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HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE NEWS

Carr launches 'Eyes on the Road' campaign to locate Georgia's missing children

Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr has launched the "Eyes on the Road" Campaign, a public safety initiative to locate and recover missing children throughout the state. This effort is led by Carr's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit and seeks to further engage the private sector in the fight to combat human trafficking in Georgia. [Click here](#) to read more.

Halifax woman charged in human trafficking case

Doris Bynum, a 53-year-old woman from Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, was arrested on Monday and charged with felony human trafficking of an adult victim, felony kidnapping of a child under 16, and obtaining property under false pretenses. The charges stem from an out-of-state human trafficking investigation that led authorities to Bynum. [Click here](#) to read more.

Drug trafficking, forcing migrant minors to work at hotels, visa fraud: Five Indian-Americans charged in Nebraska

Five Indian-Americans have been charged by the federal authorities for sex trafficking at several hotel locations owned, operated and managed by them in Nebraska. Kentakumar "Ken" Chaudhari (36), Rashmi Ajit "Falguni" Samani (42), Amit Prahladbhai "Amit" Chaudhari (32), Amit Babubhai "Matt" Chaudhari (33), and Maheshkumar "Mahesh" Chaudhari (38) are the five Indian-Americans involved in the case. [Click here](#) to read more.

TAT's Freedom Drivers Project visits several Northeast states for the first time

In a joint effort between TAT, state trucking associations and trucking organizations, in April, the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) brought education and awareness to three states it has never visited before:

- April 23: The FDP took part in the Concord, New Hampshire Trucking/Truck Stop Coalition Build hosted by TAT, the New Hampshire State Police and the New Hampshire Motor Transport Association

- April 24: The Rhode Island Trucking Association (RITA) and the New England Tractor Trailer Training School (NETTTS) hosted an FDP event at the NETTTS facility in Pawtucket, Rhode Island
- April 25: The Motor Transport Association of Connecticut (MTAC) and NETTTS hosted two FDP events at NETTTS facilities, one in Somers, Connecticut and the other in Bridgeport, Connecticut

The two state trucking associations sent out a flyer to local officials and legislators, media and surrounding trucking companies to invite them to the event, while NETTTS encouraged all students to tour the exhibit. Local law enforcement and first responders also received invitations to the events.



Students from the NETTTS facility in Somers receive information on human trafficking before touring the FDP. Speaking to them are (Center in gray sweater with back to the camera) Reed Bluestein, Public Affairs and Outreach coordinator for the Senate Republican Office of the Connecticut General Assembly, and John Blair (far right), MTAC president.

At the Coalition Build, 56 people toured the FDP, while at the events in Rhode Island and Connecticut, another 164 went through the exhibit.

John Blair, president of MTAC, attended the event in Somers and shared how happy they were to be working with TAT to host this inaugural FDP event in Connecticut to highlight prevention measures of human trafficking. “This New England Tractor Trailer Training School is the perfect site for us to have this event,” he said, “as students can come straight from their classrooms to learn ways they could help prevent human trafficking. We look forward to working with TAT in the future, and we’re incredibly grateful to have this opportunity to highlight this important issue here in Connecticut.”

Representative Robert Phillips, from the Rhode Island House of Representatives, who worked with Chris Maxwell, president and CEO of RITA, to ensure the passage of legislation mandating human trafficking training through CDL schools in Rhode Island, attended the April 24 event in Pawtucket and affirmed his belief that educating truckers is one of the beginning steps in eliminating human trafficking.

TAT prepares bus industry at Ontario Transportation Expo for possible human trafficking in conjunction with World Cup games

At the Ontario Transportation Expo (OTE), the largest bus show in Canada, Annie Sovcik, TAT's senior director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, presented to over 110 people, representing a mix of transit, school transportation, motorcoach and the provincial government from throughout Ontario on "Human Trafficking, Passenger Transportation and the World Cup: A Game Plan for the Transportation Industry."



The OTE attracted more than 1000 people to the event.

In her presentation, Sovcik discussed the intersections between human trafficking and the bus industry to help passenger transportation providers prepare for the upcoming World Cup, for which Toronto is one of 16 host cities across North America. The following day, many attendees visited the TAT booth at the trade show to discuss training and engagement opportunities.

