

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE NEWS

Saving trafficking victims from a sprawling, underground network of slavery and sex abuse

"I was being trafficked through the strip clubs. And everyone was in on it, from the doorman to the police in that city, to the bartender, to the house mom, everybody in that establishment."

From choir boy to 'Big Time Pimp': An engineer who ran a San Antonio brothel sent to federal prison

An electrical engineer who ran a prostitution ring out of a San Antonio massage parlor has been sentenced to 46 months in federal prison. Derek Wai Hung Tam Sing, 52, pleaded guilty in July to a charge of interstate travel for racketeering activity.

Former Potosi, Missouri officer pleads guilty to sex trafficking charges

POTOSI, Mo. – A former Potosi police officer pleads guilty to charges of sex trafficking, solicitation of child pornography, and coercion and enticement of a minor.

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Inland celebrates Kenworth's 100th Anniversary with three charity auctions

In 2023, marking Kenworth's hundredth anniversary, Inland Truck & Equipment hosted three charity auctions, each featuring a Limited-Edition Kenworth W900. These events raised over half a million dollars, benefiting four charities, including Truckers Against Trafficking.



The charity auctions were spearheaded by Chuck Peterman, vice president of Sales at Inland, and his team as an "exciting way to deploy the trucks across Canada in a commemorative and meaningful way." The two-day events were all held in Canadian cities, from September through November, and featured a VIP silent auction and dinner on the first night, followed by the truck auction on the second day. TAT representatives had the opportunity to address several hundred attendees at the VIP gatherings. In addition to Truckers Against Trafficking, proceeds went to the TAT Director of Industry Training Heather Fry attended the VIP portion of this Inland auction held in Saskatoon and spoke about TAT.

Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation, Canuck Place Children's Hospice, and STARS Ambulance.

"We support TAT, because we're in a position where we can raise awareness among a community capable of making an impact on identifying and preventing human trafficking," said Catherine Woo, Inland's controller. "Many, including myself, mistakenly believe that human trafficking is not prevalent in America or Canada. However, that is a misconception, and I think it is crucial to raise awareness about such an important issue."

TAT staff and Freedom Drivers Project attend the Women in Trucking Accelerate! Conference and Expo

Located in the exhibit hall at the Women in Trucking Association's (WIT) Accelerate! Conference and Expo, both the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) and the TAT booth enabled FDP Director Brandy Belton, Director of Industry Training Heather Fry and Industry Training Specialist Chris Moreno the opportunity to connect with current partners, as well as with people new to TAT.

Accelerate!, held Nov. 5-8 in Dallas, drew almost 2,000 women from the trucking industry, and, after the successful resolution of some electrical issues, the FDP hosted close to 200 attendees, exposing them to some of the realities of domestic sex trafficking.

In addition to manning the FDP and booth, Fry and Belton provided information on the Dave Nemo Radio Show about TAT's mobile exhibit, the vulnerabilities of victims and the tactics of traffickers. Belton also gave a brief human trafficking 101 presentation on the front end of a panel discussion, attended by an audience of approximately 100 people, about combating human trafficking head-on. Moderated by Cassidy Mullins from WIT, the panel consisted of Belton, Liz Williamson, a survivor-leader and TAT training specialist, Kellylynn McLaughlin, a professional driver and member of TAT's Advisory Committee, and Kesha Sylvester from UPS. Williamson shared her experience as a trafficking survivor, while Sylvester and McLaughlin shared impactful ways they are engaged with TAT and gave a call to others to get involved.



Freedom Drivers Project Director Brandy Belton, speaking, participated as a panel member at the Accelerate! Conference, along with TAT Training Specialist Liz Williamson (seated third from left). Other panel members were (L to R) Moderator Cassidy Mullins, WIT; Keesha Sylvester, UPS; and Kellylyn McLaughlin, a professional driver and member of TAT's Advisory Committee.

McLaughlin said, "I've supported TAT since my initial on-boarding training, which included the TAT training. I was simply unaware of the power I have as an individual to make a difference in the human trafficking global crisis until I completed TAT's training module."

"The energy of the women at this conference was like no other I have been a part of," commented Fry. "In my conversations with attendees and other exhibitors, the compassion and passion to help combat human trafficking was palpable. I know we will build on existing partnerships and have new and long-lasting partners because of our time at WIT. Thank you to WIT for hosting us and to Swift Transportation and Quality Carriers for hauling the FDP in and out of the conference, respectively."

TAT's Freedom Drivers Project takes part

in UPS Employee and Driver event



The FDP had a good turnout for tours at the UPS Goodyear, Arizona Employee and Driver event.

On Halloween Day, FDP Specialist Micah Larsen opened the doors of TAT's Freedom Drivers Project (FDP), not to trick-or-treaters, but to several hundred visitors as they attended a UPS Employee and Driver event at the UPS West Regional Hub in Goodyear, Arizona.

UPS provided employees who toured the FDP the opportunity to enter a raffle to win a UPS basketball, football, laptop bag, cooler and bicycle. Throughout the day, 267 employees, many dressed in Halloween costumes, toured the trailer, had conversations surrounding the importance of increasing awareness of human trafficking and enjoyed free snacks and water that UPS provided.

"UPS is the world's largest package delivery company, with more than 495,000 employees," said Renee Garcia, a UPS feeder driver. "Events are a powerful way for the organization to educate our truckers across different locations, so they can help make a real difference in the fight against human trafficking. TAT's Freedom Drivers Project trailer is an excellent educational tool that raises awareness about the issue of human trafficking within the trucking industry. As a mobile classroom, it provides training and resources to truckers who are often in a unique position to identify and report potential trafficking situations. This not only educates truckers about the issue, but also encourages them to take action to fight human trafficking. The trailer's mobility allows it to reach a wide range of truckers across different locations, making it an accessible and impactful educational resource that can make a real difference in the fight against trafficking. It's great to see the trailer being scheduled in UPS buildings throughout the country to educate drivers and employees."

Help TAT meet its matching grant goal with your End-of-Year donation

The Berger North Foundation's generous \$250,000 matching grant provides you the opportunity to double your donation during this end-of-year season, as you consider making TAT one of your donation recipients.

Every bit of impact TAT is able to make in the fight against human trafficking is due in large part to your financial support. We work to keep our overhead low and our impact high, so **please help us** reach our matching grant goal!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1 – Law enforcement training and community event, Paris, II **Dec. 5** – Addressing Demand, TAT Connecting the Dots Series, virtual presentation **Dec. 6** – U.S. Exporters Competitive Maritime Council Safety Meeting, virtual presentation **Dec. 7** – Long Island Human Trafficking Task Force Quarterly Meeting, virtual presentation **Dec. 7** – West Michigan Transportation Club Annual Holiday Celebration, Grand Rapids, MI **Dec. 11-13** – TAT Bootcamp, virtual **Dec. 13** – USDOT Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking, Washington, D.C.

Dec. 14 – Association of Village Council Presidents: Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Working Group Meeting, virtual presentation

Dec. 18 – Ben E Keith Train the Trainer, virtual presentation

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