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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE NEWS

### Two trailers, one mission: ITS Logistics and TAT join forces for human trafficking awareness

RENO, Nev. — With January highlighting National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, ITS Logistics is sponsoring with TAT (formerly Truckers Against Trafficking), an organization dedicated to raising awareness in the fight against human trafficking. [Click here](#) to read more. *(Editor's note: ITS Logistics has wrapped two trailers as part of their efforts. Click the article link to see the wraps.)*

### Ohio takes action against human trafficking

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, spotlighting efforts to combat the crime. Human trafficking, the world's second-largest illicit trade, exploits people for sex or labor through force, fraud or coercion. In 2024, Ohio advanced its fight against trafficking by launching its first statewide hotline, 844-END-OHHT for reporting cases. The state also conducted 45 training sessions, created resources for individuals with disabilities and supported legislation to help survivors. [Click here](#) to read more.

### ODOT educating truck drivers about human trafficking during January

UMATILLA – January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and the Oregon Department of Transportation is educating the public on how they can help prevent it. Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery that involves the use of force, fraud, or pressure to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Victims can be any age, race, gender or nationality. [Click here](#) to read more.

## TAT participates in high-level events in Washington, D.C.

In January, TAT staff participated in two high-level events in the nation's capital.

TAT Deputy Director and Senior Director of External Affairs Kylla Lanier presented at the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) workshop titled *The Transportation Perspective on Human Trafficking and the Impact on Well-*

*Being, Health and Communities* on Jan. 5. She was joined by academics and other transportation professionals to discuss the intersection of human trafficking with various modes of transportation, including trucking, transit and airlines, as well as how indigenous communities are impacted by these intersections. Following the presentations, attendees engaged in an idea exchange and development session to identify research gaps.

“The annual TRB conference brings together academics, safety personnel and transportation experts from around the globe,” offered Lanier, “and to be able to share about how the transportation industry both intersects with human trafficking and how they can affect change in the lives of victims is critical. TAT is grateful for the opportunity to share what we have learned over the last 16 years working with members of the transportation industry.”



*This is the second year TAT Co-founder, Deputy Director and Senior Director of External Affairs Kylla Lanier has spoken at the Transportation Research Board Annual Conference.*

John Habermann and Ipek Sener from Texas A&M Transportation Institute, as well as Felipe Aros-Vera from Ohio University, sponsored and coordinated this workshop, inviting TAT to participate.



*Members of the USDOT Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking who spoke at the Department of Homeland Security event were (Top L to R): Mike Krumm, Maha Alkhateeb, Rabbi David Saperstein and (Bottom L to R): Leslie Richards, Goetsch, Shamere McKenzie.*

On Jan. 15-16, Esther Goetsch, TAT executive director and co-chair for the USDOT Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking (ACHT), spoke at the Human Trafficking Prevention Month Symposium for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center for Countering Human Trafficking (CCHT). The event highlighted ACHT recommendations from their 2024 report and underscored best practices for the transportation sector in combating human trafficking with immediate, actionable steps for stakeholders. Attendees included federal, state, local, tribal and community organizations, law enforcement experts, business professionals, and lived experience consultants. Participants networked with other organizations and agencies, discussed best practices and accessed essential resources critical for combating human trafficking.

Goetsch commented, “This event presented an excellent opportunity to share some critical recommendations from the recently released 2024 ACHT report, which accentuated the importance

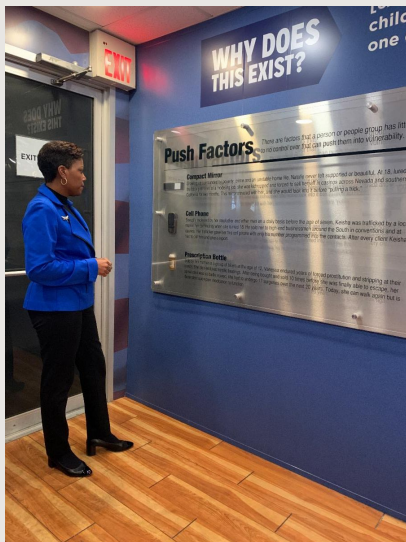
of stakeholder involvement in shaping anti-trafficking strategies. Fostering collaboration is a meaningful theme throughout the report and was also mirrored in the symposium. We had a lively discussion that pronounced the critical need for everyone to get involved, and that it truly takes all of us to drive meaningful change.”

## UPS events for National Human Trafficking Prevention Month ( NHTPM) feature TAT

Brandy Belton, TAT’s Mobile Exhibit Team director, and the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) participated in the *One Atlanta: Driving Collaborative Counter-Trafficking Solutions* event held at UPS headquarters in Atlanta on Jan. 15 in honor of NHTPM. UPS, and co-sponsor The UPS Foundation (TUPSF), convened over 100 NGOs, business leaders, public agency officials and UPS employees to spotlight the collaborative and innovative counter-trafficking work occurring in Atlanta.

