Human Trafficking in the News

Interviewing victims of human trafficking: survivors offer advice
Recently, I discussed with law enforcement interviewing techniques when working with potential victims of human trafficking. As a survivor of child sex trafficking, I wrote an academic nonfiction book on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in the United States, titled Walking Prey. Although I do share my personal story in Walking Prey, this book is much more than a memoir. I discuss predisposing factors and community risk factors for CSEC, as well as the potential mindset of a "willing victim."

Woman brought to US as a nanny treated like slave
A Minnesota woman is charged with beating and starving a woman she brought from China to work as a nanny, holding her in a state of "slavery or indentured servitude," a prosecutor said.

The deeper problems behind human trafficking
I've yet to meet someone who isn't shocked by the prevalence of modern-day slavery. We're shocked that it preys on children. We're shocked by the dirty, dangerous, demeaning work that innocent people are manipulated and coerced into doing. We're just shocked that it even happens-especially here in North America.
But here's something else that might shock you: human trafficking is a symptom of a larger problem.

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Editorial comment on Tennessee Bureau of Investigation bust of commercial sex buyers
by Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director
It was very interesting to read some of the comments on our Facebook post in August about a bust that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation conducted netting 41 buyers of commercial sex. It was an operation where agents posed as prostituted people, and men, looking to engage in the illegal practice of prostitution, made arrangements to meet with and pay for sexual acts with these supposed prostituted people. Many of the men asked for minors.

While the majority of the comments commended law enforcement's efforts and saw the validity of going after the demand side of the commercial sex industry, there were a disheartening number of comments on our page related to this post defending or feeling sorry for the would-be buyers of commercial sex. And even though they were the minority on our page, it is to those commentators that we felt we needed to respond, because it reflects a deep misunderstanding of the issue.

Please note that when law enforcement does prostitution stings to lock up those being prostituted, no one bats an eye. Law enforcement pose as sex buyers, and when money is exchanged or verbal confirmation of said agreement is recorded, boom, they make the arrest. No one cries foul, because what the prostituted person is doing is illegal, and the intent was there, even if the action never took place. And no one seems to feel sad or sorry for the prostituted person, even though we know that most of them have pimps (even the adults) and are there under pimp control or for the lack of other viable options.

Click here to read more.

Jacobs presents on survivor identification needs at AAMVA Annual International Conference

Whether their ID cards are destroyed by their traffickers, or they’re arrested and photographed under a false name, survivors of human trafficking often face a serious, Catch-22 struggle to obtain the basic and necessary identification documents to succeed - such as a driver’s license - once they begin trying to put their lives back together.

Because TAT Field Trainer Beth Jacobs experienced this situation herself as a survivor, and also works to help other survivors overcome the obstacles hindering them in the process of
regaining proper ID, Jacobs presented to more than 120 participants at the Annual International Conference (AIC) of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) Aug. 16-18 in Virginia.

The AIC showcases the latest trends in the motor vehicle and law enforcement community and provides a forum for chief administrators to learn and grow from fellow colleagues. "AAMVA members are in a unique position to help victims of human trafficking recover their lives," stated Anne Ferro, AAMVA president and CEO. "TAT Field Trainer Beth Jacobs educated our attendees about specific ways they can assist survivors in obtaining a proper ID."

Click here to read more.

**Freedom Drivers Project makes first appearance at National Truck Driving Championships**

The Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) made its first appearance at the National Truck Driving Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana in August, thanks to an invitation from the American Trucking Association.

"We had a fantastic day connecting with associations and companies from around the country," said Helen Van Dam, FDP director. "We trained drivers and reached safety directors who will go back and train more drivers. Thank you to everyone who came by and toured the Freedom Drivers Project. Congratulations to all of the competitors for your accomplishments and keep on truckin' on."

A special thank you as well to TLX Transport, a division of AWL Transport, Inc. dba TLX, for hauling the Freedom Drivers Project to Indianapolis.
TAT presents at HELP Inc. board meeting

Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, and the Freedom Drivers Project, were front and center at the 2016 board meeting for HELP Inc., the oldest non-profit public/private partnership dedicated to advancing the safety and efficiency of the commercial transportation industry, when it was held in Broomfield, Colorado in August.

Representatives from both the public and private sectors (law enforcement and trucking) serve on the HELP, Inc. board of directors and play the critical role of authorizing HELP’s services, pricing and related policies, while ensuring safety and regulatory compliance

"It was a great privilege to speak at the HELP Inc. board meeting," Paris commented. "To be surrounded by so many high-level industry and law enforcement agencies that are already doing so much to help combat domestic sex trafficking was extremely encouraging. Not only that, TAT came away from the day with additional partners and several offers to bring the Freedom Drivers Project to board members' home states. TAT can't thank Karen Rasmussen, and the HELP Inc board, enough for the opportunity and for our strong partnership."

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Thanks to you, TAT has completed the Change a Path matching grant challenge
In just a month’s time, thanks to the generosity of individuals and companies, donations and sponsorships TAT has completed the $25,000 Change A Path matching grant challenge. The challenge, which was to run from August through October, provides TAT with some of the necessary funding for critical programs such as coalition builds, the Freedom Drivers Project and industry training materials. Everyone at TAT so appreciates every one of you who gave.

Great American Trucking Show always a pleasure

From engaging in powerful conversations with parents of victimized children to educating newcomers to the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) with an understanding of human trafficking, the TAT team enjoyed the Great American Trucking Show (GATS) in Dallas Aug. 25-27. Thanks to all those trucking companies and owner-operators who are already training with TAT materials, to those 1000-plus people who toured the FDP or stopped by the TAT booth to take materials and to the GATS staff who put on a quality show.
Upcoming Events

**Sept. 1** - San Antonio coalition build, San Antonio, TX, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer, presenting and FDP available for tour

**Sept. 8** - Vail Symposium, Vail, CO, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, attending

**Sept. 12-13** - Covenant Transport Safety Days, Chattanooga, TN, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and FDP attending

**Sept. 17-18** - Richard Crane Memorial Truck Show, St. Ignace, MI, Laura Cyrus, TAT administrative specialist, acting as show grand marshal and presenting

**Sept. 18-20** - Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Fall Conference, Little Rock, AR, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

**Sept. 22-23** - Nebraska Trucking Association Fall Conference, Omaha, NE, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, presenting

**Sept. 22** - Kansas Motor Carriers Association Conference, Manhattan, KS, Esther Goetsch, TAT coalition build coordinator, presenting
Sept. 23-24 - Oregon Trucking Association Leadership Conference, Redmond, OR, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

Sept. 28 - Oklahoma Attorney General Human Trafficking Conference, Norman, OK, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting