



SHUT OUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A TAT Game Plan for the Transportation Industry



BACKGROUND: MAJOR SPORTS EVENTS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking – or modern-day slavery – is a global crime in which people are 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 profits. Of the estimated 50 million victims worldwide, thousands of girls, boys, women and men are trafficked for sex or labor in North America.

Why is the transportation industry important to combating human trafficking?

Members of the transportation industry are uniquely positioned to recognize and report human trafficking. As traffickers keep their victims on the move, they are traveling on the same highways and visiting the same truck stops and gas stations as everyone else, creating multiple opportunities for victim identification by professional drivers, truck stop employees and the traveling public. Likewise, when picking up or delivering goods at businesses or homes, truck drivers have access to spaces that many others don't see, creating additional opportunities. Beyond that, traffickers go to bus stops or transit centers to find potential victims and use buses or trains to shuttle their victims to and from places where they are exploited. When survivors attempt to exit trafficking, a bus, train, truck stop or transit center may be the first place they go to find safety or escape.

What is the relationship between major sports events and human trafficking?

While the fight to end human trafficking is an everyday and everywhere challenge, major sports events can lead to an increase in human trafficking activity. Studies have found the influx of people at major sports events increases both the supply and the demand for commercial sex.¹ Likewise, vulnerable workers in industries like construction, janitorial services, security and garment production have been documented over the last decade to suffer from labor trafficking and exploitation during the buildup to major sports events.²

1. Social Justice Initiative. (n.d.). [“Preventing labor trafficking ahead of large scale events.”](#) Loyola Law School.

2. Kazungu J, Richter M, Luchters S, Chersich MF, Quaife M. [“The economics of sex work and major sporting events: Learning from the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.”](#) Soc Sci Humanit Open (2015).



ACTION: THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Just as there are potential upticks in human trafficking activity connected to major sports events, the need for the services provided by transportation professionals increases significantly as cities, states and provinces prepare for and manage an influx of people in their region. With additional eyes and ears on the roadways and in communities, transportation professionals who are trained on how to recognize and report human trafficking can play a strategic role in preventing and disrupting this crime before, during and after major sports events.



Trucking

In advance of events, stadium or infrastructure upgrades increase trucking activity, as drivers are needed to transport materials to and from projects. During events, drivers transport various items for teams, vendors, fans, etc. The increase in professional drivers around these events creates additional opportunities to recognize any human trafficking activity that may also be occurring. To prepare, trucking companies should:

- **Host** a TAT webinar focused on major sports events and human trafficking.
- **Utilize** TAT's "Shut Out Human Trafficking" graphics to distribute reminders and training tips via the company's intranet and social media.
- **Hang** TAT's "Shut Out Human Trafficking" posters in driver breakrooms.
- **Train** and/or provide refresher training for all drivers using TAT's videos.
- **Implement** an anti-trafficking-in-persons policy.

Truck Stops

Truck stops located near stadiums – or between stadiums for multi-city events – see an increase in customers during major sports events, both from the general public and professional drivers. As increases in people and movement correlate to increases in human trafficking, extra vigilance by truck stop employees is essential. To prepare, truck stops should:

- **Hang** TAT's "Shut Out Human Trafficking" posters in public-facing locations, driver areas and/or employee breakrooms.
- **Utilize** TAT's "Shut Out Human Trafficking" graphics to distribute reminders and training tips via the company's intranet and social media.
- **Train** and/or provide refresher training for all employees using TAT's videos.
- **Adopt** a human trafficking reporting protocol to guide employees on internal steps to take.





Transit

Major sports events often follow months or years of preparations from public transit systems as they get ready for a surge in ridership. During the events, transit agencies often operate on extended hours and may increase frequency on some routes. Transit agencies also coordinate closely with law enforcement to manage security and other risks associated with spikes in visitors. As transit systems navigate the logistics of major events, human trafficking preparedness is critical. Transit agencies should:

- **Host** a TAT webinar focused on major sports events and human trafficking.
- **Hang** TAT's "Shut Out Human Trafficking" posters at bus/train stops, in transit centers and on buses/trains.
- **Utilize** TAT's "Shut Out Human Trafficking" graphics to distribute reminders and training tips via the company's intranet and social media.
- **Train** and/or provide refresher training for all employees using TAT's videos.
- **Adopt** a human trafficking reporting protocol to guide employees on internal steps to take when they suspect trafficking.

Motorcoach

Motorcoach operators experience dramatic increases in demand for passenger transportation during major sports events. For particularly large events, the passenger transportation needs may be higher than the local supply can meet, leading cities and teams to bring in charter bus companies from other regions. Given the important role the bus industry plays in combating human trafficking, preparing for increased activity during major events is important. Motorcoach companies should:

- **Host** a TAT webinar focused on major sports events and human trafficking.
- **Hang** TAT's "Shut Out Human Trafficking" posters on buses and at bus stations.
- **Utilize** TAT's "Shut Out Human Trafficking" graphics to distribute reminders and training tips via the company's intranet and social media.
- **Train** and/or provide refresher training for all employees using TAT's videos.
- **Adopt** a human trafficking reporting protocol to guide employees on internal steps to take when they suspect trafficking.



CHECKLIST: SHUT OUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- ✓ All drivers and other employees are **TAT Trained**.
- ✓ TAT's "**Shut Out Human Trafficking**" posters are hanging in public-facing locations, driver areas and/or employee break rooms.
- ✓ Digital channels, both internal and external, are being utilized for sharing TAT's "**Shut Out Human Trafficking**" training tips, reminders, etc.
- ✓ All drivers and other employees have downloaded the **TAT App**.
- ✓ An anti-trafficking-in-persons **policy** is being implemented.
- ✓ A human trafficking reporting **protocol** is in place and employees have received guidance on internal steps to take when they suspect trafficking.



Download TAT's free major sports event resources at www.tatnonprofit.org/soccer-resources. To access TAT's evergreen materials for key industries and agencies, visit www.tatnonprofit.org/training-library.



www.tatnonprofit.org

TAT stands committed to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of key industries and agencies to combat human trafficking.

