

# TAT COALITION BUILDS CLOSING LOOPHOLES TO TRAFFICKERS



[www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org](http://www.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org)

## **Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Build Report: Lexington, KY August 8, 2016**

A coalition strives to bring together critical stakeholders to accomplish a single mission. TAT's coalition builds do just that, by gathering law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to close loopholes to traffickers, who exploit victims and legitimate businesses for criminal gain. The primary goal of a TAT coalition build is to establish an effective and sustainable working relationship between the trucking industry and law enforcement statewide, in order to combat the crime of human trafficking. This is done through our short-term and long-term goals. Much of the short-term impact is seen immediately following the meeting, evidenced through the results of the survey and shown below under "same-day impact". The long-term impact is the result of follow up done one month, three months and six months after the meeting. TAT firmly believes that these meetings have far-reaching impact, not only in building strong coalitions between trucking and law enforcement agencies across the United States, but in ultimately saving lives.

**Short-term goals:**

1. Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments, including representatives from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation, as well as county sheriff's offices, in the same room with representatives/executives of local trucking companies and truck stop owners and managers.
2. Offer an initial training on human trafficking to all participants at the meeting, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to combat it.
3. Introduce truck stop owners and general managers to their local law enforcement officers in order to establish a local contact protocol through the contact list.
4. Motivate more trucking companies to train drivers as a result of the build.
5. Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.
6. Provide victim-centered law enforcement training on human trafficking by local law enforcement leaders and a survivor-leader sharing her story.
7. Promote a change in verbiage and mentality in both industries from "prostitute" to victim.

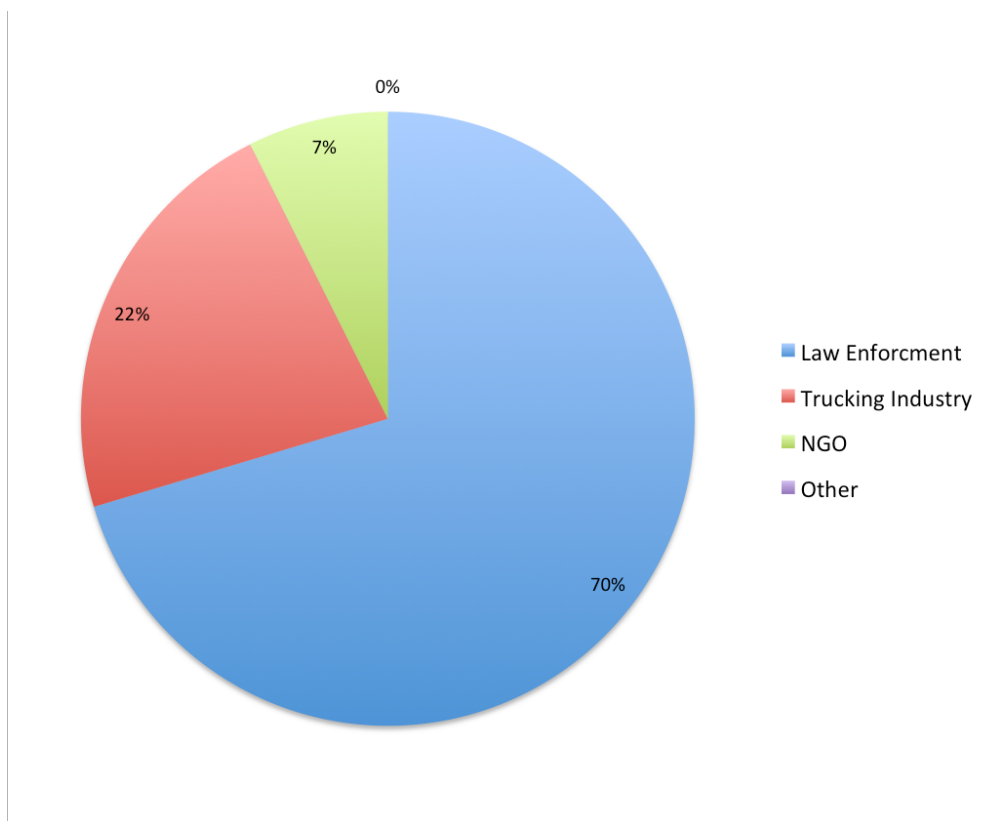
**Long-term goals:**

1. Utilize TAT materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.
2. Chart increase in calls/reports into the hotline.
3. Equip local or statewide anti-trafficking task forces with industry stakeholders.
4. Assist in undercover investigations conducted between law enforcement agencies and industry stakeholders.
5. Aid in the adoption of the Iowa MVE model statewide.
6. Mandate TAT training at the CDL entry-level.

