



Volume 13 | Issue 10
October 2022

Human trafficking in the news

Florida's Attorney General, Ashley Moody, and Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) train Floridians to identify and report human trafficking

FLORIDA - Attorney General Moody, TAT, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) are working together to train more than 100 Floridians in the gaming and passenger transportation industries to identify and report human trafficking. Task forces and coalitions in Florida's 67 counties dedicate efforts to combating human trafficking.

How an LGBTQ+ young man, Jose Alfaro, escaped a trafficking nightmare

TEXAS - A survivor from Texas speaks about his harrowing experience, his uncertain road to recovery and his mission to save others from the predatory trap that ensnared him. "I was in such a vulnerable place," Alfaro recalls. He continues, "I spilled my whole story. He said he had the means to help me." Alfaro thought about his options but had nowhere else to go.

According to the U.N., 50 million people lived in 'modern slavery' last year

GENEVA - The U.N. labor agency estimates that some 50 million people worldwide were living in "modern slavery" - either in forced labor or marriage - at the end of last year, marking a 25% jump from its previous report five years ago. "The 50 million figure is the conservative baseline estimate of people living in modern slavery throughout the world," says Grace Forrest, Founding Director of Walk Free.

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

Ryder leverages platform at Automotive Logistics Global event to share the TAT message

Throughout its eleven-year partnership with Ryder, Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) has benefitted exponentially through Ryder's commitment to leveraging its business relationships to extend the reach and impact of TAT's message.

Most recently, Ryder's Marketing team, led by Stephanie Wicky, Marketing vice president and a TAT Board Member, invited Laura Cyrus, TAT senior director of Industry Training and Outreach, to participate in the September gala dinner event of the 2022 Automotive Logistics and Supply Chain Global conference in Detroit. The premier sponsor of the conference, Ryder provided TAT speaking time prior to the dinner as well as space at their booth in the expo hall.



*Laura Cyrus, TAT senior director of Industry Training and Outreach, delivered a presentation at the Automotive Logistics global event gala dinner, sponsored by Ryder.
Photo courtesy of Ultima Media.*

In her presentation, Cyrus encouraged approximately 300 carriers, brokers, manufacturers and others in the automotive logistics field to pursue engagement with the TAT effort. At the Ryder booth, she was able to share a co-branded piece, co-created with the Ryder team, as well as pass out additional TAT materials to interested attendees.

"As part of our company's safety culture, Ryder employees are trained on recognizing the warning signs of trafficking and how to report suspicious activity," said Stephanie Wicky, Ryder VP of Marketing and Truckers Against Trafficking board member. "We proudly support Truckers Against Trafficking's initiatives and are committed to helping end human trafficking."

"When we created the TAT Champion Awards in 2019, Ryder was the inaugural winner in the Organization Category," Cyrus stated. "We are so grateful they continue to think outside the box and leverage available opportunities within the industry to help spread TAT's anti-trafficking message. When our partners not only integrate TAT internally within their company but also use their position as a leader in the industry to share externally, it amplifies and elevates our message into spaces TAT might not otherwise be a part of."

TAT builds partnerships to combat trafficking through the bus and casino industries



Betsy Huggett, executive director of the Diane Peppler Resource Center and VP of the Upper Peninsula Human Trafficking Task Force, presented at the briefing in St. Ignace, MI.

In partnership with law enforcement and industry leaders in Florida, Michigan and Iowa, Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) hosted three events in September that brought together the casino, transportation and tourism industries with law enforcement for training and networking.

TAT's casino-related initiative, funded by the Dressemer Foundation, was derived from TAT's recognition that there are many areas of overlap between the trucking, bus and casino industries. Through proper training and coordination with law enforcement, TAT knows these key stakeholders could help to create a more robust defense network against human trafficking.

TAT's two virtual Bus & Casino Coalition Builds were statewide briefings focused on Florida and Iowa. In Michigan, TAT hosted an in-person briefing for the transportation, tourism and resort/casino industries to coincide with the Richard Crane Memorial Truck Show in St. Ignace. As Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody stated in her recorded opening remarks at the Florida-focused briefing, "Florida is the third largest state in the nation. We also attract over 100 million tourists every year. You all play an important role in transporting and entertaining our visitors. Through your

work, you may encounter a human trafficker or even a victim hoping someone sees them and calls for help."