Sovcik said, "Specifically among the Ontario-based transit providers and city government reps I spoke with, they're gearing up for a significant number of visitors this summer and are both excited about the opportunities and wanting to be realistic about the challenges, including potential increases in human trafficking activity, that may come along with that. I do feel optimistic that we'll have multiple transit providers in the area training with TAT and posting **awareness materials** -- both in the short term as they prepare for the World Cup but also over the longer term."

She expressed gratitude to the Ontario Motor Coach Association (OMCA) for facilitating TAT's involvement in the conference, to the OTE organizers for donating TAT's booth space and registration, and to longtime TAT partners at Bridgestone for making introductions and encouraging conference attendees to visit the TAT booth.



The Bridgestone team at OTE facilitated introductions and encouraged people to visit the TAT booth. (Center L to R) Annie Sovcik from TAT and Brad Montgomery from Bridgestone chat with attendees.

"Thank you so much for being a part of our event," Stevie McKeeman, Membership and Industry Growth Strategist for OMCA, said. "It is important to keep conversations about human trafficking going and educating bus operators and transit organizations about the important role they play in protecting trafficking victims! The passenger transportation industry has a unique and unsuspecting vantage point on human trafficking, and educating the eyes and the ears of the bus industry is a powerful way to prevent further victimization."

The OTE is a conference and tradeshow co-hosted by the Ontario Motorcoach Association (OMCA), the Ontario Public Transit Association and School Bus Ontario. It draws approximately 1000 attendees.

Lt. Col. Krumm receives award for contribution to TAT and CVSA's Human Trafficking Prevention Program

The Spring Conference for the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) took place April 19-23 in Chicago, Illinois, with TAT Deputy Director Kylla Lanier attending. Approximately 80 people attended the organization's Human Trafficking Prevention Program (HTPP) meeting, where Lt. Col. Michael Krumm, a member of the TAT Board of Directors, received an award, presented by Inspector Chris Keller, for his dedicated commitment and contribution to TAT and HTPP.



Lt. Col. Mike Krumm (center) received an award of recognition and appreciation for his work with TAT and CVSA's Human Trafficking Prevention Program. (L to R) Kylla Lanier from TAT, Krumm, Lt. Chris Keller of the Michigan State Police and CVSA Region III president.

Lanier shared that some of the topics discussed in the meeting included: the proof of authorization for a passenger in a commercial vehicle with Administrator Barrs from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA); a TAT update on YOT Safety Month, CDL school legislation, animated trainings, a Human Trafficking Screening Tool and **World Cup materials**; the possibility of a second Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative in June ahead of the games for World Cup; participation in the 2026 Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative (HTAI), which included 48 U.S. states, eight Canadian provinces and all of Mexico; and the **CBS PSAs**.

TAT in Action: Trucking Refresh available now

TAT's new **refresher training resource** for companies already using TAT's foundational over-the-road (OTR) training is now available.

This eight-minute TAT in Action: Trucking Refresh features real stories from TAT's Harriet Tubman Award-winning drivers who recognized and reported trafficking situations that led to victim recovery. Through case study animations, the video reinforces key human trafficking red flags and reminds drivers how to take action.

