Human Trafficking in the News

Man gets 33 years for sex trafficking southern Minnesota girls
A man who picked up two girls in Rochester and forced them to work as prostitutes has been sentenced to 33 years in federal prison. 36-year-old Lee Andrew Paul was found guilty of two counts of sex trafficking of a minor and one count of sex trafficking by use of force, fraud and coercion.

FBI announces results of Operation Cross Country X
The Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with representatives from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and several international law enforcement partners, today announced that, domestically, 82 minors were rescued and 239 traffickers and their associates were arrested as part of Operation Cross Country X, an international effort focusing on underage human trafficking that ran from October 13 to 16, 2016. FBI Director James Comey and NCMEC Director John Clark announced the results of Operation Cross Country X today at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) convention in San Diego, California.

Dad saves daughter from Snapchat sex traffickers
A Texas teenager was lured into sex trafficking after meeting her alleged captors on Snapchat, her father says. John Clark, a Houston-area energy executive, turned detective to rescue his 18-year-old daughter weeks after she went missing in April of this year.

TAT gives thanks for supporters, partners and success
As we begin this month where we remember our blessings and give thanks for so much, TAT would like to thank all of our supporters and partners, especially those who go above and beyond to raise awareness and educate others about the realities of domestic sex trafficking. While it would be impossible to mention everyone by name in this article, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few.

We've had some extremely advantageous speaking opportunities this year, thanks to organizations such as the American Trucking Associations (ATA), American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) and the Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement, which have included: the American Trucking Associations Management Conference and Exhibition Oct. 3, the ATA Safety Management Council and Transportation Security Council's 2016 Safety, Security and Human Resources

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National Conference Oct. 24-26, the AAMVA Annual International Conference in August, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Annual Conference and Exhibition in September. TAT was also invited to send its Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) to the ATA National Truck Driving Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana this summer. And thank you to the Arkansas Trucking Association for the invite to their state fair and all those who volunteered to help us at the Arkansas State Fair.

Additionally, we’ve had some excellent coalition builds this year and want to thank all of those in the Office of the Attorney General in those various states who worked so hard to help us host those events. A special shout-out to the OAG in Utah … that build was not only successful, but we’ve gained two more law enforcement trainings in Utah as a result.

The number of registered TAT-trained drivers/employees is now over 277,000 and closing in on 278,000. And people like Lindsey England, PHP, director of Human Resources at Pride Transport, are among those helping to increase those numbers. She wrote us to say, "I've been doing the TAT training every week, sometimes twice a week. Every Wednesday for our new hires and then every Thursday after our safety meetings. It's really cool to see how many people are impacted by the training. Even though I do this regularly now, I still get choked up every week. This is a cause that I know I will spend the rest of my life supporting and advocating for. The training has brought a huge amount of awareness and support throughout our organization. We've also set up a weekly payroll deduction for TAT. We'll send those contributions in on a monthly basis."

If you're helping to train drivers but haven't gone to our website to register the number trained, please do so now. It's simple and takes only a couple minutes.

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, have fun at the Utah coalition build.
Plenty of enthusiastic volunteers helped man the FDP at the Arkansas State Fair. From L to R: Byron Bramwell, America’s Road Team and YRC Freight, Otto Scheckenbecher, Arkansas Road Team and ABF Freight, Helen Van Dam, TAT FDP director, Thomas Miller, America’s Road Team and Prime Transport, and Ricky Sharp, Walmart’s Road Team.
Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, speaks at the ATA conference.
Esther Goetsch, TAT coalition build specialist (left), and Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, work the TAT information table at the ATA Safety Management Council Show.
The FDP had the opportunity to attend the ATA National Truck Driving Championships in Indianapolis this year.

Have you watched the TAT video ... Upworthy style?

If you haven't, you should join the more than 1,908,922 people who have. A couple months ago, Upworthy approached TAT to ask if they could reformat the TAT training video for their Facebook page so they could raise awareness about our organization.

Their mission says: **Lots of media companies have a mission. But Upworthy is on a mission to change what the world pays attention to.** We believe that stories about important issues can and should be great stories - stories for everyone, stories that connect us and sometimes even change the world. Because we're all part of the same story.

So take a second and [click here to check it out](#). There have been a great number of excellent comments about the trucking industry and what its members are doing to fight human trafficking.

Third quarter numbers show trucker calls to the NHTRC continue to rise

Polaris Project, which runs the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), reports that as of the end of the third quarter 2016, calls from truckers were up to 1534, resulting in 471 potential cases of human trafficking, involving 1033 victims, of which 285 are minors. This is TAT in action, and we urge you to continue making those calls whenever you suspect human trafficking is taking place!

Your calls result in victims being recovered and perpetrators and buyers being arrested.
Mark* called the hotline to report a sex-trafficking situation he observed at a truck stop one evening. Because of the training Mark received from Truckers Against Trafficking, Mark knew what to look for and knew to call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) for help. When Mark called the NHTRC hotline, he was able to speak to a Hotline Advocate about the two teenage girls he witnessed climbing into the cab of another truck. After taking Mark’s report, the Hotline Advocate immediately dispatched the hotline’s 24/7 law enforcement contact for the area. When law enforcement arrived on the scene, they were able to take the two minor victims safely into custody and arrest the buyer for purchasing sex from children.

*Names, locations, and other identifying information have been changed and/or omitted to preserve the confidentiality of the people we serve.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Nov. 3** - Coalition Build, Yuma County, CO, Esther Goetsch, TAT coalition build coordinator, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting with the FDP present

**Nov. 4** - Children at Risk Conference, Dallas, TX, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

**Nov. 8** - Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA) Board of Directors meeting, Baltimore, MD, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

**Nov. 7-9** - WIT Accelerate Conference, Dallas, TX, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, attending

**Nov. 9** - MMTA Eastern Shore Chapter meeting, Salisbury, MD, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

**Nov. 9** - Indiana Motor Truck Association Safety Council, Indianapolis, IN, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

**Nov. 10** - Oklahoma Safety Management Council, Oklahoma City, OK, Esther Goetsch, TAT coalition build coordinator, presenting

**Nov. 20-23** - Childhood Brasil On the Right Track program, Sao Paolo, Brazil, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting