

Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

May 2017 Vol. 15 No. 05

This issue reveals how people are beginning to see what was for too long 'hidden in plain sight.'



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Hidden in Plain Sight; Then Rescued

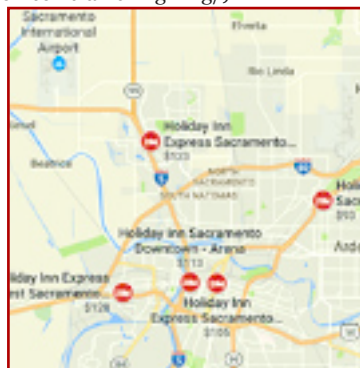
With an Uber Driver

In December 2016, a normal Uber driving shift for Keith Avila turned into the rescue of a 16-year-old girl from a child sex trafficking ring.

One night, while working in Sacramento, CA, he picked up two women and a young girl. While driving them to a Holiday Inn, he heard the women instruct the teen on how to interact with 'John' at the hotel. They told her to "pat him down for weapons while hugging him" and "get the donation from him" before anything happened.

Avila dropped the women off, drove around the corner, and called the police. Officers arrived in minutes and arrested the two female pimps, as well as the man they were meeting. The runaway teen was taken into temporary housing while law enforcement located her family.

Because Avila knew the red flags, he helped save a life. (<http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/uber-driver-saves-teen-sex-trafficking-ring/>)



At a Truck Stop in Virginia

Just for a second the black drape covering a window of a parked recreational vehicle flew back, revealing the face of a gaunt young woman inside. Then she was jerked away and the curtain closed.



That 20-year-old had lived just outside Des Moines, where her three-week-long nightmare began. In late 2014, she accepted a ride from a couple, offering to take her to visit relatives on the East Coast.

What followed is the content of horror films. The couple nailed her feet to the RV floor, poured bleach into her wounds, dragged her by a leash down gravel roads and burned heated keys into her skin. They advertised her on Craigslist postings as the RV moved from state to state. To show what would happen if she escaped, the guy had her watch him slit the throat of a dog brought into the RV.

When she was rescued at the Virginia truck stop, she was malnourished and within "48 hours of

Truckers cont. on pg. 3



Awareness

Hospitals' & Doctors' Misdiagnoses

Hidden in Plain Sight; Then Rescued

In the Air, Enroute to San Francisco

Shelia Fedrick said she instinctively felt something was wrong the moment she saw the girl with greasy blonde hair sitting in the window seat of aisle 10 on a flight from Seattle to San Francisco.

The girl “*looked like she had been through pure hell*,” said Fedrick, 49, a flight attendant working for Alaska Airlines. Fedrick guessed that the girl was about 14 or 15 years old, traveling with a notably well-dressed older man. The stark contrast between the two set off alarm bells in her head.

Fedrick tried to engage them in conversation, but the man became defensive, she said. “*I left a note in one of the bathrooms*,” Fedrick said. “*She wrote back on the note and said ‘I need help.’*”

Fedrick says she called the pilot and told him about the passengers, and when the plane landed, police were waiting in the terminal.

(<http://airlineamb.org/2017/02/08/flight-attendants-identify-trafficking/>)



In the Hospital

Jasmine was sold for sex in the Boston area for years. The primary care doctor she saw during that time had no clue that she was a virtual prisoner, a victim of human trafficking. Every clinician fears the missed diagnosis. For this doctor, it was hiding in plain sight. Jasmine frequently came into the clinic to be checked for a sexually transmitted disease, worried that she had been infected even though she regularly used condoms and a bleach douche if the condom broke. More often than not she showed up with bruises and bumps. She struggled with addiction. And as a result of a head injury, she experienced chronic headaches.

To a clinician on the lookout for human trafficking, these were telltale signals that Jasmine was a victim. But trafficking was not on Jasmine’s doctor’s radar, who missed critical opportunities to disrupt her cycle of violence.

Jasmine was finally able to break free from her trafficker and now operates a ministry for trafficked women. But for every success story like hers, thousands of children and adults remain in captivity. Doctors could help more of them break free. (<https://www.statnews.com/2017/03/16/human-trafficking-doctors/>)

Just as trafficking can take many different forms, so can its signs. Sometimes they are similar to the signs of domestic violence: bruises at multiple stages of healing, stories that don’t match up with illnesses or injuries, and possibly a controlling individual — female or male — who demands to be part of the health visit. Victims of trafficking may not know where they are or how they got to the clinic or emergency department. Many don’t have access to their identification documents. They may be malnourished, have late-stage cancer, or bear unusual tattoos or scars from being branded.

