

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is a worldwide, \$150-billion criminal activity enslaving millions of victims each year into labor and sexual slavery and exploitation through force, fraud or coercion. In North America, human trafficking has been reported in hundreds of communities in Canada, the United States and Mexico, and tens of thousands of children are trafficked annually in all three countries..

Because this crime depends on the anonymity and easy control of its victims, traffickers regularly transport and sell them at places they find to be most convenient for them and the easiest to access. In the United States, for instance, FBI stings have revealed that truck stops and travel plazas are among those places. Truck stops and travel plazas have been one of the locations from which minors enslaved in sex trafficking have been rescued and the pimps/traffickers selling them have been arrested.

Ask yourself:

1. Does law enforcement show up at your establishment for prostitution-related calls?
2. Have you observed minor girls (and maybe boys), as well as women, scantily dressed, coming in to use your restroom facilities or going from truck to truck on the lot?
3. Have you ever seen a car pull into your lot with one male and a number of females who emerge from the car and then begin frequenting the trucks?
4. Have you ever seen an adult accompanying a minor into the trucker shower area?
5. Do you routinely see a particular vehicle coming to your lot, dropping off girls and then parking in an area where the car isn't easily seen?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, you may have human trafficking taking place on your lot, where minors (or adult women) are under the control of a pimp who is selling them for his/her gain and their exploitation. Pimps use violence, beatings, rape, drugs, threats, fraud of all types and other forms of coercion to control their victims. Any minor engaged in prostitution is not a prostitute, but a trafficking victim, under the control of a trafficker or pimp.

Call from truck stop employee results in arrest of traffickers and recovery of victims

Field manager Debo Adepiti at the TA Travel Plaza in Jessup, Maryland was making a premise check, including the fuel desk, mechanics shop and hotel, when Alan Bailey, the night porter, told him a young lady had recently come in dressed provocatively; the porter suspected prostitution. After speaking with both the driver of the van that brought the girl, as well as the young lady when she left the hotel, Adepiti believed the girl was being trafficked. He contacted Howard County police. When detectives arrived, they recognized a woman from one of the "X-Factor" ads they'd been investigating for two months on Backpage.com. As a result of Adepiti's call, they arrested two men and a woman on human trafficking charges. The trio were advertising as many as 12 women from various states, posting ads, renting hotel rooms, scheduling appointments for prostitution and taking money from the women after they were forced to perform sex acts. Detectives also learned all three individuals provided drugs to keep the women high, making them work without sleep, assaulting them and forcing them to perform sex acts with them under threat. Police were able to locate and recover six of the women being abused by the ring of traffickers.



Make the Call, Save Lives.
1-888-3737-888

1-888-3737-888 (US)

1-833-900-1010 (Canada)

01800-5533-000 (Mexico)

Text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733) US
truckersagainsttrafficking.org

Dealing with Human Trafficking... when this crime arrives at your doorstep



**TAT training tips
for general managers
and truck stop employees**



truckersagainsttrafficking.org

Truckers Against Trafficking

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is a non-profit organization committed to educating, equipping, empowering and mobilizing members of the trucking industry to fight human trafficking in the course of their everyday work. Given the training and the tools, members of the trucking industry can play a significant role in closing loopholes to traffickers who seek to exploit the trucking businesses in your community for criminal gain.

We have a free training DVD you can access by going to www.truckersagainstrafficking.org or by writing tat.truckers@gmail.com for a personal or staff copy. We also have free wallet cards available, as well as posters, for use and to hand out to trucking customers. These cards have red flags to look for, questions to ask, information to report and the National Human Trafficking Hotline number of 1-888-3737-888 US, Text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733) US, (1-833-900-1010 Canada). Additionally, we can provide half-day conferences in your area between law enforcement and truck stop/travel plaza general managers to build coalitions for greater cooperation, understanding and effective activity in apprehending traffickers and stopping their operations in your locale. Please contact tat.truckers@gmail.com if you'd like more information about having one of these coalition builds scheduled.

