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HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE NEWS

It takes everyone: Inside B.C.'s first coalition against human trafficking

When I signed up to attend Truckers Against Trafficking's first B.C. coalition-building event in Prince George, I wasn't sure what to expect — or, honestly, why an event about human trafficking would need voices from the resource and energy sector in the room. By the end of the day, that question had answered itself. Human trafficking (HT) isn't confined to any one industry, city, or demographic. It moves along the same highways, through the same hotels, and into the same work camps that fuel B.C.'s economy. And stopping it takes the same breadth of people who build that economy: RCMP investigators, survivor advocates, municipal councillors, trucking companies, pipeline contractors and energy majors, all in the same room, working from the same playbook. [Click here](#) to read more.

HSI arrests five in federal sex trafficking of minors undercover operation in Omaha

United States Attorney Lesley A. Woods announced that a three-day undercover operation led by HSI resulted in the arrest and indictment of five men in Omaha, Nebraska, last week. The defendants have been indicted by a federal grand jury in the District of Nebraska with the following charges: Jocsan Aparicio-Santos, 39, of Lincoln, Nebraska, was charged with Attempted Sex Trafficking of a Child and Penalties for Registered Sex Offenders; Logan Trigg, 29, of Omaha, was charged with Attempted Sex Trafficking of a Child and Penalties for Registered Sex Offenders; Bryan E. Dady, 48, of Omaha, was charged with Attempted Sex Trafficking of a Child and Penalties for Registered Sex Offenders; Tillian Hutton, 25, of Omaha, was charged with Attempted Sex Trafficking of a Child; Law Eh, 39, of Omaha, was charged with Attempted Sex Trafficking

'Little more than a slave master': CA man sentenced to 17+ years for forcing women into prostitution

A 33-year-old California man was sentenced Friday to 210 months in prison for six federal felonies related to his involvement with a multi-state sex trafficking scheme. Brandon Denzel Washington compelled women into prostitution through assaults, threats, fraud, and manipulation, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) [announced](#). Washington was convicted in March of conspiracy to engage in sex trafficking through force, fraud, and coercion; one count of sex trafficking by fraud and coercion; and four counts of transporting women with the purpose of prostitution through coercion and enticement. [Click here](#) to read more.

Engaging state Departments of Transportation are a critical part of TAT's anti-trafficking strategy



As part of TAT's ongoing efforts to drive systemic change in government agencies to include anti-human trafficking initiatives, identifying opportunities to engage state departments of transportation is critical. That's why, when Jeff De Vries, Materials Testing engineer from the Iowa Department of Transportation, extended an invitation to TAT to speak at the annual meeting of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Committee on Materials and Pavements (COMP) in Richmond, Virginia, it was a strategic opportunity to further TAT's mission.

At that meeting on Aug. 5, TAT State Programs Manager Maggie Dawson spoke to approximately 130 engineers and other professionals representing 47 state departments of transportation.

"When he introduced me at the start of my session," Dawson said, "Mr. De Vries gave a heartfelt speech about how human trafficking is occurring in every community across the country and every person has a role to play in ending it."

During her 30-minute presentation, Dawson gave an overview of the crime of human trafficking and shared case studies illustrating how the crime intersects with the transportation industry and state government employees. In conclusion, she encouraged the audience to think about connections they have both professionally and personally where they can share information about human trafficking.

De Vries shared, "I truly appreciated Maggie's presentation on human trafficking. As a member of the Iowa Department of Transportation, I'm often asked to travel throughout the state, and it's easy to become so focused on work that we overlook what may be happening around us. Maggie reminded all of us to stay vigilant in our day-to-day activities, so we can recognize when someone might need help. Thank you to Maggie and TAT for their dedication to supporting those in need and showing us how we can each play an active role in disrupting human trafficking."

Following the presentation, Dawson spoke to several AASHTO members who expressed how much the human trafficking message resonated with them. One member promptly followed up with Dawson and placed an order of 3,000 Youth on Transportation (YOT) stickers, 750 YOT caregiver postcards and 1,000 YOT youth postcards to distribute.