## Same-day impact:

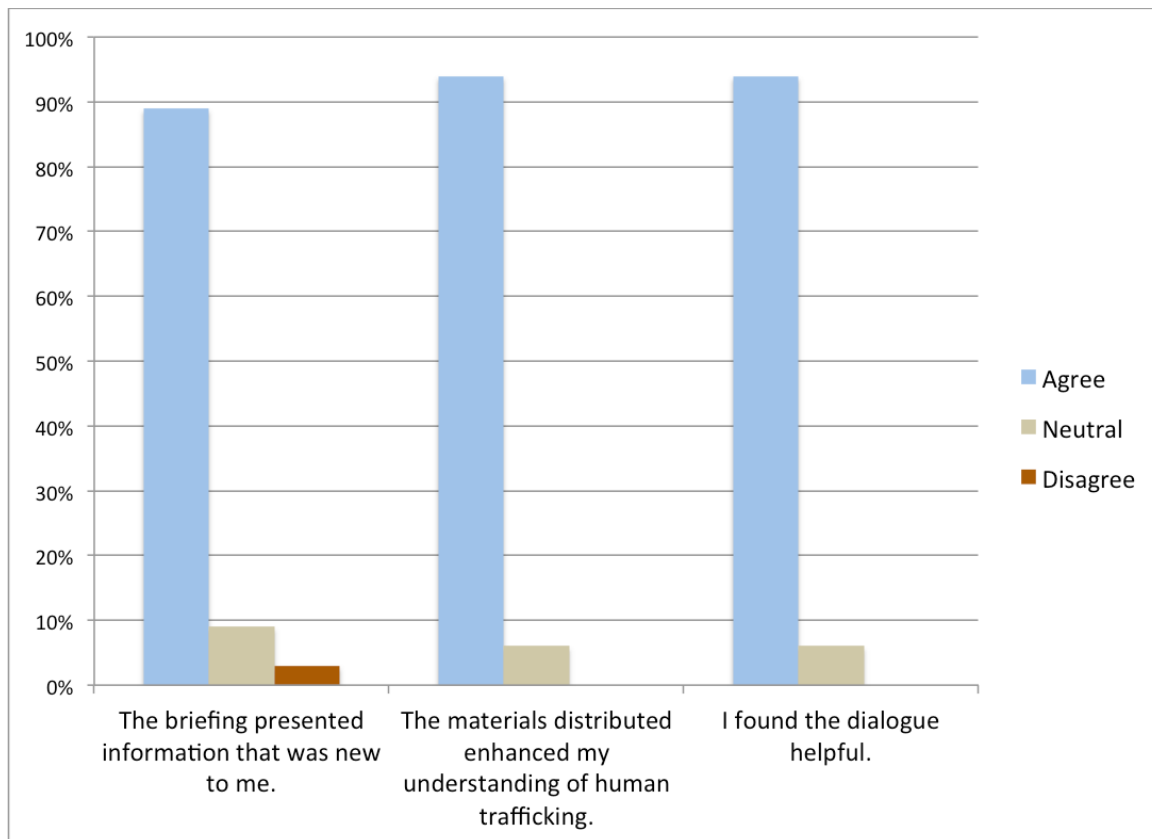
***Goal #1. Gather leaders from various law enforcement departments, including representatives from the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation, as well as county sheriff's offices, in the same room with representatives/executives of local trucking companies and truck stop owners and managers.***

TAT co-hosted this coalition build with the Office of the Attorney General of Kentucky and the Kentucky Trucking Association. There were truck stop general managers from six cities and towns, three trucking industry stakeholders, three sheriff's offices, nine police departments, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International airport security, the United States Attorney's Office, Catholic Charities and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center represented at the meeting. The following results are based off the survey gathered the day of the meeting, which 65% of participants completed.



