Why involve the trucking industry in the fight against human trafficking?

Ongoing sting operations by the FBI and other law enforcement personnel reveal that criminals and crime syndicates sell their wares at a number of locations frequented by transportation professionals. Only in this case, their product isn’t drugs, it’s people – victims of human trafficking. Since 2004, these sting operations have rescued hundreds of children, recovered millions of dollars and arrested numerous perpetrators.

Whether at schools, malls, online sites, streets and other locations, traffickers are targeting our children – boys, girls and teens – as well as adults, drugging, coercing, beating, threatening, and selling them for sex, as well as labor, and making millions. Some of these victims are as young as 11 years old ... some even younger.

Traffickers view men from many professions deemed “transient in nature” as consumers, and they continually move their “goods” along circuits that cover multiple states to reach them. These locations also often include communities around oil and gas fields, as well as truck stops and hotels along roads and Interstates, and events including sports or conventions. Additionally, these same traffickers often use bus terminals and bus stops to recruit victims and then use buses of all kinds to transport them to buyers.

To intersect and disrupt these activities, Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT)® is raising up a mobile army of transportation professionals to assist law enforcement in the recognition and reporting of human trafficking, in order to aid in the recovery of victims and the arrest of perpetrators.
Trucking Against Trafficking

TAT began in March 2009 as an initiative of Chapter 61 Ministries to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the truck, bus and energy industries on the critical role they can play in fighting one of the most lucrative and destructive crimes in the United States and globally.

Today, TAT is a 501c3 organization with three main goals to accomplish our mission:

• Saturate trucking and related industries with TAT materials.
• Partner with law enforcement and government agencies to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking.
• Marshal the resources of our partners to combat this crime.

To achieve these goals, we provide a website, www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org; industry-specific training DVDs; webinars; human trafficking presentations; wallet cards drivers can carry with information to help them recognize trafficking and call the appropriate national human trafficking hotline number in the United States, Canada or Mexico when it is suspected; posters and other materials to use for publicity and promotion; and the Freedom Drivers Project – a 48’ mobile exhibit designed to educate audiences about the realities of domestic sex trafficking and how these industries are combating it.

TAT also works to build coalitions between members of law enforcement and key stakeholders from industries including trucking, bus and energy, the general managers of truck stops and travel plazas, large carriers, energy suppliers and state and federal oversight associations, to further the apprehension of traffickers and the recovery of victims. We interact with appropriate state and national agencies for distribution of our materials in all venues involving trucking and bus and strategize with state and local law enforcement and government on additional ways these transportation industries can provide invaluable help. And we continually strive to help them develop their unique contribution and leadership in the fight against human trafficking.

For more information on Truckers Against Trafficking or how you can help, contact tat.truckers@gmail.com or visit www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org.

Make the Call, Save Lives.

US Human Trafficking Hotline – 1-888-3737-888
Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline – 1-833-900-1010
Mexican Human Trafficking Hotline – 01800-5533-000

TAT’s work is made possible through the generous financial contributions of our sponsors. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website at http://truckersagainsttrafficking.org/partnership-opportunities/ or call Laura Cyrus at 303-506-1156.