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HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE NEWS

OOIDA, TAT team up for National Truck Driver Appreciation Week giveaway

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) is partnering with TAT (Truckers Against Trafficking) in celebrating National Truck Driver Appreciation Week. "TAT is teaming up with OOIDA and Blue Tiger USA for a giveaway on Facebook during NTDaw," OOIDA said. [Click here](#) to read more.

Two men sentenced for trafficking 13-year-old girl in Portland area; three buyers convicted

Two men who trafficked a 13-year-old girl for sex over nearly three years have been sentenced to 19 and 15 years in prison, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office announced Tuesday. [Click here](#) to read more.

Wilmington man sentenced to more than 27 years in prison for running a sex trafficking operation

WILMINGTON, N.C. – A Wilmington man was sentenced today to more than 27 years in prison (327 months) for sex trafficking and operating a prostitution enterprise. On February 25, 2025, Christopher Todd Evans pled guilty to the charges. [Click here](#) to read more.

Check out the anti-trafficking resources created by TAT for international soccer games and other sporting events

Shut Out Human Trafficking is the theme for TAT's newest set of [sports resources](#), currently focused on the international soccer matches scheduled for cities across North America in May-July 2026.

Because major sports events can lead to an increase in human trafficking activity, largely resulting from location-specific spikes for demand in commercial sex and cheap labor, TAT has created these resources to train the organizations and people we work with, along with the general public, on what to look for and what to do if red flags or suspicious activity present themselves.

In addition to research TAT has conducted on host cities and the corridor between them, staff have prepared a series of strategically timed communications to be sent to our partners in trucking, truck stop, bus, energy and the private sector, the Attorney Generals, law enforcement and human trafficking task forces in every state. Other resources available include:

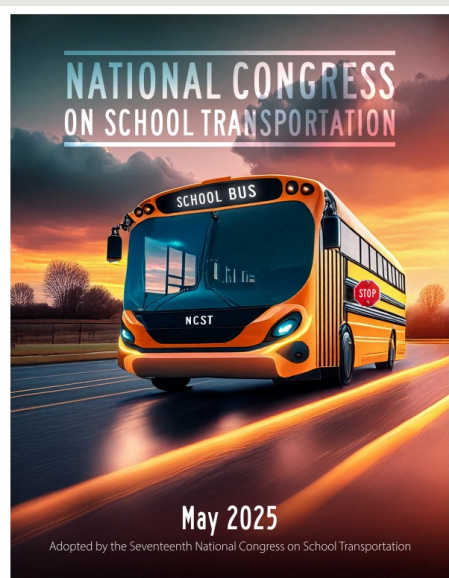
- Targeted webinars for host cities, bus-related associations, state trucking associations with host cities in their states, and public sector employees, such as law enforcement and government agencies, located in or working in and around host cities
- Push notifications on the TAT app about international soccer matches during and before they kick off
- Colorful posters and social media graphics with sample captions, which can be downloaded as is or co-branded with your organization's logo to prepare your employees and customers with the training they need
- TAT's corporate training video, *You've Seen Us Before*



National Congress on School Transportation requires human trafficking training in its 2025 specifications and procedures manual

In September, the National Congress on School Transportation (NCST) officially released the 2025 National School Transportation Specification and Procedures (NSTSP) manual after its adoption at their May 2025 conference. The updated procedure manual includes a resolution stating: "Training programs should be provided to all transportation personnel on recognizing and reporting suspected or known human trafficking."

The NCST is comprised of official representatives from state departments of education, public safety, motor vehicles and police or other state agencies having state-wide responsibilities for the administration of student transportation. Every five years, they meet to update and adopt specifications and procedures recommendations for school buses and their operations nationwide.



Greg Jackson, director of Client Success and Industry Engagement at School Bus Logistics and a member of the TAT Advisory Committee, stated, "Adding formal training programs that build awareness of human trafficking among school bus personnel is essential to protecting the precious cargo — our students — that we transport each day. School bus drivers and assistants often serve as the first and last trusted adults students see outside of their homes, and their daily interactions uniquely position them to recognize when something isn't right. By equipping both new and experienced staff with the tools to identify warning signs and the confidence to report concerns, we take a proactive step toward safeguarding our children. This resolution affirms the critical role pupil transportation professionals play, not only in getting students to and from school safely, but also in protecting their overall well-being and future."

"The inclusion of a resolution on human trafficking in the 2025 NSTSP manual is not only a major step that embeds anti-trafficking training as a school transportation best practice at the national level, it is also a reflection of the industry's years-long commitment to the fight against human trafficking," emphasized Lexi Higgins, TAT director of Industry Engagement for transit, motorcoach

and school transportation. "Their top priority has always been, and will always be, student safety. TAT is proud to partner with school transportation stakeholders across North America to include anti-trafficking efforts in those safety conversations."

To date, over 120,000 school transportation officials have been registered as TAT Trained, and by 2026, 11 states will have implemented TAT training for school bus drivers statewide.