Over 227 people, representing the 23 different bus companies/transit agencies, 32 different casino properties and 18 different law enforcement/government agencies attended one of the three briefings. 93% of survey respondents reported feeling better equipped to recognize and report human trafficking. In commenting on hearing survivor-leader and TAT Training Specialist Liz Williamson present, one survey respondent said, "This was extremely helpful to understand exactly what the crime is, and how serious it is in our society. [It] was difficult for her to speak about, but extremely helpful to me to see it from her perspective!" Another survey respondent noted, "This survivor's incredibly powerful and sad presentation of her experience reminded me, yet again, that we all need to pay attention and look out for one another! And then when we do see something that's not right, we must know how to report it and get the victim(s) help."

These briefings were co-hosted by the Florida Office of the Attorney General, the Iowa Department of Public Safety, the Iowa Office to Combat Human Trafficking, the Iowa Department of Transportation/Motor Vehicle Enforcement, the Florida Department of Transportation, Michigan State Police, the American Gaming Association, the Iowa Gaming Association, Hard Rock/Seminole Gaming, the Iowa Public Transit Association, the Florida Public Transportation Association, the Florida Motorcoach Association, the Upper Peninsula Human Trafficking Task Force, the St. Ignace Visitors Bureau and the Richard Crane Memorial Foundation.

Walmart levels up to Freedom Driver Sponsor as TAT is named the recipient of Walmart's fall Safe Driving campaign

Walmart has been a committed partner to Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) and in the fight against human trafficking since 2014. In 2022, however, Walmart augmented its engagement by enhancing employee awareness and increasing its financial support of TAT. For the first time, Walmart designated TAT as the nonprofit recipient of its fall "Safe Driving" campaign, a one-week annual campaign during which Walmart donates \$0.02 to a designated charity for every safe mile driven by its Private Fleet drivers.

The campaign raised over \$136,000 for TAT, taking them from a gold-level sponsor to the Freedom Driver level.



Walmart drivers participate in the 2022 Safe Driving campaign.

"The Walmart Private Fleet miles for our annual Safe Driving campaigns allow the Walmart Private Fleet the opportunity to support organizations that help build and improve lives in their communities. The Walmart Private Fleet has had a great relationship over the years with TAT, and we were really excited to have them be the recipient of this year's fall Safe Driving campaign. The work that TAT is doing to educate the trucking community in human trafficking prevention falls right in line with the overall 'Live Better' initiative," says Doug Estrada, Walmart Transportation senior director.

"We are so honored to be chosen as a recipient of Walmart's fall Safe Driving campaign and happy to see drivers' deep connection and commitment to TAT and the fight against human trafficking. Every time I pass a Walmart truck and see the Walmart blue TAT stickers, it is another reminder of the many good men and women out there on the roads every day who are not only delivering essentials to our homes but who also stand ready to make an essential impact in the life of a potential trafficking victim," remarks Esther Goetsch, TAT executive director.

Additionally, through a Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) Walmart tour earlier this year, TAT's one-of-a-kind mobile exhibit visited nine different Walmart distribution centers, engaging Walmart associates who toured the mobile exhibit, purchased co-branded t-shirts and volunteered at the events.

After coming out of the FDP, Grady Hunt, regional safety manager out of Bentonville, AR, commented, "If you don't mind, I just need a moment. I have never really read all of that information before. I know it happens but I just didn't know it was this bad. Thank you for what you do."

Trafficking victims can and do come from all racial and ethnic groups. Survey data from a sample of 996 non-college-educated women in the US between the ages of 18 and 29 evaluated risk factors related to experiencing trafficking victimization as a minor, as an adult, and as both a minor and an adult. Results of this study showed that being Black increased a woman's odds of experiencing adult sex trafficking victimization by 5.68 (compared to not experiencing sex trafficking victimization at all).

