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HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE NEWS

After two decades undercover, she's ready to tell the real story of human trafficking

For years, former FBI Special Agent Nikki Badolato led the FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force targeting some of the most heinous criminals. Now she wants Americans to know the truth about underage sex crimes.

Michigan State Police, trucking groups team up to target human trafficking

The Michigan State Police have teamed up with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance and Truckers Against Trafficking in a push to bring awareness to human trafficking occurring across the state.

Chinese migrants lured to Oklahoma are victims of labor, sex trafficking, official says

Oklahoma's attorney general, speaking to the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee, testifies that Chinese nationals are often forced to work on marijuana farms.

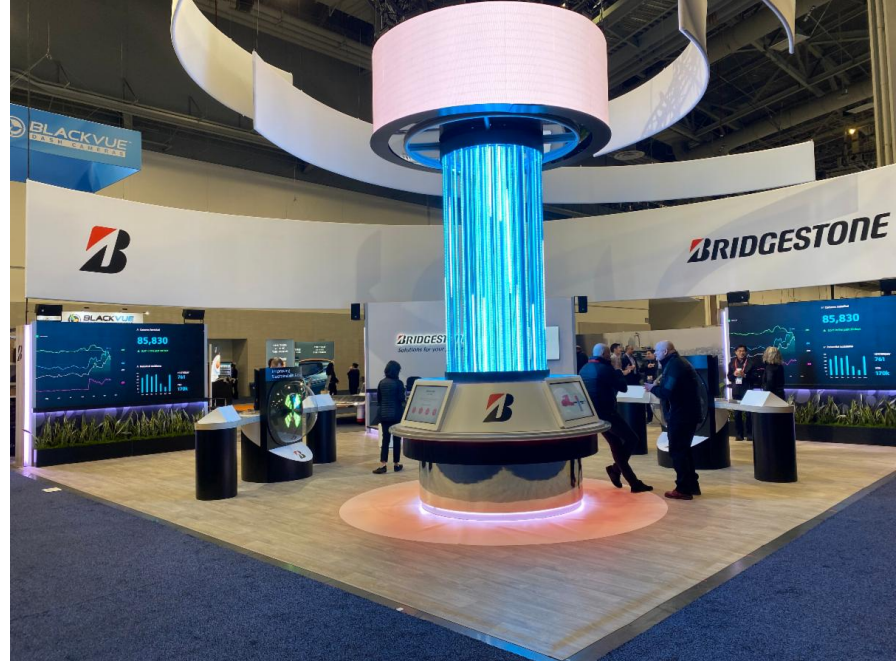
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TAT and Bridgestone join forces to debut TAT's updated app at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas

Through the support of Bridgestone Americas, a longtime partner and North Star-level TAT sponsor, TAT made its first appearance at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Jan. 9-12, to debut its updated app.

Esther Goetsch, TAT executive director, Heather Fry, TAT director of Industry Training, and Chris Moreno, TAT Industry Training specialist, worked out of

the Bridgestone booth, with Goetsch also taking part in a panel discussion broadcast from the booth.



TAT debuted its updated app at the Bridgestone booth at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

“Alongside Josh Holland, vice president of Bridgestone Commercial Dealer Network and a TAT board member, we discussed who TAT is, its founding, the partnership between TAT and Bridgestone and some of the challenges to capturing data related to human trafficking and the launch of our new app,” explained Esther Goetsch, TAT executive director.

Goetsch and Holland then recorded an hour-long podcast at the Bridgestone studio at the exhibit. The podcast will be launched later in the year as part of Bridgestone’s Thrive podcast, covering the same topics, as well as the role partners and technology can play in helping to combat human trafficking.



TAT Executive Director Esther Goetsch (left) joined Keith Cawley, communications director for Bridgestone and the host of Thrive Podcast (center) and Josh Holland, vice president of Bridgestone Commercial Dealer Network (back to camera), on a podcast broadcast about human trafficking and how partnering and technology can help in the battle against it.