Almost half (49%) of respondents said they were able to connect with pertinent members of the trucking industry and over half (80%) said they were able to connect with pertinent law enforcement in the room.

***Goal #2. Offer an initial training on human trafficking to all participants at the meeting, as well as offer concrete pathways and strategies for law enforcement and members of the trucking industry to work together to combat it.***



*94% of respondents said they know what next steps to take in order to combat human trafficking.*

*100% of respondents said presenters were knowledgeable and approachable.*

*100% of respondents said the briefing was a good use of their time.*

*100% of respondents said they would recommend attending a briefing like this to others in their field.*

*100% of respondents said they are better prepared to identify human trafficking after attending this briefing.*

**Here is what attendees had to say about the meeting:**

*“Great training!”*

*“Very good presentations by all.”*

*“State and federal laws must change and support this ASAP! Victims end up with records that ruin their lives while being victims. Laws must change to wipe their records!!!”*

**Goal #3 Motivate more trucking companies to train drivers as a result of the build.**

- Roamin Roads Transport is beginning to train their drivers as a result of the build. Judy Miller, Roamin Roads office manager, said:

*"I'm excited about being able to help you all with this endeavor. I almost changed my mind about attending the training, but something in my heart kept telling me to go. I'm so glad I did! As I've said, I've shared the training with my drivers and am trying to encourage them to be aware of human trafficking on a daily basis. In addition, I'm encouraging them to share what TAT is to other drivers. Unfortunately, in today's world I see the potential for growth in human trafficking."*

- The Kentucky State Trucking Association will be sending out information about TAT's updated training video, available on Vertical Alliance, in its weekly update to member companies.

**Goal #4: Motivate truck stops to train employees and become points of distribution for TAT materials.**

- All truck stops/travel plaza companies that participated in the Kentucky coalition build are currently training their employees during orientation. However, the general managers in attendance had lots of questions during the discussion and were able to offer these comments:

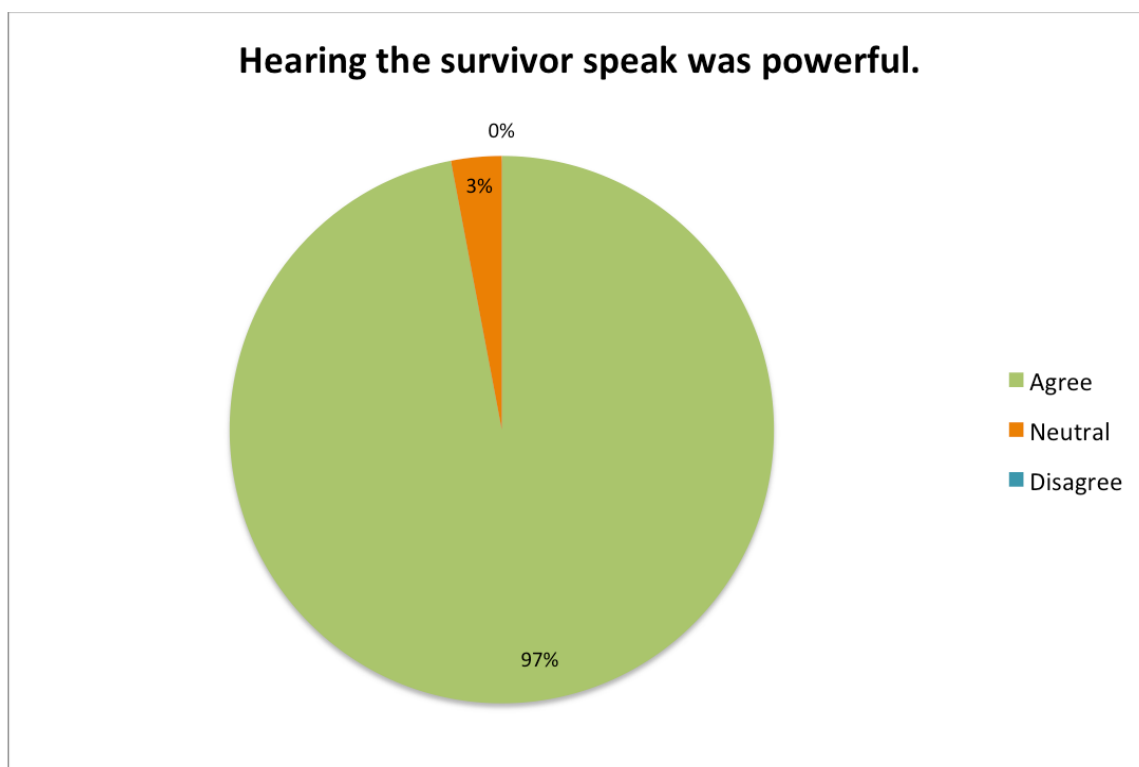
*"I want to recommend more information to make more people aware of this hotline. I will do all I can to get the hotline out. Please continue to communicate with us!"*