Source: Kulig, T. C. (2021). Measuring Sex Trafficking: A National-Level Victimization Survey of an at-Risk Sample. *Justice Quarterly*.



October 2022 | Calendar of Events

Oct. 4 - Coalition Build, Fort McMurray, AB, Canada, Dylan Wecht, Public Sector Engagement specialist and Annie Sovcik, senior director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, presenting.

Oct. 4 - FDP at Penske event, Lumberton, NJ, Laura Cyrus, senior director of Industry Training and Outreach, Molly Griffiths, corporate engagement manager, attending.

Oct. 4-6 - Amazon RelayCon & Amazon FASTforward 2022, Orlando, FL, Esther Goetsch, TAT executive director, presenting.

Oct. 5-7 - Canadian Trucking Alliance Board Meeting/Conference, Whistler, BC, Dylan Wecht, Public Sector Engagement specialist and TAT Training Specialist Liz Williamson, presenting.

Oct. 12-13 - Protective Insurance Claims and Safety Seminar, Indianapolis, IN, Laura Cyrus, senior director of Industry Training and Outreach, presenting.

Oct. 12-14 - West Virginia Center for Children's Justice Handle with Care Conference, Combating Human Trafficking by Building Coalitions and Employing a Victim-Centered Approach, Charleston, West Virginia, TAT Public Sector Engagement Specialist Dylan Wecht, attending and presenting.

Oct. 13-15 - FDP at the North Carolina Trucking Association Councils Conference and Expo, Cherokee, NC, Brandy Belton, FDP director, presenting.

Oct. 14 - SETran Webinar, virtual, Lexi Higgins, BOTL deputy director, presenting.

Oct. 19 - Coalition Build, Billings, MT, Louis Greek, CB specialist, Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer and survivor-advocate, presenting, and Chris Moreno, Industry Training Program specialist, attending.

Oct. 19 - Colorado State Patrol Law Enforcement Training, Golden, Colorado, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director/senior director of Public Sector Engagement and Kelley Alsobrook, TAT field trainer, presenting.

Oct. 19 - National Truck League Insurance virtual presentation, TAT Training Specialist Liz Williamson, presenting.

Oct. 19 - TopHat Knowledge Booster virtual presentation, Molly Griffiths, corporate engagement manager, presenting.

Oct. 19-20 - Food Industry Association Supply Chain Forum, Arlington, VA, Laura Cyrus, senior director of Industry Training and Outreach, presenting.

Oct. 22-25 - FDP at American Trucking Associations Management Conference and



Exhibition, San Diego, CA, Esther Goetsch, TAT executive director, presenting, and Brandy Belton, FDP director, attending.

Oct. 26 - N.Y. Public Transit Association Conference, Albany, NY, Lexi Higgins, BOTL deputy director, presenting.

Oct. 29 - National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services Annual Conference, Arlington, VA, Lexi Higgins, BOTL deputy director, presenting.

THANK YOU TO OUR NORTH STAR, FREEDOM DRIVER, DIAMOND, PLATINUM AND GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS!



Thank you to our copper level and above individual donors!

Platinum:

Andy and Karin Larsen

Gold:

Anne & Merlin Namuth, Bob Paris, Douglas Kegler, Anna McCoy

Silver:

Scott and Terry Koch, Nicholas and Jane Nagel

Bronze:

Mark and Julie Mihevc, Chris Ripani, Stephanie Guindy, Runbeck/Mowat Fund, Ted Glickley, Grinnell Family, Mike Poirier

Copper:

Patti Gillette, Linda Burtwistle, Mike and Karen Kuykendall, Don Blake, Scott Perry, Dan and Emily Dykstra, Michael Nelson, Jacqueline Daves Isser, Tod Kroon, Charlton & Laura Wimberly, Judith Ridgley, The Moroun Family

Truckers Against Trafficking | P.O. Box 816, Englewood, CO 80151

[Unsubscribe Icyrus@truckersagainsttrafficking.org](mailto:Unsubscribe%20Icyrus@truckersagainsttrafficking.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by tat.truckers@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!