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Human Trafficking in the News

Human trafficking creates liability concerns for businesses

A federal civil suit seeks damages from 12 hotel chains for allegedly ignoring warning signs of human trafficking in violation of federal laws. A briefing paper written by a national law firm says any business could face millions of dollars in damages if they are found to have benefited from "human trafficking if they know or should have known about such exploitation."

Pornhub reportedly profits from nonconsensual videos and real rape tapes -- here are the latest examples

It's no secret that Pornhub is one of the biggest free porn sites in the world. But what is lesser-known is exactly what kind of illicit and illegal videos this porn giant profits from. The site has been in the news in the last few months for a range of reasons, but not for the reasons you might expect -- they've gotten press from Kanye West's porn habit confession to their "conservation efforts."

We're doing what we can to keep truckers on the road

We run a truck stop. It feels like we're living in a country on the cusp of something not unlike war. My mother was born into a flu-stricken household at the height of the flu pandemic of 1918. Within minutes she was swaddled in a homemade quilt and placed into the arms of the local priest who had come to deliver last rites to my grandmother and, they feared, to the baby as well. She cried lustily, like any healthy newborn. To keep her safe from the illness, the priest and his driver took her from the family farm to the nearby town of Stuart, Neb., to find someone to care for her. Fear of the killer virus was so strong that three women said no before one agreed to take her in. During the weeks that my grandparents and their other children were sick with the flu, neighbors wearing cotton kerchiefs across their faces left food on their doorstep and cared

for their livestock. Now another pandemic marches across the country.

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



Changes to methods and venues, but TAT still working despite COVID-19

Though COVID-19 has caused upheaval and disruption to all our lives and to the ways we both live and conduct business ... while it is responsible for cancellations of plans and events as well as the creation of new schedules and priorities ... while it has resulted in physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and economic challenges ... Truckers Against Trafficking is still up and fully operational. We believe, now more than ever, it's imperative we band together on behalf of the vulnerable and exploited. With that in mind, TAT would like to offer the following suggestions:

- **Thank a professional driver or truck stop employee** -- Would you join TAT in thanking all the drivers who are keeping our nation running and delivering much needed goods, and all truck stop employees who make sure they have what they need to keep trucking? Our prayers and gratitude are with them. Please take the time to express your appreciation to them and to pray for them as they serve us all.
- **Implement TAT Training Online** -- Although it's impossible for us to gather together in person, TAT is still providing training online through our [portal](#). Additionally, TAT staff are available to provide webinar-based trainings for your employees and/or drivers, whether you work in trucking, bus, energy, law enforcement or for a state agency ... just contact us at tat.truckers@gmail.com.
- **Keep being the eyes and ears** -- While many of us are able to work remotely, and

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have homes in which to do so, traffickers are still at work selling their victims online through porn and on buyer boards, as well as at locations all along our nation's roadways. There is still great opportunity to help those who need it most, and we urge all TAT trained personnel to be extra vigilant during this time. Please watch for minors selling sex or any kind of pimp control. Trust your gut and don't hesitate to make the call 911 or your local sheriff's office in case of an emergency, or 1-888-3737-888 if you're unsure if what you're seeing is human

trafficking.



Law enforcement trainings continue to expand use of the Iowa MVE model

In the first two months of this year, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and Annika Huff, TAT training specialist and survivor-advocate, traveled to Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma and New Mexico, where they trained law enforcement, including sheriff's officers, highway and state police, DOT enforcement officers and law enforcement and employees from a variety of other agencies.

In March, TAT Training Specialist Louie Greek conducted 2 law enforcement briefings in Colorado for both the Avon and Vail Police Departments as well as the Colorado Department of Revenue's Liquor Enforcement team. Following those trainings, the coronavirus pandemic intervened, and law enforcement trainings in Nevada and New York were cancelled for later in the month.



Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, (pictured here in Bossier City, LA) and Annika Huff, TAT training specialist, went to cities in five states to provide law enforcement training in the first two months of the year.

As a result of the trainings, Arkansas completed implementation of the Iowa MVE Model; and Lanier and Huff have leads to follow in Mississippi to complete implementation there as well. In Oklahoma, they learned that more transit and bus companies have been trained; and Greek's audiences in Colorado expressed interest in the casino webinar when TAT completes it and stated the briefings were beneficial as they had seen human trafficking in their communities.

One law enforcement officer in Mississippi stated, "In 21 years of law enforcement, this is one of the best classes I have been to." Another officer in Arkansas commented, "With so many other required trainings, it was eye-opening and a reality check. This is something we need to always be aware of."

Lanier commented, "Training law enforcement on the realities of human trafficking is extremely gratifying, when we hear the troopers and officers

commit to taking a second look and to asking more questions when they make an interdiction and inspection stop. We know they got into this job to serve and protect, and we greatly appreciate their desire to use the victim-centered approach and to do right by both the case and the victim."

"Two out of the three buyers I met thought prostitution was legal in Vegas. These buyers sometimes demanded their money back, stole money from me, beat me and raped me. They thought they were able to 'enforce' their frustration because of the misconception that it was legal ... that they were in 'the okay.'"

- ANNIKA HUFF

Decriminalization of prostitution increases sex trafficking

Full decriminalization or legalization of prostitution does NOT end or lessen sex trafficking. Prostitution and sex trafficking are completely linked and intersected. The one creates the market for the other. Remember that there is never enough "willing supply" to meet the demand, and sex traffickers have long since filled that supply with their victims. The call for full decriminalization of prostitution and the whitewashing of this exploitation as "sex work" absolutely impacts the crime of sex trafficking. It INCREASES it. Studies show that. We must stand against the one, if we are serious about fighting the other. TAT stands in total opposition to proposals that call for the full decriminalization of prostitution. We stand with survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in saying "NO!" to the full decriminalization of prostitution.

HAVE YOU MADE A CALL ON BEHALF OF A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Let your company and Truckers Against Trafficking know today!

Even though we know it's not why you made the call, you could be in the running for TAT's prestigious **Harriet Tubman Award** presented by Protective Insurance, that brings with it a prize package including tickets to the Indy500 and \$2500!



**INDY500
TICKETS**



**\$2500
PRIZE & AWARD
& GALA**

**Tell us your story at
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