The health problems of trafficking victims often match what they were exposed to from their abuse. For a sex-trafficked American with a heroin addiction, it may be HIV and a heart infection; for a construction worker from Honduras, tuberculosis and a broken arm; for the Cantonese-speaking nail salon worker, it may be lung disease or other problems from long hours spent inhaling chemicals.

The mental health repercussions of trafficking are especially pernicious. Many survivors suffer from complex forms of post-traumatic stress disorder, struggle from addiction, or experience unexplained chronic pain. Some become suicidal. Many believe there is no way out. After an unsuccessful suicide attempt, a trafficked patient told her doctor, “*I wish it had worked. I wish I were dead.*”

Doctors can play a special role in breaking the cycle of human trafficking. They meet people in moments of vulnerability. If they approach patients with humanity and humility, patients may entrust their deepest, darkest secrets, including being trafficked. It will require interrupting the rhythm of work, looking beneath the medical issues at hand, and treating the whole person.

(<https://www.statnews.com/2017/03/16/human-trafficking-doctors/>)



Awareness

Truckers *cont. from pg. 1*

death,” according to police. How was she rescued? A truck driver, Kevin



Kimmel, saw her face in that RV window and realized, “There’s something strange going on.” He called 911.

Truckers Against Trafficking

honored Kimmel of Tavares, FL, with their 2015 Harriet Tubman Award.

(<http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/crime/article75035597.html>)

The Idea of ‘TAT’

Kendis Paris founded *Truckers Against Trafficking* (TAT) in 2009 along with her mother, Lynn Thompson. The family owned a hotel and truck drivers were some of their frequent customers. So when Paris and her mother decided to fight human trafficking, Paris said the answer was right in front of them.

“One of the things we knew we needed right away was something to go to all the places we couldn’t go,” she said. There are hundreds of thousands of trucking companies in the U.S., and most of them operate fewer than 20 trucks. “So how are you going to get this information into the hands of the industry?”

They decided to turn to the drivers, whom they now call “Knights of the Road.” Equipped with TAT training and an



information card that fits into a wallet, drivers can better identify problems and connect victims with help in every state across the country. (<http://ohiovalleyresource.org/2017/03/17/halting-traffic-truckers-survivors-fighting-human-trafficking/>)

Hidden in Plain Sight; Then Rescued

San Francisco Public Transportation

The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) in San Francisco aims to be part of the solution to human trafficking. With major events such as the 2016 Super Bowl hosted locally, or sports playoffs or championship series, additional victims are brought in through local airports, and BART serves both SFO and Oakland airports, police explain.

Officer Medeiros explained that traffickers also rotate victims in from other areas of CA such as Sacramento or Stockton. They might arrive via public transportation to end-of-line stations. “These exploited girls are brainwashed that this guy is going to take care of them,” Officer Medeiros said. “The guys provide food, shelter, but also keep their identification and money. These girls are convinced this person is looking out for them, and they’ll take the abuse and the threats.” “One conviction I did get that made me feel good,” Medeiros said, “was while working a bicycle patrol at the time, I stopped a girl loitering on the street. She was flagging down cars, and it turned out her trafficker was directly across the street. He ended up being arrested and convicted.”

(<http://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2016/news20160511>)



As of 2016:

- 214,000 truckers, law enforcement and truck-stop workers trained by TAT to spot suspicious activity;
- 1,370 calls by truckers to national hotline since 2011;
- 425 likely trafficking rings identified by truckers;
- 744 trafficking victims rescued;
- 249 minors removed from sex trafficking rings.

(<http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/crime/article75035597.html>)

TAT, the Utah Attorney General and the Utah

Trucking Association explored best practices to successfully detect and investigate human trafficking crimes through the help of the trucking industry.

(<http://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2016/12/11/jcw-truckers-against-trafficking/>)

Texas Senate Bill 128, currently on the Senate floor, would require drivers applying for commercial driver licenses to complete a training program on how to recognize the signs of human trafficking. (<http://www.kwtx.com/content/news/New-Texas-law-could-help-truckers-identify-human-trafficking-417071883.html>) TX police also asked truckers to help stop human trafficking.

