

TRUCK STOPS AND TRAVEL CENTERS

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking — or modern-day slavery — is a global problem in which people are illegally bought and sold for forced labor or commercial sex. Traffickers use violence, manipulation and false promises of work opportunities or romance to lure, control and exploit their victims, generating billions of dollars per year in illicit profit.

Why Truck Stops and Travel Centers?

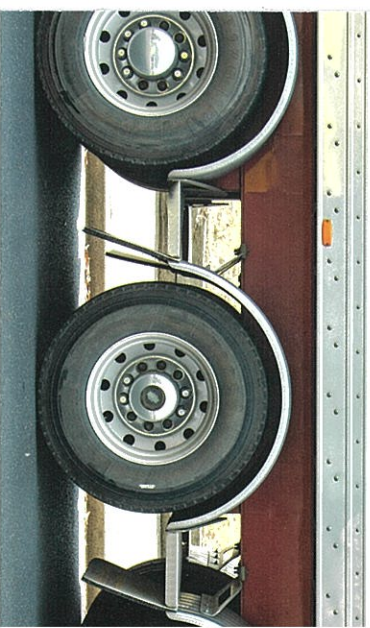
Traffickers exploit locations in the sale of their victims, often bringing their crime to the doorstep of legitimate businesses. Because this crime depends on the anonymity and easy control of its victims, traffickers regularly transport and sell them at places that are convenient and easy to access. This makes truck stops and travel centers a target. Beyond that, when traffickers transport their victims, they are traveling on the same roads and stopping at the same truck stops, travel centers and gas stations as everyone else, creating multiple opportunities for victim recovery.

Get Involved

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) guides truck stops and travel centers on steps they can take to equip their employees to combat human trafficking when it does arrive at their location. Through TAT's partnership with truck stops and travel centers, frontline heroes have stepped up and helped victims of human trafficking.

Making an Impact

Two TAT-trained truck stop employees acted upon suspicions of sex trafficking occurring on the truck stop lot and contacted local police. When police arrived, they recognized one of the suspected victims from online sex ads they'd been investigating for months and arrested two men and one woman on human trafficking charges. The trio were exploiting multiple women, posting ads, scheduling appointments for prostitution, making them work without sleep, assaulting them, forcing them to perform sex acts under threat, and taking their money. As a result of the truck stop employees' call, police were able to locate and recover 20 survivors.



INDUSTRY TRAINING PROG

Human trafficking — or modern-day slavery — is a global problem where people are illegally bought and sold for forced labor or commercial sex. Traffickers use force, fraud and coercion, including deception, torture and/or the abuse of power, to exploit their victims' vulnerabilities — such as their condition of poverty, migration status or dreams and opportunity — while profiting from their exploitation. It's a crime of greed and egregious abuse.

Traffickers view men from many professions as "transient in nature" as consumers, and they usually move their "goods" along circuits covering rural areas to reach them. These locations often include communities around oil and gas fields, as well as truck stops and hotels along roads and interstates, as well as events, including sports or conventions.

Because professional drivers are the eyes and ears on the roadways, they are uniquely positioned to help recognize and report human trafficking. Before 2009, there were only sporadic calls from truckers reporting human trafficking. TAT began in 2009, and that time, there have been thousands of calls to law enforcement and the National Human Trafficking Hotline, resulting in hundreds of victims recovered. The trucking industry is critical in this fight, and we can help us mobilize a defensive force of transport professionals to ensure more victims are recovered and more traffickers are brought to justice.

www.tatnonprofit.org

ACTION STEPS FOR GENERAL MANAGERS

✓ Train all your employees.

Use TAT's Human Trafficking Awareness Safety Briefing for Truck Stops and Travel Centers and/or TAT's free training videos to educate your employees on what human trafficking looks like and how to report it.

✓ Know the red flags.

Signs that someone may be a victim of human trafficking include:

- lack knowledge of their whereabouts,
- are not in control of their own identification documents,
- have their communication restricted or controlled, or
- are exchanging sex for anything of value.

✓ Pay attention and make the call.

If you suspect human trafficking, whether an adult or minor, call 911. To help an adult victim access services or to share incidents that have been reported to law enforcement, call the appropriate national human trafficking hotline (US: 1-888-3737-888 | Canada: 1-833-900-1010 | Mexico: 01800-5533-000).

✓ Establish an internal reporting policy.

Ensure your employees know the steps the company expects them to take if they suspect human trafficking is occurring or if they believe they may have come into contact with a potential victim.

✓ Distribute TAT materials at your locations.

TAT has victim-centered posters that can be hung in bathrooms or other strategic locations and industry-focused materials that can be displayed in driver's lounges.

✓ Partner with law enforcement.

TAT can help connect you with the right agency to build that relationship.

✓ Attend a Coalition Build.

TAT Coalition Builds are half-day events that bring together key industry leaders from the trucking, truck stop, travel center, bus and energy industries with local, state and federal law enforcement.

✓ Talk to your neighbors.

If you have business neighbors – a hotel/motel or a restaurant or massage parlor or any similar operation – talk to them about human trafficking and share TAT's materials with them.

✓ Share your impact.

Each year, TAT presents an award to honor a member of the trucking, truck stop/travel center, bus or energy industry whose direct actions helped to recover a victim of human trafficking, hold a perpetrator accountable, or prevent human trafficking and/or sexual exploitation from taking place.



DOWNLOAD
THE TAT APP!

info@truckersagainstrafficking.org
<https://truckersagainstrafficking.org/truck-stops/>

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TAT is a 501c3 nonprofit that educates, equips, empowers and mobilizes members of key industries and agencies to combat human trafficking. As part of that mission, we provide free, industry-specific, anti-trafficking resources and training materials for over-the-road, local and in-home delivery drivers who are uniquely positioned to be the eyes and ears of roadways, city streets and neighborhoods. Additionally, TAT offers a corporate training video for non-commercial driving individuals that highlights how we all have a role to play in helping to save a life

Resources and Training Materials

- A 20 to 25-minute training video, including options for over-the-road, local and in-home delivery drivers
- A 22-minute corporate training video
- Instructional wallet and/or visor cards
- Awareness posters and window decals for drive
- Free smartphone app that covers red flags of human trafficking and how to call in a report



Download the TAT app today!

Training Methods

- Play a training video at an in-person meeting or orientation class led by your team.
- Add a training course to your company's internal learning management system (LMS) or assign it through one of TAT's external LMS partners.
- Owner-operators, take the training at train.tatnonprofit.org.

Contact TAT at info@tatnonprofit.org to get started today! Work with other industries? We have training specific to transit/school bus drivers and energy industry workers.

Visit tatnonprofit.org/training-1lbra
for our full list of resources.