

Why involve the trucking industry in the fight against human trafficking?

Ongoing sting operations by the EBI and other law enforcement personnel reveal that criminals and crime syndicates sell their wares at a number of locations frequented by truckers. Only in this case, their product isn't drugs, it's people – victims of human trafficking. Since 2004, these sting operations have rescued hundreds of children, recovered millions of dollars and arrested numerous perpetrators.

Whether at schools, malls, online sites, streets or neighborhoods, traffickers target our children – boys and girls, teens and young women – drugging, coercing, beating, threatening, and selling them for sex, as well as labor, and making millions. Some of these victims are as young as 11 years old ... some are even younger.

Traffickers targeting truckers as consumers continually move their "goods" along circuits that each cover multiple states.

But truckers, in the course of their daily work – and because they're continually on the move – can help stop this ... through observation, overhearing conversations, being trained in what to look for and by tools and instruction on what to do.

Trucking Against Trafficking

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT)[®] began in March 2009 as an initiative of Chapter 61 Ministries to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking industry on the critical role they can play in fighting one of the most lucrative and destructive crimes in the United States and globally.

Today, TAT is a 501c3 organization with three main goals to accomplish our mission:

- Have our TAT materials made a regular part of training/ orientation for members of the trucking industry, so when they suspect human trafficking, they'll call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-373-7888 and report what they know.
- Partner with law enforcement to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking.
- Marshal the resources of the trucking industry to combat this crime.

We provide a website, **www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org**; a trucking-industry-specific training DVD; webinars; human trafficking presentations; wallet cards truckers can carry with information to help them recognize trafficking and call the NHTRC number when it is suspected; posters and other materials the trucking industry can use for publicity and promotion; and the Freedom Drivers Project — a 48' mobile exhibit designed to educate audiences about the realities of domestic sex trafficking and how the trucking industry is combating it.

TAT also works to build coalitions between members of law enforcement, anti-trafficking organizations and key industry stakeholders, including general managers of truck stops and travel plazas, large carriers and state trucking associations, to further the apprehension of traffickers and the recovery of victims. We interact with appropriate state and national agencies to have our materials used in all venues involving trucking and strategize with state and local law enforcement and government on additional ways the trucking industry can provide invaluable help. And we continually strive to help the trucking industry develop its unique contribution and leadership in the fight against human trafficking.

For more information on Truckers Against Trafficking or how you can help, contact **tat.truckers@gmail.com** or visit **www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org**.

Make the Call, Save Lives. 1-888-3737-888