(<http://www.khou.com/news/local/texas/law-enforcers-turn-to-truckers-to-help-stop-human-trafficking/312855817>)



Advocacy

'Red Flags' for Hotel Staff

- Pays for room in cash or with pre-paid card;
- Fiancée arrives later and without luggage;
- Hourly or extended stay with few possessions;
- Requests room overlooking parking lot;
- Excessive foot traffic in/out of hotel room;
- Number of guests in a hotel room exceeds its occupancy;
- Body language of guests;
- 'Do not disturb' signs in excessive use;
- Frequently requests new linens, towels, and restocking of refrigerator;
- Exhibits fearful, anxious, or submissive behavior;
- Requests info on local sex industry;
- Presence of excessive drugs, alcohol, sex paraphernalia;
- No control of money, cell phone, or ID;
- Restricted or controlled communications;
- No knowledge of current or past whereabouts;
- Signs of poor hygiene, malnourishment, or fatigue;
- No freedom of movement, constantly monitored.

(<http://polarisproject.org/sites/default/files/Polaris-Flyer.pdf>)



European Training Module for Hotel Awareness Project



Polaris Poster for Hotel Awareness

"The hospitality industry along with many other sectors finds itself subject to increased media and civil society scrutiny. For a customer facing business it is vitally important that the reputation of UK hotels is maintained both with the general public and national and local government. Ensuring best practice with regard to recruitment and employment of staff and agency workers can help deliver a sustainable future for the industry."
(<http://www.staff-wanted.org/>)

Taxi Help in London

The Salvation Army has called upon London taxi and mini cab drivers *'to be the eyes and ears of the community.'* If they suspect trafficking they can contact police through a help line or on a smartphone app designed by 'Stop The Traffik'.

There has been a fivefold increase in trafficked victims in England and Wales since 2011.

(<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-slavery-taxi-idUKKBN12H1KJ>)



Efforts Taken in the United Kingdom

In 2016 the International Tourism Partnership (ITP) and Green Hotelier updated a 10-page Guide to educate hotel staff regarding human trafficking, which can impact a hotel in a variety of ways:

- Use of a hotel for the sexual exploitation of adults and children;
- Staff, and in particular those recruited or subcontracted via unscrupulous agencies, being victims of forced or bonded labor;
- Products and services supplied to the hotel being produced by forced or bonded labor, labor exploitation and unethical labor practices.

There is no evidence to suggest that large chains or smaller independents are more at risk. The risk is higher in properties where there is subcontracted staff, hiring of migrant workers, lack of policy and enforcement, and lack of awareness in staff.

The Guide includes a poster that uses 10 languages to ask five questions of hotel workers to assist them in knowing if they are being exploited.

1. Do you have to pay someone to give you work?
2. Does anyone make excessive deductions from your wages?
3. Does anyone have control of your identity documents, passport or bank card?
4. Are you free to choose your own accommodation?
5. Does anyone threaten or intimidate you?

If so, call the UK help line: 0800 0121 700. (<http://www.greenhotelier.org/know-how-guides/addressing-human-trafficking-in-the-hospitality-industry/>)



Advocacy

Hospital Systems Prepare Medical Professionals to Assist Victims

Holly Austin-Gibbs, a trafficked survivor, serves as Patient Care Services Program Director for Dignity Health. It is a program to help staff quickly identify and effectively respond to victims of human trafficking in the healthcare setting. One of the largest healthcare systems in the nation and the largest hospital provider in California, Dignity Health is positioned to affect the lives of many, including patients who are vulnerable to human trafficking.



A 2014 study found that nearly 88% of sex trafficking survivors reported having contact with the healthcare system while being exploited. The study revealed how medical providers are 'woefully unprepared' to identify and respond to victims. Hence Dignity Health started with education, implementation of internal protocols, and identification of community resources that can assist trafficked persons discovered in the course of health care services.

Austin-Gibbs is also author of *Walking Prey: How America's Youth are Vulnerable to Sex Slavery*, published in 2014. (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/holly-austin-smith/healthcare-are-your-staff_b_9767778.html)

To assist in education Catholic Health Initiatives of Colorado and Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, offered a webinar as part of the American Hospital Association's *Hospitals Against Violence Initiative*. Massachusetts General started a clinic for

human trafficking survivors that has treated more than 80 individuals since opening in April 2015.

