

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

February 2018 Vol. 16 No. 02

This issue highlights recent reports that shed light on the complexities of human trafficking.



## U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Sponsors of 'Stop Trafficking'

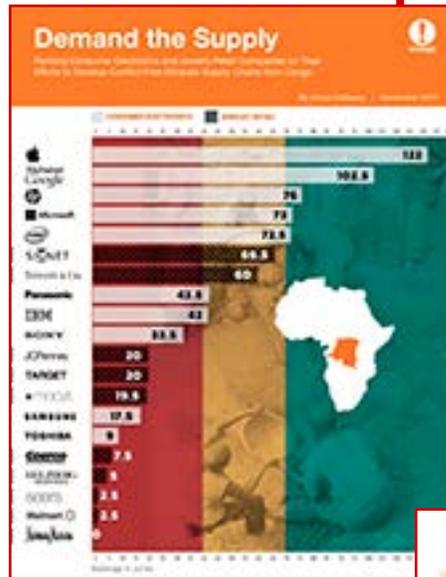
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- Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
- Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS
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- Congregation of Notre Dame
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- Marianites of Holy Cross
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- Sisters of the Divine Savior
- Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- Sisters of the Holy Cross
- Sisters of the Holy Family
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus

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## Examining the Complexities that Drive Human Trafficking

As the understanding of human trafficking grows, so does the realization of its complexities. Various reports referenced in this issue of 'Stop Trafficking' open the opportunity for readers to explore deeper causal interrelationships through the insights of scholarly authors. 'Stop Trafficking' neither endorses nor refutes the contents of these reports. It is up to readers to determine what they will take from the research and how these insights will inform their own anti-trafficking efforts.

### Conflict Minerals

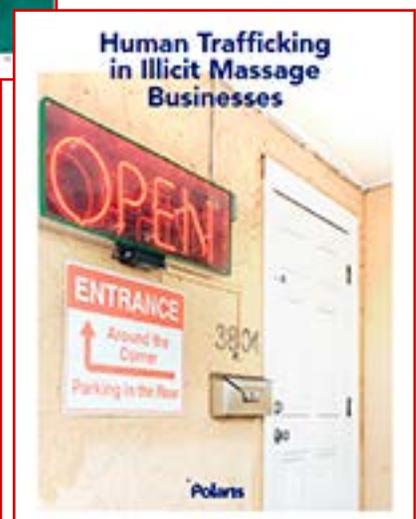


In the 32-page November 2017 Report entitled, 'Demand the Supply: Ranking Consumer Electronics and Jewelry Retail Companies on Their Efforts to Develop Conflict-Free Minerals Supply Chains from Congo,' Annie Callaway, the author, defines 'conflict-free minerals' as minerals that do not directly or indirectly finance or benefit armed groups, including state military units from Congo as well as other predatory regional governments. (cont. pg. 2)

### Illicit Massage Businesses

Polaris, a staunch advocate for protecting victims of trafficking through a multi-pronged approach, has issued a 100-page 2018 report on illicit massage businesses (IMB) in the U.S. The sheer number of fake massage businesses (more than 9,000), coupled with the impunity with which they operate, has over time fostered widespread — if tacit — cultural acceptance of the

Massage cont. pg. 2





2

## Awareness

### Conflict Minerals

cont. from pg. 1

For decades, activists and affected communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo have called attention to the links between their country's minerals and its protracted armed conflicts. To many communities historically impacted by the violence and lawlessness surrounding Congo's gold, tin, tungsten, and tantalum mines, the need for change is clear.

As a result of the unique leverage they have over their supply chains, the multinational companies that profit from Congo's minerals have a central role to play in addressing the links between conflict and mining. And indeed some companies have begun to take ownership and implement this leverage, as evidenced by the positive steps detailed in this report and overall progress in demilitarizing mining areas in eastern Congo. However, critical gaps remain. In tandem with a range of legal and policy interventions, and fueled by sustained consumer demand, companies across industries can continue to use their leverage and resources to incentivize transparency and accountability in the Congolese mining sector and international minerals supply chains.

The *Enough Project's* 2017 conflict minerals company rankings examine 20 of the largest companies, as defined by market capitalization, in two of the industries which consume the most tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold: consumer electronics and jewelry retail. Although a range of industries use these minerals—often referred to as conflict minerals or 3TG—*Enough* chose to rank these two industries in particular because they have demonstrated the potential to be catalytic

in the development of new policies and practices regarding responsible sourcing, and they are also particularly attuned to consumer pressure. These latest rankings acknowledge the steady advances that have been made since *Enough* conducted its first company rankings in 2010 and expose the considerable and urgent need for more action.