The updates to TAT’s app include:

- Tailored red flag content specifically for various stakeholders, such as school transportation, over-the-road truckers, rideshare drivers, transit, in-home delivery professionals, etc.
- Enhanced reporting capabilities for users with geo-location potential and best display call options, including, where available, local hotline numbers.
- The opportunity for TAT to track the total number of tips being reported via the app.
- Data-gathering capabilities from willing users/reporters on what they’re seeing as to potential human trafficking situations.
- A direct communication channel to app users.

Anyone already using the TAT app on their phone will automatically be upgraded to the new app, as long as they’re keeping up on their app updates. Download it [here](#) for Android users and [here](#) for iOS users.

TAT helps Transportation Research Board kickoff new human trafficking subcommittee

TAT participated in the “Our Role in the Fight Against Human Trafficking” workshop at the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) annual conference in Washington D.C. to announce their inaugural human trafficking subcommittee. This was the first time TAT has presented at the TRB conference.

The workshop, which lasted three hours, consisted of a panel of experts, including Shamere McKenzie, CEO of the Sungate Foundation and survivor leader; Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director/senior director of Public Sector Engagement; Detective John Morgan of the Northeast Human Trafficking Taskforce; and Steven Jones of the Alabama Transportation Institute, who answered questions about how human trafficking intersects with the transportation industry and the role state DOTs, researchers, and federal agencies can play in preventing and intervening in human trafficking.



TAT Deputy Director and Senior Director of Public Sector Engagement Kylla Lanier (left) joined Shamere McKenzie, CEO of the Sungate Foundation and survivor leader, as two of the panelists for the workshop on human trafficking.

The goals of the new TRB subcommittee are as follows:

- Raise awareness about human trafficking in TRB
- Identify tools and methods that have been studied and implemented in other fields, such as healthcare and social work, that the TRB community can implement (TAT's work within the transportation industry was highlighted as a best practice within industry.)
- Consolidate and disseminate information relevant to research, stakeholders, funding opportunities and state and federal programs for reporting of potential cases and support of human trafficking victims
- Become the source of relevant human trafficking research
- Identify human trafficking research needs and develop targeted areas of research

"It's exciting to see the Transportation Research Board prioritize human trafficking and how it intersects with the transportation sector as an issue that merits further research and study," said Lanier. "TAT looks forward to working with Dr. Felipe Aros-Vera and John Habermann, the human trafficking subcommittee chairs, as they pursue these goals."

Aros-Vera is an associate professor and graduate chair, as well as the director of the Center for Advanced Systems and Transportation Logistics Engineering for Ohio University's Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. Habermann is a research engineer at the Texas A & M Transportation Institute.

UPS hosts TAT for two Lunch N Learn events during National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

For two of its first Lunch N Learn events of 2024, UPS hosted TAT on the topics of combating demand for commercial sex and internet safety and online exploitation: trends and the role of caregivers. Sixty individuals from both the United States and Belgium, representing various

industries, including trucking companies, freight companies, NGOs and government employees, attended the webinar on demand, while 114 participants from UPS and the general public attended the event on internet safety.

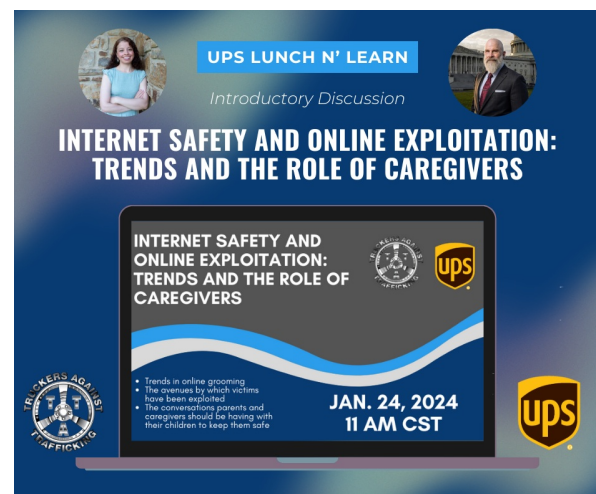


In the webinar about demand, TAT Coalition Build Specialist Louie Greek gave a brief presentation on the importance of combating demand for commercial sex as it relates to human trafficking. He then moderated a panel featuring Dylan Wecht, TAT Public Sector Engagement specialist, and John McKown, TForce Freight professional truck driver. Because man-to-man conversation about purchasing commercial sex has proven effective, the men on the panel discussed masculinity, healthy and unhealthy behaviors, the pornography industry and how demand perpetuates human trafficking, amongst various other topics.