"We're grateful to AASHTO COMP for the warm hospitality and the opportunity to deliver information about TAT and human trafficking to their members," Dawson emphasized. "We look forward to working with them again!"

Texas energy sector positioned to lead regionally in fight against human trafficking



Kim Head, Phillips 66 senior vice president for Global Commercial Operations, spoke at the roundtable discussion.

Following back-to-back events in Texas, Lindsey Mattson, director of Industry Engagement for TAT's energy program, declared, "The Texas energy sector is uniquely positioned to lead a regional model of corporate responsibility in the fight against human trafficking."

On Aug. 18, Phillips 66 and C.H. Robinson co-hosted a TAT roundtable discussion, focusing on human trafficking in Texas and how the sector can work collaboratively to combat it. Kim Head, Phillips 66 senior vice president for Global Commercial Operations, provided opening remarks for the group of 13 energy professionals in attendance, before Mattson assumed the leadership of the discussion. Attendees discussed emerging risks, shared best practices and explored strategies that strengthen both community safety and business resilience. They left with actionable steps to take, as well as insight from other energy leaders on how they have implemented anti-trafficking programming within their organizations.

In addition to the roundtable, 80 individuals toured TAT's mobile exhibit, the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP), where they also received TAT energy wallet cards, window decals and Youth on Transportation materials from Micah Larsen, TAT's Mobile Exhibit specialist.

"It's a very important cause," said Head, "and I truly believe that our industry is in a key position to make a difference. I did visit the trailer (FDP) over lunch, and it's very informative and nicely done. Really brings the problem to light."

The following day, Mattson attended the Houston quarterly meeting of the redM Oil and Gas Chapter, along with nine redM members, where she shared more about TAT's work through public-private partnerships, as well as what anti-trafficking awareness and training is being done with energy partners. Highlighting redM and TAT's shared mission to combat human trafficking, this session discussed ways to collaborate both locally and with other redM chapters throughout North America.

Larsen again led tours of TAT's FDP, this time for 17 people.

"By leveraging the industry's operational reach, trusted partnerships and collective expertise, we can all work together to protect vulnerable individuals while reinforcing ethical leadership and operational integrity," Mattson concluded.



The redM members at the redM Oil and Gas Chapter meeting assembled in the FDP for a photo, along with TAT's Mattson (back row, right).

PrePass Safety Alliance Summer Membership Meeting includes anti-trafficking message

Although TAT has partnerships with about 90% of PrePass Safety Alliance members across the public and private sector, TAT Deputy Director Kylla Lanier felt being asked to present at their summer membership meeting signaled a “first step to broader engagement and a deeper partnership.”

The meeting took place Aug. 18-20 in Boise, Idaho, with 60 people attending, representing the trucking industry, state trucking associations from 22 states, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Divisions and PrePass Safety Alliance staff.

PrePass Safety Alliance is a non-profit public-private partnership of state agencies and trucking industry leaders devoted to safe, secure and efficient use of North America's highway system. Through widespread deployment of PrePass® advanced technologies, the Alliance works with government agencies to increase regulatory compliance in commercial vehicle operations and reduce congestion and emissions on our roadways. PrePass technologies help motor carriers save time, fuel and money. To date, the Alliance has invested over \$800 million on services that improve safety, reduce truck-related emissions and preserve highway infrastructure.

Lanier spoke on labor trafficking intersections with the trucking industry, practical ways industry and law enforcement can partner to raise awareness and the specific training and resources TAT has for each group to deepen their understanding of the crime as well as best practices for how to engage with potential trafficking victims.



Lanier (right) had fun meeting up with many friends and supporters of TAT, like Dave Lorenzen, former chief of the Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement, who is now consulting for the Iowa Motor Truck Association. Lorenzen was responsible for helping TAT create and implement its successful Iowa MVE Program.



