



Volume 12 | Issue 5
May 2021

Human trafficking in the news

Highway Heroes: Attorney General Moody enlisting truckers in fight against human trafficking

SARASOTA, Fla. (WWSB) - Attorney General Ashley Moody is seeking to increase the number of Floridians working to end human trafficking and is enlisting the help of a Sarasota-based organization. PGT Innovations is the largest private-sector employer in Sarasota County and including the company in the campaign will add more “Truckers Against Trafficking,” -- certified commercial driver license holders -- on Florida roadways.

Majority of sex and human trafficking victims in Orange County are Black and Latino, report says

The majority of victims of human and sex trafficking identified by the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force between 2016 and 2020 were Black and Latino, according to a recent report issued by the task force. Each group accounted for 30% of the victims the task force assisted. White people accounted for 19%, Asian and Pacific Island people for 10% and those of “other” or mixed races for 11%.

Editorial: Yes, human trafficking happens in our community; let's be vigilant

The interstate that cuts through Longview and other cities in the region has brought economic development, easy access to Louisiana to the east and Dallas to the west and likely innumerable other benefits. Among the lesser known — or discussed — effects of our city's proximity to Interstate 20 is the problem of human trafficking. It's an ugly reality, and one many of us might rather not think about. But trafficking is happening in our communities, whether we are aware of it or not.

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

Day & Ross becomes first Freedom Driver level sponsor in Canada

Day & Ross, one of the fastest-growing and oldest providers of transportation solutions in North America, has become TAT's first Freedom Driver level sponsor in Canada. With a fleet of trucks numbering in the thousands and more than 8,000 employees, Day & Ross is rolling out TAT training to all its drivers, which includes a formal announcement on their website and a [video](#).

"Day & Ross was built by good people who are committed to doing good work," said Bill Doherty, Day & Ross CEO. "As a North American transportation company, our drivers are uniquely positioned to join the fight against human trafficking and help keep our roads and rest stops safe. Our partnership with Truckers Against Trafficking reflects our ongoing commitment to doing good in the communities where we live, work and drive."



Michelle Allard, vice president of Marketing and Communications for Day & Ross, commented that "Day & Ross is proud to be partnering with Truckers Against Trafficking to harness the power of our great driving team to spread awareness and help prevent human trafficking. As a Freedom Driver sponsor, this partnership is a true reflection of our values, and we're committed to educating and equipping our drivers to make a difference."

Day & Ross is also a member of [TAT's Canada Committee \(TCC\)](#), a volunteer membership committee seeking to be a growth accelerator in expanding TAT's anti-trafficking training among the trucking, bus and energy industries in Canada.

Schneider National, Inc. hosts TAT at Women's Network event as part of commitment to TAT training

TAT Systems Administrator Susan Dold will present at a virtual Schneider Women's Network event for Schneider National, Inc., May 11. Participants will also be able to tour the Freedom Drivers Project virtually. Since initiating TAT training in 2014, Schneider has trained 54,343 of their employees. A Platinum level sponsor, they co-sponsored a community education night at a local community college/CDL program that featured TAT, a local sheriff's deputy and themselves presenting on human trafficking. The following year, they brought the FDP to five of their terminals, and have committed to three years of hauls for the mobile museum. This is the second time TAT has presented at Schneider's Women's Network event.

"The Schneider Women's Network is women who are energized by the transportation and logistics industry and want to ensure Schneider's ongoing success," explained Tammy Grunert, Associate Relations director at Schneider. "As the eyes and ears of the nation's highways, truck drivers are in an excellent position to assist law enforcement in recovering victims of human trafficking and having traffickers arrested. By calling in tips that are turned over to law enforcement, truckers are helping close loopholes traffickers use, which leads to lives being saved. That's precisely why Schneider has been providing TAT training to driver associates since 2016, and why the Schneider Foundation has become a Platinum level sponsor of the organization."



Longtime TAT partner continues to marshal resources to combat human trafficking



TAT would cease to exist without the support of its partners. PrePass Safety Alliance, a non-profit, public-private partnership of state agencies and trucking industry leaders devoted to safe, secure and efficient use of North America's highway system, is one such partner.