In the internet safety webinar, TAT Public Sector Engagement Specialist Maggie Dawson joined Kevin Metcalf, a deputy prosecutor from Washington County, Arkansas' Prosecutor's Office and an internationally recognized internet safety expert, as the presenters. The event focused on the tactics of online predators and practical steps parents can take to keep their children safe.

"Traffickers and predators have unprecedented access to our children through social media platforms. It's scary stuff, but we aren't defenseless," commented Nikki Clifton, president of Social Impact and the UPS Foundation. "Loving family and caregivers outnumber predators, and we can keep children safe, if we understand the risks and are willing to open lines of communication to raise awareness and teach our kids how to avoid threats. Thank you, TAT, Kevin Metcalf and Team UPS for prioritizing this important issue during National Human Trafficking Prevention Month and throughout the year."

Attendees at each webinar received "next steps" they can implement in their homes and/or communities as well as several resources.

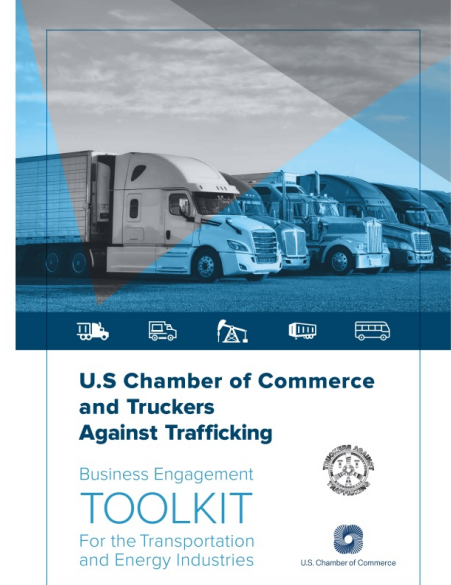


TAT partners with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to update anti-trafficking business toolkit

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is releasing an updated Business Engagement Toolkit this month in partnership with TAT. The new version of the toolkit, originally co-authored by the Chamber and TAT several years ago, focuses on the transportation and energy industries. It contains several new features, including short profiles of companies who are leading by example, impact vignettes, a sample anti-human trafficking policy addressing both sex and labor trafficking, a scenario-based reporting template adaptable to a wide range of business types, and a section on the ways different departments and divisions can engage in a company-wide anti-trafficking strategy.

TAT's partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

began in 2019 with the development of the co-authored toolkit. Since that time, TAT has presented at multiple events hosted by the Chamber's Task Force to Eradicate Human Trafficking.



Michael Billet, director of Policy Research for Employment Policy at the Chamber, explained, "This joint toolkit instructs businesses on resources available to enable them to provide anti-human trafficking training for employees, customers and the community, adopt anti-trafficking-in-person policies with a demand-reduction focus and participate in victim-centered public awareness campaigns."

"By outlining steps a few of TAT's major partners have taken, highlighting success stories, summarizing best practices and sharing concrete examples of actions various departments within a company can be taking, this new resource guides companies on how to implement more comprehensive and effective anti-trafficking initiatives," concluded Annie Sovcik, TAT senior director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 1 – Yellowstone County Montana Human Trafficking Task Force, Billings, MT

Feb. 2 – World Denver International Visitors Leadership Program, Denver, CO

Feb. 2-3 – Mid-West Truck and Trailer Show, Springfield, IL
Feb. 10 – The Big Game, FDP at TA area, Las Vegas, NV
Feb. 13 – Public Safety Canada Webinar Series, virtual
Feb. 14 – Permian Basin Coalition Build, Midland, TX
Feb. 21 – Denver Youth on Transportation Coalition Build, Denver, CO
Feb. 22 – Private Motor Truck Council of Canada monthly meeting, virtual
Feb. 22 – Trucking Safety Seminar, Sandy, UT
Feb. 25-28 – American Probation and Parole Conference, Seattle, WA
Feb. 26-28 – Fleet Safety Leadership Council Winter Conference, Austin, TX



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