

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY



In 2009, Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) identified professional truck drivers as the eyes and ears of the highways, men and women who are uniquely positioned to help disrupt human trafficking. While many people want to make a difference, few have daily opportunities to create real, meaningful change. Drivers in the transportation industry do. By knowing what to look for and what to do, drivers can play a critical role in the fight against this crime.

Human trafficking is estimated to be a \$236 billion-per-year criminal activity occurring worldwide, including in every province and territory in Canada. Often referred to as modern-day slavery, human trafficking includes forced labor and forced sex. It can involve acts of force, fraud, and coercion, using powerful psychological tactics that remove the need for physical restraints. These invisible chains keep victims under the control of traffickers and make them feel as though they cannot leave.

As traffickers move victims across the country, they rely on people looking the other way or assuming what they see is “none of their business.” TAT is working to change that. Since expanding efforts into Canada in late 2019, TAT has trained nearly 40,000 transportation industry professionals nationwide, contributing to more than 2.4 million trained individuals across Canada and the United States.

Victims are often exploited in places drivers regularly visit, such as truck stops, rest areas, and delivery locations. That makes trained drivers an important resource in helping law enforcement identify trafficking activity and recover victims. TAT offers free training for over-the-road drivers, local drivers, movers, and in-home delivery personnel. The training takes 30 minutes or less and teaches how to recognize red flags and safely report suspicious activity.

COMMON RED FLAGS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING INCLUDE:

- Being prevented from speaking for oneself
- Not controlling one's own ticket, wallet, identification, or documents
- Branding or tattoos that suggest “ownership” (often a trafficker's name)
- Visible bruising or injuries; appearing disheveled or malnourished
- Appearing fearful, anxious, or visibly distressed
- A minor involved in commercial sex
- Working excessively long hours or in unsafe conditions
- Mentioning a pimp or being required to meet a quota
- Being dropped off at a truck parking area and picked up 15–20 minutes later

If you notice **multiple red flags**, report what you are seeing. For a crime in progress, call 911. If you are unsure but want to report suspicious activity, call the **National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010**.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is brave five minutes longer." Sometimes, being brave for five minutes longer is as simple as making a phone call that helps return someone to their family and out of a life of exploitation and abuse.

To access TAT's free training, download TAT smartphone app or visit **tatnonprofit.org**. For more information on getting your company involved, email info@tatnonprofit.org.

by Heather Fry, Director of Industry Training with Truckers Against Trafficking (ATA)

Knowledge Verification

Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

1. Human trafficking is estimated to be a \$236 billion per year criminal activity occurring worldwide, including in every province and territory in Canada. True False
2. Victims are often exploited in places drivers regularly visit. True False
3. Appearing fearful or visibly distressed is not a red flag of Human Trafficking. True False
4. If you see multiple red flags, call the authorities and report what you are seeing. True False

Driver's Name:

Driver's Signature:

Witness Name:

Date:



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Online Learning Library

At Old Republic Canada, we value safety and education.

Our online Learning Library is a tool our customers can use to enhance their training efforts and keep safety on the forefront of their employees' minds. Below are some additional titles that can be accessed on any mobile device, computer, or tablet. Simply go to <http://orican.infnit-i.net> to get started.

Value Driven Driving:

Module 1 - Preventing Rear-End Crashes

Module 2 - Preventing Loss of Control Crashes

Module 3 - Preventing Lane Change Crashes

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Knowledge Verification
1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True