The 2017 rankings indicate that the consumer electronics industry as a whole is more advanced than the jewelry retail sector in corporate efforts to improve supply chain transparency and opportunities for conflict-free sourcing from Central Africa's Great Lakes region. (Report, pgs. 1-2)

The companies ranked (and scores - 120 being the highest score) are: Apple (114+8 extra credit), Alphabet Google (102.5), Hewlett-Packard (76), Microsoft (73), Intel (72.5), Signet (jewelry 66.5), Tiffany&Co (jewelry 60), Panasonic (42.5), IBM (42), Sony (33.5), JCPenny (jewelry 20), Target (jewelry 20), Macy's (jewelry 19.5), Samsung (17.5), Toshiba (9), Costco (jewelry 7.5), Helzberg Diamonds (jewelry 5), Sears (jewelry 2.5), Walmart (jewelry 2.5), NiemanMarcus (jewelry 0).

The Report explains its methodology and ranking system, as well as recommendations for improvement.

As a conclusion, the Report states, *"Together, companies, consumers, students, investors, policymakers, and civil society can demand the supply of conflict-free minerals from Congo."*

The Report is available at: <https://enoughproject.org/demandthesupply>

### Massage cont. from pg. 1

industry. It is a lucrative enterprise earning \$2.5 billion annually. But many of the women (from China, S. Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam), who apply as a massage therapist, discover, too late, that 'massage' is a euphemism and that they are expected to provide services for which they will be paid some portion of the tips they earn, if

they are lucky, or less, if they are not. They live in substandard conditions, work illegal hours 'on call,' and many feel they have no choice but to comply with the mandate to perform sex acts. They are told they will be deported by immigration, or their families will be hurt; that they owe the owner money and that if they leave, police will arrest them for prostitution. Though stories differ, a common pattern combines fraud, threats and lies with poverty, fear and the potential for violence.

The Report identifies how online advertising and social media facilitate finding IMBs for buyers, who generally reflect the demographics of their communities, and come from all walks of life. It also outlines the players in the network of IMBs, including organized crime gangs.

The fact that IMBs operate in fully visible commercial storefronts sets them apart from most other types of sex trafficking, which take place outside the public eye. Registering as a business can serve as both a strength and a weakness for traffickers. Registering as a business allows them to advertise publicly on Backpage and Craigslist, use the cover of websites like Groupon and Yelp to appear legitimate, and easily launder money. The official business also provides its customers with a similarly convenient veneer of legitimacy. However, it also requires traffickers to provide information on publicly available business records. Despite traffickers' best efforts to obscure ownership by hiding behind shell companies and taking advantage of states and cities with weak business regulations, information from business records can still shed significant light on how IMBs are networked. (Report, pg. 89)

The finance industry's efforts to combat trafficking provide an inspiring example of how quickly transformations can happen. Over the past few years, the finance industry has made a concerted effort to address how traffickers take advantage of banks, remittance services, and credit cards to facilitate illicit business, hide profits, and create

Massage cont. pg. 3



## Awareness

3

**Message** *cont. from pg. 2*

the appearance that they are paying their employees.

For example, financial companies have become wise to how traffickers make frequent deposits just under daily fund limits to avoid detection, and how they spread their finances across multiple accounts and institutions, often requiring trafficking victims to open joint accounts to move illicit funds, and create the illusion that they are being paid. Now that financial institutions are connecting the dots, they are better able to identify and eradicate illicit activity in their businesses, and provide invaluable information to law enforcement to support the existence of networks and build strong money-laundering cases.

Money remittance services are following suit. They are closely monitoring frequent, low-currency IMB-related remittances from potential IMBs both domestically and to trafficking source countries like China and Korea.

Lastly, credit card companies are also positioned to make an impact. Unlike most forms of sex trafficking, which are cash-based, IMB traffickers regularly accept credit card payments. Credit card companies can use this knowledge to monitor corporate customer use, flagging both purchases and accepted payments that indicate exploitative practices. (Report, pg. 44)

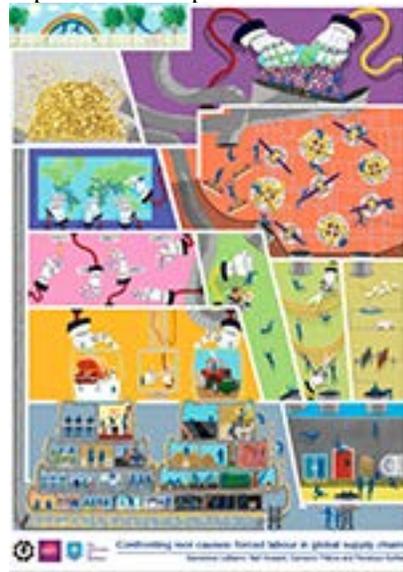
The Report ends with an extensive discussion of means to stop the IMBs.