"For many years, the folks at PrePass have marshaled their resources in support of TAT's work to combat human trafficking," stated Kendis Paris, TAT executive director. "From allowing us access to train their members, to activating their social media and other communication channels to raise awareness about the crime of human trafficking, to encouraging members to bid on (and purchase) the Everyday Heroes Truck in 2019, to their fantastic financial support ... TAT is in their debt. I was also blown away by the decision last year of Mark Doughty, their president and CEO, to not only maintain their Platinum level sponsorship of TAT in the heart of COVID, but to donate an additional \$5,000, as they knew we'd be hard hit as a non-profit seeking to fundraise in such times. These are the types of partners that inspire and encourage us."

As a TAT partner since 2014, PrePass:

- Hosted 93 TAT posts on Alliance social media since 2014
- Hosted TAT Training Specialist Louie Greek on the PrePass Safety Alliance "Eyes on the Road" podcast in 2019 to talk about how truckers can get training to help spot and report human trafficking

- Sponsored the TAT webinar [“How Truckers and Fleets Can Help Stop Human Trafficking”](#) in 2019
- Posted eight TAT posts to the PrePass blog
- Became a Platinum level sponsor
- Made news when PrePass member Stewart Transport purchased the 2019 Everyday Heroes Truck

Doughty emphasized, “The tragedy that is human trafficking often plays out on or near our nation’s highways. That makes the work of Truckers Against Trafficking so vital as it educates, organizes and trains the trucking industry and agencies responsible for commercial vehicle enforcement alike on how to detect and disrupt human trafficking. PrePass Safety Alliance is proud to support TAT, as our missions align to improve safety on our nation's highways.”



Mark Doughty, PrePass President and CEO

TAT publishes first quarterly report

“It’s imperative our supporters understand how their generosity generates results,” commented Kendis Paris, TAT executive director. “[Vantage Point](#) is a fantastic new resource for TAT to communicate its impact and celebrate the crucial role our partners play in making those achievements possible.”

Rather than simply a compendium of everything accomplished in a quarter by TAT staff and programs, each issue of Vantage Point will strive to be more visual in nature and highlight a few of the quarter’s accomplishments. The first issue provides information on two events: TAT’s first Anti-Trafficking Trailblazers event and a TAT/BOTL (Busing on the Lookout) Virtual Bus and Casino Coalition Build in Nevada and spotlights two people who contributed to the success of those events. The rest of the issue provides a recap of some of the tips received from truckers at the National Human Trafficking Hotline and details a few additional quarterly results, including a graphic portraying TAT involvement in events from National Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January.



How to recognize grooming with the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking

A Non-OTR Driver's Perspective on Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking In Canada: A Survivor's Perspective

Keep your knowledge about human trafficking sharp by listening to our latest Driving Freedom podcast episodes!

Available on most podcast listening platforms.

Listen on Apple Podcasts

May 2021 Calendar of Events

- May 5** – [Defend Dignity Virtual Canadian Conference](#), Liz Williamson, TAT training specialist and survivor-leader, presenting
- May 10** – Workhound Lunch and Learn virtual HT 101, Kylla Leeburg, TAT deputy director, presenting
- May 10** – TC Energy's Zero Week, Esther Goetsch, Coalition Build director, presenting
- May 11-13** – 28th Annual Williston Basin Petroleum Conference, Bismarck, ND, Ashley Smith, energy operations director, presenting
- May 11** – Virtual FDP and presentation for Schneider Women's event, Susan Dold, TAT systems administrator, presenting
- May 12** – Transportation Intermediaries Association Capital Ideas Virtual Conference, Laura Cyrus, TAT corporate engagement director, presenting
- May 12** – Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Conference, Annie Sovcik, BOTL director, Esther Goetsch, Coalition Build director, and Liz Williamson, TAT training specialist and survivor-leader, presenting
- May 13** – Truck Training Schools Association of Ontario meeting, Liz Williamson, TAT training specialist and survivor-leader, presenting
- May 14** – Wyoming Trucking Association Annual Conference, Cheyenne, WY, Louie Greek, TAT training specialist, presenting
- May 19** – National Interstate Virtual Safety Workshop, Nashville, TN, Laura Cyrus, TAT Corporate Engagement director, presenting



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