TAT presents to the World Association of Detectives in Chicago

On Sept. 4, TAT staff members Sara Sefried, director of Strategic Partnerships, and Micah Larsen, Mobile Exhibits specialist, along with the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP), attended the 100th annual conference of the World Association of Detectives (WAD) at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. Sefried presented to an estimated 300 investigators from around the world, while 93 people toured the FDP.

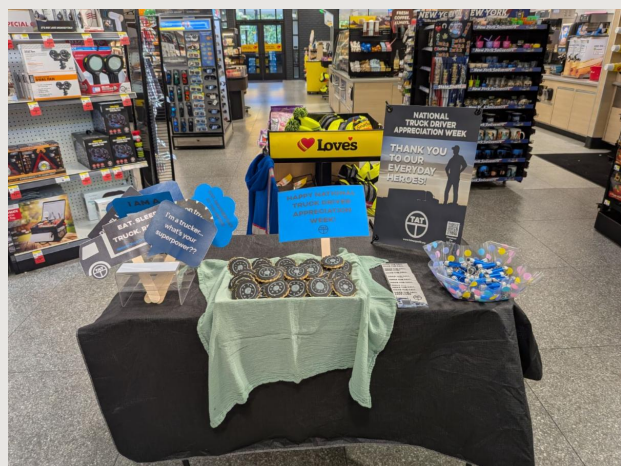
Wes Bearden, an attorney at JW Bearden and Associates and WAD president, commented, "The World Association of Detectives thoroughly enjoyed the presentation by TAT. Human trafficking is an epidemic in this country and around the globe. Highlighting the need to develop skills in identifying red flags of human trafficking is critical to resolving these issues. We appreciate TAT delivering their presentation and commend them on thinking creatively to address this issue."



The FDP outside Chicago's famed Drake Hotel

TAT staff personally thank truckers during National Truck Driver Appreciation Week

Every year in September, TAT honors truckers during National Truck Driver Appreciation Week (NTDAW) through multiple social media posts in their honor and providing gifts and gift cards donated by our partners for a variety of items they would find useful and enjoy.



TAT's table at the Love's in Binghamton, NY

This year, during NTDAW week, Sept. 14-20, 18 TAT staff and four major truck stop partners worked together to personally connect with over 500 truckers at 13 locations in 11 states in five days. Participating partners included Loves, Sapp Bros., TA and Pilot. Truck stop partners provided gift cards, and, in some cases, a cookout to show appreciation to truckers for the hard work they perform for all of us. Additionally, OOIDA (Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association) and Blue Tiger USA, DryFlush and ProMiles partnered with TAT to provide giveaways to truckers on Facebook and Instagram, and TAT also donated several prizes.

Truckers appreciated the attention and gifts with comments like:

"What your organization is doing is making such a difference. I've been driving for 10 years, and the exploitation used to be constant; now they know there are eyes on them."

"I make those calls every time I see young girls on the lots. Nobody should be out there; we know they don't want to do that. I call. I always call."

"I listen to you all on road dog radio! Love what you do!"

"That is so cool that y'all are out here to thank us. Thank YOU for what you do!"



Photos from NTDaw truck stop outreach at our four partners' sites (top left: Love's; top middle: TA; top right: Pilot Flying J; bottom left: Sapp Bros.; bottom middle: TA; bottom right: Pilot Flying J)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 1 – Yellowstone Human Trafficking Community Engagement webinar, virtual

Oct. 1 – Coalition Build, Laredo, TX

Oct. 1 – Human Trafficking: A Call to Action for Public Transit, virtual

Oct. 1 – Clandestine Summit, London, England

Oct. 1-3 – WEX OTR Summit, San Antonio, TX

Oct. 2 – Carrizo Springs Coalition Build Follow-up Meeting, Carrizo Springs, TX

Oct. 5-9 – National Tank Truck Carriers, Kansas City, MO

Oct. 7-8 – Missouri Trucking Association 2025 Annual Convention, Branson, MO

Oct. 22 – TAT's Montana and Wyoming Truck Stop/Energy Community Engagement webinar, virtual

Oct. 22 – Port Authority Bus Terminal Workshops, New York, NY

Oct. 22-23 – South Dakota Highway Patrol Statewide Meeting, Deadwood, SD

Oct. 25-28 – American Trucking Associations MC&E, San Diego, CA

Oct. 28 – New York Public Transit Association Conference and Expo, Saratoga Springs, NY

Oct. 29 – 2025 Food and Fuel Association Industry Summit, Fishers, IN

Oct. 8 – The FREE Network Membership Meeting, virtual
 Oct. 9 – Oklahoma Oil and Natural Gas Expo, Oklahoma City, OK
 Oct. 9 - Meeting Professionals International Anti-Human Trafficking Committee Meeting, virtual
 Oct. 15 – Tulsa Tech Professional Development, Owasso, OK
 Oct. 15-16 – USA-IT Summit, Detroit, MI
 Oct. 16 – MPLX Learning and Development Team Summit, Denver, CO
 Oct. 20 – Mexico Industry Event, Mexico City, Mexico

Oct. 30 – Coalition Build, Ellensburg, WA



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