*"I am going to take TAT materials to the truck stop across the street, even though they are a competitor. They will want to know this information."*

- One general manager shared challenges he faces in catching traffickers even when he calls the authorities. He was able to ask the Sergeant of CMVE for Kentucky State Police for a direct number he can call when he has an emergency situation needing an immediate response. After the build, TAT learned that this manager did, in fact, have a potential trafficking situation in which two young girls were allegedly selling magazines by going truck to truck but had also solicited drivers for sex. Local law enforcement responded to the call and made contact with the suspected victims. As is common, the victims were uncooperative and didn't indicate they were in need of help so no further investigation was conducted at that point. This is an example of one of the many common obstacles to investigating human trafficking cases and highlights the need to utilize TAT training materials for continued law enforcement training. The manager then called the NHTRC to report the tip as well as utilized the Kentucky State Police number he had learned at the meeting. Kentucky State Police are now investigating the case with the help of the Attorney General's office.

**Goals #5 & #6: Provide victim-centered law enforcement training on human trafficking by local law enforcement leaders and a survivor-leader sharing her story. Promote a change in verbiage and mentality in both industries from “prostitute” to victim.**

While a cultural shift in how prostituted people are viewed is not easily quantified, it is a critical piece of these meetings. From the HT 101 training to the presentation from a survivor's perspective to the law enforcement training, all aspects of the day are geared towards promoting a victim-centered approach and the belief that every person has a part to play in ensuring that more lives are saved.



Here is what respondents had to say about the presentation by Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer and survivor-leader:

*"It was a powerful presentation. It gives you an inside view of how these people are abused and how traffickers get inside their heads. Very powerful. "*

*"She is a very brave woman to be discussing what she went through. I never dreamed at 16 years old anyone would be going through something like this."*

*"Great information on language used and very eye opening. "*

### **Long-term impact and assessment:**

The following results are based on follow up conducted one month after the meeting. Another follow up will be done in three months and six months and the report will be periodically updated.

#### ***Goal #1. Utilize TAT materials in ongoing, in-state trainings for both law enforcement agencies and industry members.***

- The Office of the Attorney General plans to present and train on TAT and human trafficking at the Kentucky Safety and Prevention Alignment Network quarterly meetings.
- The Office of the Attorney General plans to present at the Kentucky Trucking Association board meeting on human trafficking and their proposed legislation around TAT's Iowa MVE model.
- Grant County Sheriff's Office plans to train officers with TAT materials and distribute TAT materials.
- Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Sgt. Wilson will be using TAT training at his upcoming interdiction training classes.
- Kentucky State Police public affairs officer said:

*"This should be made into mandatory training for not only new units but also with veteran officers."*

#### ***Goal #2: Chart an increase in calls/reports into the hotline.***

- Two weeks after the meeting, one general manager made a call into the National Human Trafficking Hotline as a direct result of the training he received at the training in Lexington.

#### ***Goal #5: Aid in the adoption of the Iowa MVE model statewide.***

- The Attorney General's Office has consulted TAT and the Kentucky State Trucking Association about proposed legislation that would adopt TAT's Iowa MVE model in total.

#### ***Goal #6: Mandate TAT training at the CDL entry-level.***

- Mandating TAT training is included in the Attorney General's proposed legislation set to be introduced in the next legislative session.
- If the bill passes, TAT's 26-minute training video will be required as part of the licensing testing and wallet cards will be distributed with every new CDL.