TAT's Kylla Lanier (left) had the opportunity to chat with Allen Hodges, president/CEO of the Idaho Trucking Association, at the conference.

“PrePass Safety Alliance is proud to have been one of TAT's early supporters and to continue that long-standing partnership,” shared Mark Doughty, president and CEO, PrePass Safety Alliance. “Preventing human trafficking requires coordination among transportation agencies, law enforcement and the trucking industry, and TAT has a proven ability to turn education and awareness into practical action. We invited TAT to our summer membership meeting because our members are transportation leaders and have an important role to play in strengthening that collective response and helping make our nation's highways safer.”

Lanier added, "Because PrePass has been a TAT partner and corporate sponsor for more than a decade, in addition to my opportunity to present, what I loved was seeing so many long-time friends and partners again and the spark that can ignite with a smaller group of people getting the chance to be together and network."

Harriet Tubman Award nominations in vetting process

After a three-month campaign to solicit nominations for TAT's Harriet Tubman Award presented by WEX®, the nomination committee is actively vetting and verifying several promising nominations.

"TAT was thrilled to receive a number of nominations, including wonderful stories of frontline workers who found themselves in the right place at the right time and acted with courage and compassion, but whose stories fell just short of meeting all award criteria," explained Laura Cyrus, TAT senior director of Industry Training and Outreach. "Nonetheless, all nominations were encouraging to receive, as they proved not only that word about the award was getting out, but also that frontline workers continue to act on behalf of others in the face of suspicious circumstances."

While the official nomination campaign period has ended, TAT is always accepting nominations. Please continue to share stories with us and **nominate** frontline workers who may have made a call that resulted in someone either being recovered from trafficking or preventing a trafficking situation from taking place.

This year's winner of the Harriet Tubman Award will be announced during a special awards ceremony at the 2026 WEX OTR Summit in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida in late October.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 2 – Puget Sound Junction Briefings hosted by TravelCenters of America, Tacoma, WA

Sept. 3 – South Dakota Trucking Association Annual Convention, virtual

Sept. 8-10 – FMI Supply Chain Forum hosted by the Food Industry Association, Kansas City, MO

Sept. 10 – Lunch N Learn: Recognizing Human Trafficking in Transportation, hosted by the Maryland DOT, virtual

Sept. 9-11 – Amazon RelayCon, Las Vegas, NV

Sept. 13-19 – National Truck Driver Appreciation Week Events, multiple states and locations

Sept. 14-16 – Intermodal Association of North America Intermodal Expo, Long Beach, CA

Sept. 14 – Western Slope Against Trafficking Quarterly Meeting, virtual

Sept. 16-17 – Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA) Fall Conference and Expo,

Sept. 23 – Tampa, FL Coalition Build follow-up, virtual

Sept. 23 – Fleet Safety Council Meeting hosted by IHSA Fleet Safety Council, Cambridge, Ontario

Sept. 24 – Old Republic Canada Annual Broker Conference, Burlington, Ontario

Sept. 27 – Virginia Trucking Association Annual Convention, Williamsburg, VA

Sept. 27-29 – Atlantic Provinces Trucking Association/Maine Motor Transport Association Transportation Safety Meeting, Fredericton, New Brunswick

Sept. 29 – Puget Sound, Washington YOT Coalition Build hosted by TAT, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Washington, Port of Seattle and Sound Transit, Puget Sound, WA

Sept. 30-Oct. 1 – Oklahoma Trucking Association Conference, Tulsa, OK

Breckenridge, CO

Sept. 16 – Enbridge Community Engagement Event, Ashland, WI

Sept. 18-19 – Richard Crane Memorial Truck Show, St. Ignace, MI

Sept. 18 – National Truck Driver Appreciation Week, Sapp Bros. Driving Change Project (DCP) event, Denver, CO

Sept. 20-24 – Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Fall Conference, Orlando, FL

Sept. 21-22 – Ohio Trucking Association Annual Conference, Westerville, OH

Sept. 23 – Penske's DCP Event, Charlotte, NC



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