Key things to remember for truck stop/travel plaza staff

Because travel plaza/truck stop personnel are *critical* to the successful arrest of perpetrators and rescue of trafficking victims, here are some training tips for you and the rest of your staff:

1. ***If you're the general manager of a travel plaza/truck stop***, please educate your staff about human trafficking. Have them watch the TAT training DVD. Give them the TAT wallet cards, and share the following with them, instructing them that, in addition to making the needed calls, they should inform you or the manager-on-duty if any of the following occur, or they notice any of the following, in the course of their work.
2. ***TAT tells members of the trucking industry, especially drivers***, that if they encounter human trafficking at a truck stop or travel plaza, they need to not only call either the U.S. or Canadian hotline number themselves, but go inside the well-lit safety of the building and report this lot activity to the manager-on-duty. Because drivers are not attached to your community, it is important local staff make a report to your community law enforcement as well.

Traffickers can be dangerous people. We don't want you or a driver to engage them and attempt to run them off or rescue victims. Involve local law enforcement from the start.

3. ***If you see an adult and a minor heading to the trucker shower area***, restroom or other secluded spot at your establishment ... particularly if this is a man with a young girl ... call the U.S. or Canadian hotline number and your local law enforcement to report it.
4. ***Pay attention to customers, minors or adults***, who come in to use the restroom or buy something to eat or drink, who may look frightened, depressed, beaten or uncomfortable with their situation or who are scantily and/or inappropriately dressed. Try to engage them in conversation to see if they know where they are, if they need assistance, if they seem under stress. You might even ask them how they are and if everything is okay. It makes a world of difference to be noticed by someone who cares and is interested in your well-being and safety, especially if it is a minor under duress. She/he may give you some indication help is needed or make you suspicious enough that you need to make a call. If you see an adult woman working the lot, instead of running her off the lot, try and engage her in conversation. Be listening for mention of a "quota" or "having a daddy" and any signs of physical abuse and/or branding (on the back or neck). These are signs of potential human trafficking, and you need to call law enforcement and the National Human Trafficking Hotline of the country you're in.
5. ***Pay attention to conversations you may overhear from customers*** talking about purchasing sex. If this is going to happen on your lot, make the call to the U.S. or Canadian hotline number and local law enforcement. Other indicators this is happening may be an RV or van parked out by the trucks or a car driving up to the cab of a truck, dropping someone off and coming back 15-20 minutes later to pick up the person.
6. ***Also pay attention to any flashing lights between trucks or the use of any other equipment*** that appears to be signaling between trucks parked on your lot. If you see this in conjunction with minors walking the lot, call the U.S. or Canadian hotline number and local law enforcement to report it.
7. ***Take down the license plate number, the make, color and model of any car*** that routinely frequents your lot, dropping off girls. Call the U.S. or Canadian hotline number and your local law enforcement to report this.

8. ***If you suspect a human trafficking situation***, even if you're not completely sure, contact the U.S. or Canadian hotline number and your local police. It's okay to be wrong, and that's better than doing nothing and letting a trafficker leave with a victim who may have no other chance at rescue.
9. ***If you have business neighbors – a hotel/motel or a restaurant or massage parlor or any similar operation*** – please take the time to talk to them about human trafficking; share the TAT training DVD with them and the wallet cards; expand the reach of those who can potentially help with the rescue of victims and the arrest of trafficking perpetrators. Reduce the access, the convenience, and, therefore, the financial viability of traffickers, and you'll have helped protect our children and stop this most egregious crime. If you see drivers and others entering these businesses, staying for 15-30 minutes and then leaving, report it to the hotline.
10. ***Consider creating buttons in your restrooms*** with verbiage that says, "If you are in danger, need help now or this area needs attention, press this button." By doing so, you're potentially providing victims with a way to signal they need help without their pimp knowing. When pressed, management can respond with alacrity.

Keep human trafficking on the radar screen of all staff at the truck stop/travel plaza. Make sure all staff, anyone newly hired, sees the TAT training DVD. Keep TAT wallet cards and other materials well stocked in driver lounges and other places drivers frequent to spread the word. Maybe this isn't happening on your lot today ... but it may be happening next month. Maybe this isn't happening on your lot today ... but it may be happening at the next lot a driver frequents. Traffickers may work individually or they may be part of large prostitution rings working their victims on particular circuits. Your observations and actions, and those of your staff, could result not only in the rescue of victims but in the disruption and dissolution of major human trafficking activity.