**Assessment:**

The meeting in Lexington was a very productive and impactful training. The Attorney General announced to media, after touring TAT's Freedom Drivers Project, that he would be proposing legislation that would push TAT's Iowa MVE model. This legislation will have far-reaching impact in combatting human trafficking across the state. The bill potentially will propose mandating TAT training to all new CDL holders, issuing a TAT wallet card with every CDL issuance and renewal, stocking scale houses and rest areas with TAT materials, and exploring the consequences related to participating in this crime. There was a lively discussion at the meeting on how general managers at truck stops and law enforcement can work together more effectively to catch traffickers. Law enforcement officers in attendance were able to share some of the obstacles they face in these cases and ask questions about best practices and victims services available.

**Follow-Up Goals:**

1. More drivers trained and registered as awareness of TAT's program spreads through efforts by the Kentucky Trucking Association and the Attorney General's Office.
2. Proposed legislation to pass at the next legislative session, making TAT training mandatory to all new CDL holders; TAT wallet cards distributed at scale houses, rest areas and distributed with any CDL issuance or renewal.
3. TAT training to be used to train officers about human trafficking where gaps in training exist.

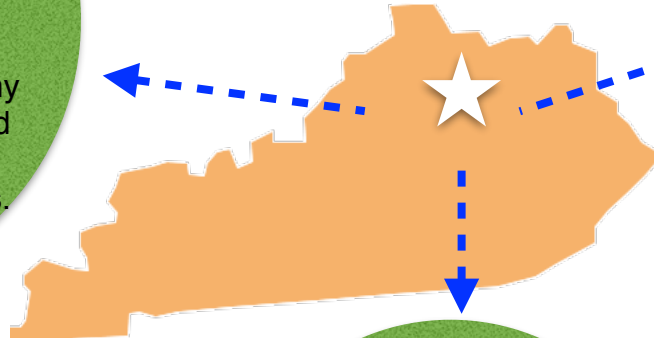


## Lexington Coalition Build At-a-Glance

Attorney General Beshear's office will be proposing legislation at the next session that would adopt TAT's Iowa MVE model in total. The bill will mandate TAT training to all new CDL holders, get a TAT wallet card distributed with any CDL issuance or renewal and will stock scale houses and rest areas with TAT materials.

**"Great information on language used and very eye opening." - Police Detective**

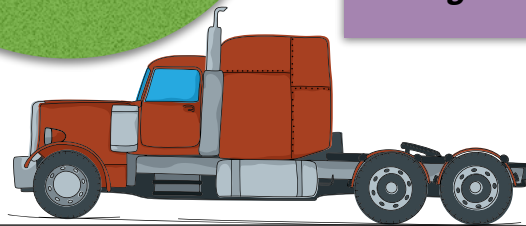
Sgt. Wilson with Kentucky State Police Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division will distribute TAT materials to troopers at his interdiction classes.



**"This should be made into mandatory training for not only new units but also with veteran officers." - Public Affairs Office, Kentucky State Police**

The Kentucky Trucking Association will be sending out an email alert to member companies, informing them of TAT's updated training video available on Vertical Alliance.

**"I am going to take TAT materials to the truck stop across the street even though they are a competitor. They will want to know this information." - Truck Stop General Manager**



### Law Enforcement, Trucking and NGO Participants

- Axel Surgeons
- Bullitt County Sheriff's Office
- Catholic Charities
- CHFS DCBS DPP
- Cincinnati/NKI Airport Security
- Covington Police Department
- Fort Mitchell Police Department
- Fort Thomas Police Department
- Franklin County Sheriff's Office
- Grant County Sheriff's Office
- Kentucky State Police
- Kentucky Trucking Association
- Love's Travel Plaza-Corbin, KY
- Lexington-Metro Police Department
- Louisville-Metro Police Department
- Marysville Police Department
- Midwestern Insurance Alliance
- Office of the Attorney General
- Oldham County Police Department
- Owensboro Police Department
- Pilot #353
- Polaris Project
- Pilot Flying J #41
- Roamin Road Transport
- TA Operating LLC. #028
- TA Operating LLC. #093
- TA Petro
- United States Attorney's Office - Project Safe Childhood