishop, who has both domestic and international experience with two other organizations fighting human trafficking and injustice, joined Truckers Against Trafficking staff as program coordinator on Oct. 1.

In addition to her International MBA from the University of Denver, Bishop has developed skills, experience and a passion to fight human trafficking through serving a year-long business development fellowship in Mumbai, India with International Justice Mission and working with Colorado-based iEmpathize as a social media coordinator and helping with special projects.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Justice Run participants raise money for TAT

A team of 16 people raised over \$2,900 for Truckers Against Trafficking in the Justice Run in Hudson Gardens, Littleton, Colorado

on Oct. 4.

The Justice Run, in its sixth year, drew more than 1100 walkers/runners, plus spectators, who raised more than \$44,000 for anti-trafficking organizations through their personal fundraising efforts. Helen Van Dam, FDP director, and Molly Wolff, TAT board member, were two of the runners on the TAT team, while Laura Cyrus, TAT administrative specialist, manned the Freedom Drivers Project.



Before the run, the TAT team sported their best "Everyday Heroes" pose.

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TAT Facebook followers surpass 90,000 mark

Facebook followers of the TAT page surpassed the 90,000 mark in October, and TAT takes this opportunity to thank the many truckers against trafficking across the country who are alert to the signs of human trafficking and making the calls that are saving lives. Thank you for your efforts; thank you for your support; thank you for spreading the word and growing this movement, both within the trucking industry and in your personal circles of influence. We are thankful for you.



With Thanksgiving around the corner, we asked our FB followers some of the things they were thankful for, and here are a few of their answers:

- The way God loves me and values me.
- My family.
- Thankful for all that have served and sacrificed for our freedom.
- Truck drivers, cuz without y'all, we'd have nothing.
- My supportive wife, while I attempt to make a living in this crazy-assed industry.
- Making it home safely.
- Jesus Christ and the fantastic trucking company we lease to.
- My faith and my husband, who has been a trucker for 32 years.
- Thankful for so many people with big, generous hearts helping other human beings ... a lot of people are wonderful souls.
- My boys.
- Life.
- God's grace.
- The professional drivers that work for my company ... they are outstanding!

Upcoming Events

Nov. 6-7 - Durga Tree International Denim and Diamonds Gala, Helen Van Dam, FDP director, attending

Nov. 9-11 - Georgia Fleet Expo, Atlanta, GA, FDP and Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

Nov. 10 - National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools, Region 6 Conference, Lithonia, GA, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

Nov. 13 - Carroll Fulmer Logistics Corp Open House, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, attending

Nov. 14-22 - Trust Women Conference, London, England Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

Nov. 17-18 - Rhode Island Trucking Association meeting, Twin River, RI, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

Nov. 18 - Louisiana Motor Transport Association annual meeting, Baton Rouge, LA, Lyn Thompson, TAT communications specialist, presenting



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