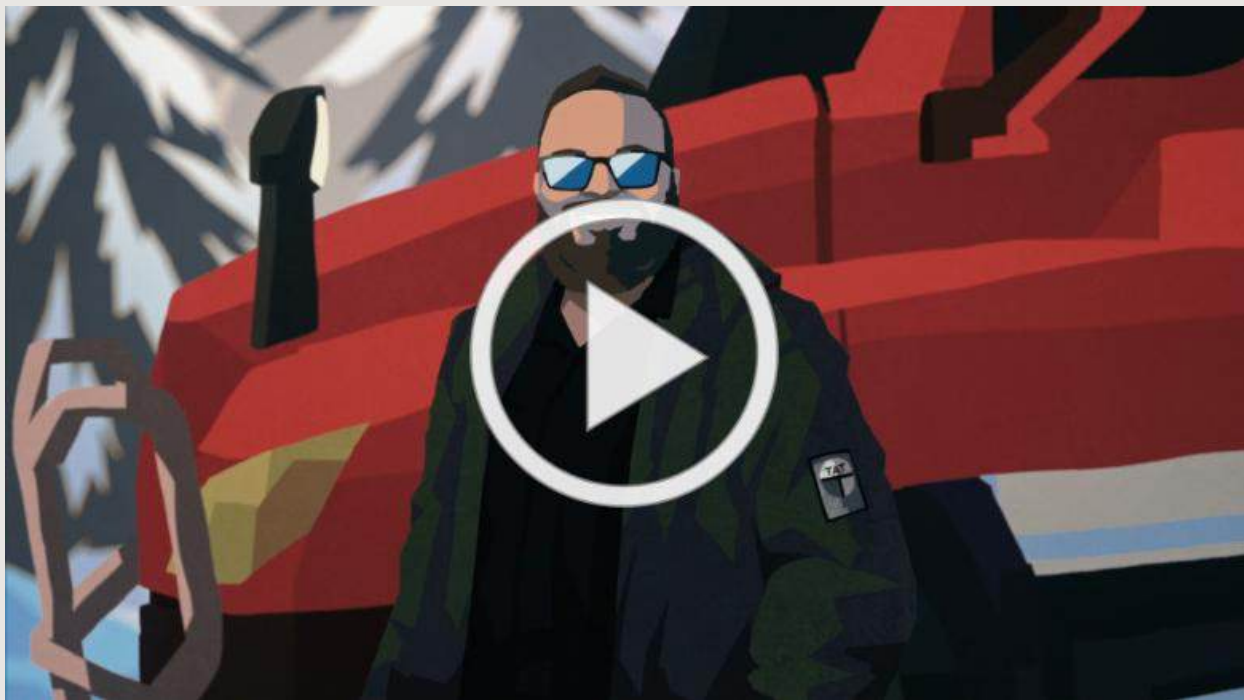
"While this training does not replace TAT's certificate OTR course, we hope companies will cycle it into ongoing safety meetings or annual refreshers, so drivers have this critical issue at the forefront of their minds," explained Laura Cyrus, TAT senior director of Industry Training and Outreach.

The training is offered at no cost and can be delivered in several ways:

- SCORM package for learning management systems
- MP4 for in-person sessions
- Access to TAT's training portal (with custom links available for larger fleets)

Versions with Spanish and French-Canadian subtitles will be available soon.

To request access, ask your TAT representative about how to incorporate this video across your organization or email info@tatnonprofit.org.



TAT in Action: Joe Aguayo's story (English subtitles) - trailer for TAT in Action: Trucking Refresh video

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1 – Tamástslikt Cultural Institute YOT Safety Month FDP Event, Umatilla Human Trafficking Task Force, Pendleton, OR

May 5 – YOT Coalition Build hosted by TAT, the Office of the Arizona Attorney General, Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network, Navajo Nation Task Force/4Corners Search and Rescue and Quality Connections-Page Express Transit, Page, AZ

May 7 – YOT Coalition Build hosted by TAT, Navajo Nation Task Force/4Corners Search and Rescue, Gallup Express Transit, New Mexico Transit Association and Gallup Police Department, Gallup, NM

May 9 – 2026 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) prayer walk/run hosted by the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies, Ignacio, CO

May 12 – International Registration Plan's Annual Meeting-Industry Panel Discussion on Collaborative Measures to Combat Human Trafficking in the Trucking and Commercial Transportation Sector, Phoenix, AZ

May 12-14 – CDL Coordinators/IT Managers Meeting, American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), San Antonio, TX

May 12 – Love's Travel Centers Junction Briefing, Gallup, NM

May 12-13 – Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association Annual Conference, Bedford, PA

May 13 – Travel Centers of America Junction Briefings, Gallup, NM

May 14 – Covenant in the Community Event, Covenant Logistics, Chattanooga, TN

May 14 – North American Transportation Management Institute webinar, virtual

May 19 – Intermodal Association of North America: TAT and Human Trafficking 101 webinar, virtual

May 19 – American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Mobility Conference and International Bus Roadeo, Salt Lake City, UT

May 20 – Bringing Our Valley Hope Human Trafficking Meeting, virtual

May 19-20 – Williston Basin Petroleum Conference, North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC), Bismarck, ND

May 21 – American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) and TAT webinar, virtual

May 26 - Sovereign Insurance National Meeting, Montreal, QC, virtual

May 27 – Texas DPS Law Enforcement Trainings, Houston, TX

May 28 – PepsiCo FDP Event, Plano-Dallas, TX

May 31 – World Cup ACT (Action Collaborative Against Trafficking) with the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Coach USA, Union NJ to Cherry Hill, NJ

May 13 – The Trucking Association of New York and the New York State Senate’s FDP Event, Albany, NY
 May 13 – Southwest Virginia Human Trafficking Collaborative Meeting, virtual



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TAT (Truckers Against Trafficking) | P.O. Box 816 | Englewood, CO 80151 US

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