Truckers Against Trafficking: Prevention and Intervention: Combating Human Trafficking Through the Trucking Industry

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The exploitation of human beings through force, fraud or coercion, for the purposes of commercial sex or forced labor, wherein a third party is making a profit.

Human Trafficking is:

MODERN DAY SLAVERY
Sex trafficking is forced prostitution. Any minor engaged in commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking.

Any adult who is selling sex under someone else’s control (i.e., a pimp), is a victim of sex trafficking, no matter their age.

“I was shot five times and stabbed over 13 times. That’s what prostitution looks like.”
- Brenda Myers-Powell, Survivor & Executive Director of the Dreamcatcher Foundation

Copyright Truckers Against Trafficking
Professional truck drivers:
- Are the eyes and ears out on the road
- Are trained to be vigilant/observant
- Intersect with victims
  - truck stops/parking lots
  - rest areas
  - city streets
  - bus terminals
  - gas stations
  - places of business
  - hotels/motels

TAT's Mission:

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Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) seeks to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking industry to combat human trafficking as part of their regular jobs.
TAT's Goals

• Saturate the industry with TAT materials.
National Hotline: 1-888-3737-888 (Multi-Lingual)
1-800-222-TIPS (Canada)
Text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733)
Report by Email: nhtrc@PolarisProject.org

Warning: Please do not approach traffickers. Call the hotline, and if instructed, the local police (911). Allow law enforcement to deal with traffickers and rescue victims. Approaching traffickers is not only dangerous for you and their victims but could lead to problems in the eventual prosecution of traffickers. Also, if at a truck stop/travel plaza, please notify the manager-on-duty of the suspicious activity; she/he needs to be aware of what is taking place on the lot and assist in ending it.

If you have seen the TAT Training DVD and reviewed this wallet card, please register as TAT Trained at http://tat8.nodejitsu.com.
Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Traffickers use force, fraud and coercion to control their victims. Any minor engaged in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking. Trafficking can occur in many locations, including truck stops, restaurants, rest areas, brothels, strip clubs, private homes, etc. Truckers are the eyes and the ears of our nation’s highways. If you see a minor working any of those areas or suspect that the person selling sex is under someone else’s control in order to make a quota, call the National Hotline and report your tip:

1-888-3737-888 (US) • 1-800-222-TIPS (Canada)
Text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733)

For law enforcement to open an investigation on your tip, they need “actionable information.” Specific tips helpful when reporting to the hotline would include:

- Descriptions of cars (make, model, color, license plate number, etc.) and people (height, weight, hair color, eye color, age, etc.)
- Take a picture if you can.
- Specific times and dates (When did you see the event in question take place? What day was it?)
- Addresses and locations where suspicious activity took place

Make the Call, Save Lives.

Questions to Ask:
Do you keep your own money? If not, who does?
Do your parents/siblings/relatives know where you are? If not, why not?
When was the last time you saw your family?
Are you physically or sexually abused? Are you or your family threatened? What is the nature of the threats?

Trafficking Red Flags to Look For:
- Lack of knowledge of their community or whereabouts
- Restricted or controlled communication—not allowed to speak for self
- CB chatter about “commercial company” or flashing lights signaling “buyer” location
- Not in control of own identification documents (ID/passport)
- Any acknowledgement that she/he has a pimp and is making a quota
- Signs of branding or tattooing of trafficker’s name (often on the neck)
Educate yourself.
Complete our new online training course at Education.TruckersAgainstTrafficking.org
Partner with law enforcement to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking.

- Calls and Tips
- Scouting/Intel
- Building Coalitions
- Iowa DOT Model
• Marshal the resources of the trucking industry to combat this crime.
TAT training video- 3min version
Since the start of the National Human Trafficking Hotline...

**Truckers Have Made**

1000 Calls to the Hotline

Law Enforcement Investigated

60% of these potential trafficking cases

350 Potential Cases of Human Trafficking Came from these Calls
Making An Impact

State Trucking Association Partners
Vampire trucker, accused of keeping sex slaves, wanted in Florida

BY CHARLES RABIN
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Timothy Jay Vafeades, the so-called “vampire trucker” who kept sex slaves in a semi-truck he called the Twilight Express while roaming around the country, is wanted in Florida on two counts of domestic battery.

Vafeades, 55, has been in jail since his arrest at a Minnesota weigh station in November. Last week, he appeared in U.S. District Court in Fargo, N.D., and was ordered transferred to Salt Lake City, where he will face charges of kidnapping, transporting across state lines for sex and child pornography.

According to the Salt Lake City arrest warrant, two women known as Victim A and Victim B say Vafeades beat them, kept them locked in his truck and sexually abused them, made them watch child pornography with him, and didn’t allow them to make eye contact with anyone else.
Interdiction Case Studies

Interviews with CVI Chad Olschlager, Trooper Bachus MNSP, Deputy Gabe Tweeten Clay County Sheriff’s Dept.

- Passenger was abnormally quiet
- Ran paperwork and found suspicious things
- Did not want to be separated from passenger
- Answered questions for victim/manipulative
- Emotional when separated by troopers
- Victim-centered approach
- Advice: Pay attention to the details
DEKALB COUNTY, Ga.—A traffic stop led to the rescue of a teen sex slave, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and she may have been exploited for years.

Channel 2 investigative reporter Mark Winne spoke with the deputy who offered to help the girl. He said she was
- Train MVE or other LE with TAT materials
- Stock weigh stations and rest stops with TAT materials
- Visit truck stops and trucking companies with TAT materials urging them to train employees and distribute
- Ensure every CDL issued (and renewed) is accompanied with a TAT wallet card.
- Use influence to spread the word about TAT to trucking (and other) agencies (DIAP, CVSA, motor coach industry, driver services staff)
- Incorporate TAT training DVD and wallet cards into programs that your department builds (law enforcement, service clubs, motor carrier industry)
IA MVE States
as of 4/20/2015

States that have adopted the IA MVE model in whole 2

Adopted in part 13
Call to Action

- Train industry.
- Adopt model.
- Partner together.

1-888-3737-888

“Thank God—what saved me was that trucker.”

Copyright Truckers Against Trafficking
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• National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)
1-888-3737-888
truckersagainsttrafficking.org