Wendy Macias-Konstantopoulos, M.D., director of the initiative at Mass General said, "Everyone in the hospital must play a role in addressing this issue. Educating all staffers on how to spot the red flags is an important first step. We need more eyes and ears in the hospital than we have right now. From the reception staff that sits behind the desk all the way to the M.D., everyone needs to be aware of this, in the same way that we would want to be able to detect child abuse when it is happening. We need everyone in the game and trying to make sure that we have eyes and ears."

(<http://www.hhnmag.com/articles/8159-human-trafficking-how-americas-hospitals-can-help>)

Dr. Hanni Stoklosa, MD is an emergency department physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital, an instructor in emergency medicine at Harvard Medical School, and executive director of HEAL Trafficking.



She recounted, "I didn't have a single 'aha' moment about the connection between human trafficking and health care. I heard about it in medical school, but it blended in with all the other things I was learning. When I heard about it again during my residency in emergency medicine, something clicked and I realized I had probably missed those telltale trafficking signs in many

patients I had treated: the malnourished construction worker, the pregnant woman with unexplained bruises who could speak only Cantonese, the suicidal drug user, and more. I treated their medical problems and released them from the emergency department.

"Once I began to look in earnest for signs of trafficking, I began to see them. The first patient I recall identifying as likely being trafficked was a 20-something woman hooked on heroin who came into the emergency department suicidal and asking for detox from her addiction.

"The more I realized that human trafficking wasn't a rarity, I wanted to awaken my colleagues to the plight of this vulnerable population that many of them are not truly seeing. So I cofounded HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage) Trafficking in the fall of 2013. Today, HEAL Trafficking unites more than 800 health professionals around the globe to combat trafficking from a public health perspective."

Responding to a patient's disclosure of being trafficked must be victim-centered, multidisciplinary, trauma-informed, and culturally and gender sensitive. In other words, it isn't something a clinician should make up on the spot when a patient discloses that she or he is being trafficked. That's why HEAL Trafficking has designed a protocol toolkit (see pg. 7) to help health systems design their responses.

Stoklosa is co-editor with Dr. Makini Chisolm-Straker of *Human Trafficking Is a Public Health Issue* (Springer, February 2017).

(<https://www.statnews.com/2017/03/16/human-trafficking-doctors/>)



Advocacy

Expanding Awareness and Advocacy at the State and Local Level

Pennsylvania's Dept. of Transportation (PennDOT)

PennDOT workers are being trained to spot victims of human trafficking and call for help. The staff will also be handing out wallet cards, with tips for spotting trafficking victims and how to contact law enforcement, to anyone who has or is applying for a commercial driver's license.

"Anyone has the potential to encounter a human trafficking situation. It literally is hidden right in plain sight, right in front of us."

(<http://wnep.com/2017/03/08/penn-dot-to-help-fight-human-trafficking/>)

United Parcel Services (UPS)

In 2017 UPS drivers will be training to recognize and report human trafficking in collaboration with TAT.

(<http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2017/01/11/ups-drivers-trained-spot-human-trafficking/96461168/>)

All NY City Taxi Drivers began training in 2012 to know the signs of sex trafficking and are legally required to report suspicious activities. Cabbies who fail to speak up face a \$10,000 fine and loss of license for their part in transporting victims to abusers.

(<http://www.pembinatoday.ca/2017/03/03/ordinary-folks-can-help-stop-human-trafficking/>)

Hair Salon Workers in St. Petersburg, FL

(<http://www.wtsp.com/news/human-trafficking-survivors-work-to-educate-salon-owners-in-st-pete/>)

Mississippi First Responders

(<http://www.wapt.com/article/first-responders-learn-to-spot-signs-of-human-trafficking/>)

City Employees in Austin, TX

(<http://www.khou.com/news/local/texas/austin-employees-receive-human-trafficking-training/>)

Rhode Island Rep. State Senator, Elaine Morgan, introduced a bill, now on the Senate floor, that would require that signage be posted in transportation stations, rest areas and welcome centers. The targeted establishments could also include massage parlors, spas, strip clubs and other sexually-oriented businesses.

Signage would read, *"if you or someone you know is being forced to engage in any activity and cannot leave- whether it is commercial sex, housework, farm work, or any other activity – call the National Human Trafficking Resources Center Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 to access help and services."* *"We have seen far too many cases of human trafficking in Rhode Island and the New England corridor,"* said Morgan.