The event not only served to provide audience members -- many of whom were Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force members -- with clear calls to action, but was a precursor to the larger TAT Coalition Build in Atlanta that UPS will be hosting, alongside Attorney General Carr’s Office, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the Georgia Motor Trucking Association and TAT on March 25 in preparation for Atlanta hosting the World Cup in 2026.

Nikki Clifton, president of Social Impact and the TUPSF, and La’Kerri Jackson, director of Social Impact and TUPSF, led the event and ensured people knew where the FDP was parked and the importance of touring it.



Some 119 people toured the FDP, including event attendees, UPS employees and a group of Therrell High School students who were at UPS for the day. Belton spoke to the students and faculty who toured, providing them a short presentation on TAT and the FDP and commented that the students were engaged and took their time exploring and reading all the panels.

*Nikki Clifton, president of Social Impact and the TUPSF (left), toured the FDP at the UPS event as did students and faculty from Therrell High School in Atlanta (right photo).*

On Jan. 21, Kylla Lanier, TAT’s deputy director, co-founder and senior director of External Affairs, spoke at a UPS Lunch N Learn about human trafficking and how to talk to youth about it. She was joined by Nikki Clifton, president of Social Impact and TUPSF, and Kendis Paris, a TAT co-founder and director of Grantmaking Strategy for TUPSF. Lanier shared lessons learned from her time as an award-winning high school teacher, a missionary working with gangs in El Salvador and her 17 years in the anti-trafficking movement with the 67 people who attended. All 125 people registered received the taped event.

## Ohio Attorney General and TravelCenters of America launch an awareness campaign

At a press conference in Westlake, Ohio on Jan. 28, the Office of the Ohio Attorney

General and TravelCenters of America announced the launch of an awareness campaign to combat human trafficking. All four major news stations and representatives from multiple publications attended the event. Because the initiative mobilizes Ohio's commercial drivers to play a critical role in identifying and reporting signs of human trafficking, Sara Sefried, TAT's director of Strategic Partnerships, was invited to present and emcee the event. And TAT's Freedom Drivers Project was in attendance with 63 people touring.

In the initial phase of this campaign, two key activities will be implemented:

- Bumper stickers, featuring the Ohio Human Trafficking Hotline (844-END-OHHT), will encourage motorists to report suspicious activity.
- Awareness graphics with eye-catching messages will play on monitors inside TravelCenters of America locations across the state, raising awareness among travelers and professional drivers alike.



*(L to R) Sara Sefried, TAT's director of Strategic Partnerships, met up with Charles Bernsen, TAT's 2024 Harriet Tubman Award winner, and TA CEO Debi Boffa at the press conference.*

"As large travel centers located along the nation's highways, we are in a unique position -- our team members are the eyes and ears of our highways -- and it is a responsibility we don't take lightly," said Debi Boffa, TA CEO. "We are committed to helping combat this crime and thank the Attorney General's office and TAT for allowing us to be part of this important campaign."



"We know we cannot do this work alone," said Sefried. "The Ohio Attorney General's Office and TravelCenters of America have been vital partners in creating safer communities. By raising awareness and empowering drivers to recognize and report human trafficking, we are driving real change and actively disrupting human trafficking."

TAT's activities during  
**NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
PREVENTION MONTH**

**48**

total events

**171**

mentions in articles

**6**

podcasts, radio  
and TV spots

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Feb. 1-4** – American Bus Association 2025 Marketplace, Philadelphia, PA

**Feb. 5** – GNF Transport Annual Driver Meeting, Columbus, MS

**Feb. 6** – Alliance to End Human Trafficking Third Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD

**Feb. 11** – Northbridge Insurance NHTAD webinar, virtual

**Feb. 12** – Gas Processing Association Safety Committee, Austin, TX

**Feb. 12** – HP Human Rights Risks in Logistics webinar, virtual

**Feb. 18-20** – Western Petroleum Marketers Association Expo, Las Vegas, NV

**Feb. 19** – Seaboard Transport/Armour *Seaboard and Armour Human Trafficking Awareness* webinar, virtual

**Feb. 19-22** - TIA's Annual Off-The-Road (OTR) Tire Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Feb. 20** - Clean Harbors Employee Resource Meeting, virtual

**Feb. 21** – 2025 Convening of the Human Trafficking Prevention Network of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

**Feb. 25** – Driving Awareness: Engaging Community Transportation Systems Lunch N Learn, virtual

**Feb. 26** – Calexico Industry Days, Calexico, CA

**Feb. 27** – Palmetto Association for Children and Families (PAFCAF), Myrtle Beach, SC

**Feb. 28** – UPS, Ontario, CA



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TAT



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