(<http://www.golocalprov.com/news/sen.-morgans-bill-calls-for-human-trafficking-assistance-signs-to-be-posted/>)

Family and Circuit Judges in South Carolina

(<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160503/160509802/sc-supreme-court-orders-family-circuit-judges-to-attend-human-trafficking-summit>)

Gatwick Airport London

The Director of A21, a UK anti-human trafficking charity, said: *"Human trafficking is often overlooked because it's hiding in plain sight. Traffickers don't always transport their victims in the back of lorries, vans or shipping containers. They use the same airports, airlines and airplanes that thousands of other passengers do."*

More than 2,000 pocket-sized leaflets have been distributed to staff, cleaners, security and airport retailers.

The effort by Gatwick has interested other airports around the world to adopt similar training. (<http://www.internationalairportreview.com/23117/airport-news/gatwick-combat-human-trafficking/>)

"Who would have told me 29 years ago, when I first stepped into this profession that we'd be trained on human trafficking?"

A Southwest Airlines flight attendant.

(<http://www.fox10phoenix.com/news/arizona-news/235105257-story>)

Airport Training

Airline Ambassador Sandra Fiorini, 69, testified before

Congress in 2010 about trafficking she witnessed during her 42-year career as a flight attendant with American Airlines, including girls she suspected were trafficked after flying from Moscow to the U.S. hoping to become actresses and models.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) *Extension, Safety, and Security Act* of 2016 implemented the obligatory training of flight attendants to spot potential trafficking victims.

(<http://airlineamb.org/2017/02/08/flight-attendants-identify-trafficking/#.WKn22xAfldZ>)

Tourists at Atlanta, GA Airport

Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, known as the world's busiest airport, displays information on human trafficking. (<http://edition.cnn.com/videos/tv/2015/06/19/airport-trafficking-cfp-freedom-project-mann-pkg.cnn>)





Action

Global Exploitation

Combatting the spread of human trafficking requires first recognizing the scope of the problem. To help facilitate the conversation around ending human trafficking, the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work created a guide that offers an in-depth look at the areas where trafficking is most prevalent, the forms of exploitation that exist, and the root causes of this epidemic, as well as graphic data to substantiate current information.

To view data such as shown in the table below, go to:
<https://msw.usc.edu/freedoms-journey-understanding-human-trafficking/>

Geographic Zone	Victims per Region	Earned by Region	Earned Per Victim
Asia-Pacific Region	56%	\$51.8 billion	\$5,000
United States, European Union & Developed Economies	7%	\$46.9 billion	\$34,800
Central/Southeastern European Countries & Commonwealth of Independent States	7%	\$18 billion	\$12,900
Africa	18%	\$13.1 billion	\$3,900
Latin America	9%	\$12 billion	\$7,500
Middle East	3%	\$8.5 billion	\$10,000

#DoesYourHotelKnow



ECPAT-USA developed a campaign to alert hotels and travelers alike to educate themselves about the signs of

sex trafficking, with a call to action.

Watch the 1.5 minute clip:

Does Your Hotel Know?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlVVJ4seBA>

What Can You Do to Help Stop Human Trafficking?

To learn about the 15 ways the U.S. Dept. of State recommends, go to:
<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/help/>

The 'TAT' App

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) now has an app for Android and Windows phones that help drivers report on suspicious activity.

(<http://www.truckersagainstrafficking.org/get-our-materials/>)

Hospital Toolkit

To order a copy of the HEAL Trafficking's *'Protocol Toolkit for Developing a Response to Victims of Human Trafficking in Health Care Settings,'* go to:

<https://healtrafficking.org/linkagesresources/protocol-toolkit/>

Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct
<http://www.ecpatusa.org/code>

UK Hotel Training Guide
<http://www.greenhotelier.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Know-How-Guide-to-Human-trafficking-in-the-hospitality-industry-2016-update.pdf>

Combating Human Trafficking in UK Hospitality Sector
<http://www.staff-wanted.org>

Dignity Health Foundation
<https://www.dignityhealthfoundation.org/HumanTrafficking>

Airline Ambassadors International
<http://airlineamb.org/>

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888
Text 'Help' at: BeFree
(233733)**

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members and organizations, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*, go to: <http://www.stopenslavement.org/>

To contribute information, please contact: jeansds@stopenslavement.org

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