Available at:  
<https://polarisproject.org/message-parlor-trafficking>

## ‘Confronting Root Causes: Forced Labor in Global Supply Chains’

by Genevieve Lebaron, Neil Howard, Cameron Thibos & Penelope Kyritsis

Forced labor is everywhere. The 100-page 2018 publication, ‘*Confronting Root Causes*,’ pulls together research from across the world to explain where forced labor arises and what we can do about it. What follows is an outline of topics in the Report.



**Concept 1: The Meaning of Freedom** Where does the force in ‘forced labor’ come from? Those who believe that poverty and globalization are the root causes of forced labor need a broader understanding of freedom and coercion.

### Concept 2: Globalization and the Rise of Supply Chains

Too often, globalization is viewed as inevitable. How does this shape our understanding of the link between globalization and forced labor?

### Four Factors on the Supply Side:

- **Poverty:** Poverty is not just about lack of money. It interacts with the demands of the market society to shape people’s vulnerability to forced labor.
- **Identity and Discrimination:** Social discrimination based on race,

caste, gender and other factors is a crucial component of the forced labor equation.

- **Limited Labor Protection:** Freedom from forced labor depends on workers’ ability to access labor protections. Why are so many of them unable to do so?
- **Restrictive Mobility Regimes:** Border restrictions are often justified as measures to protect migrants from ‘trafficking,’ but borders actually increase migrants’ vulnerability to forced labor and exploitation.

### Four Factors on the Demand Side:

- **Concentrated Corporate Power and Ownership:** Multinational corporations are becoming increasingly powerful – and this has serious implications for workers at the bottom of supply chains.
- **Outsourcing:** Outsourcing allows big brands to distance themselves from serious human rights abuses, including forced labor.
- **Irresponsible Sourcing Practices:** Forced labor is illegal and its risks are widely documented. Yet so many companies continue to use irresponsible sourcing practices – established triggers of forced labor. Why is this the case?
- **Governance Gaps:** Governance gaps help employers push problems of forced labor even deeper into the shadows of supply chains.

### Conclusion: Where Do We Go from Here?

A lot of work remains to be done in order to end forced labor. Thankfully, organizers and advocates around the globe are pioneering promising solutions. It’s time to follow their lead.

Available at:  
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery>



## Awareness

### Short Course: 'Beyond Trafficking & Slavery'

With the BTS Short Course, *OpenDemocracy* compiled publications from the past 18 months into an open access 'e-syllabus' on forced labor, trafficking, and slavery. With 167 contributions from 150 top academics and practitioners, the 900-page, eight-volume set is packed with insights from among the most progressive scholarship and activism currently available. The download is free, as well as being print and classroom ready. The goal is to reach not only practitioners and students in the global north, but also readers working in organizations and institutions unable to pay for expensive academic journal and subscription services.

Commenting on the first Volume in the series, *Popular and Political Representations*, the authors state, "*Much of what people think they know about human trafficking and 'modern-day slavery' is inaccurate, incomplete or unfounded. In order to help get their message out, political activists and government officials have repeatedly turned to a range of simplistic and misleading images, dubious 'statistics', and self-serving narratives. These narratives have had all kinds of negative consequences. Thanks to an often voyeuristic interest in commercial sexual abuse, much less interest has been directed towards 'unsexy' problems and practices. Thanks to the construction of migration as a problem and threat, policy responses have focused upon telling migrants to 'stay at home'. Thanks to the popularity of 'slavery as exception', global patterns of systemic abuse, exploitation, and*



*discrimination have been routinely dispatched to the margins of political conversations. Thanks to the depiction of trafficking victims as 'exotic outsiders' in need of rescue and salvation, there has been an uncritical return to some of the worst tropes of the colonial 'civilizing mission'. This must change."*

(What follows are titles of some articles from within each volume - to whet the reader's interest.)

#### **Volume 1. Popular and Political Representations**

*Section 1:* political rhetoric and popular theatrics.

*Section 2:* challenging the white savior industrial complex.

*Section 3:* the mythology of a 'few bad apples'.

*Section 4:* sex work & sensationalism.

*Section 5:* the politics of numbers, or quantification without foundation.

#### **Volume 2. Forced Labor in the Global Economy**

*Section 1:* forced labor in the world.

- What has forced labor to do with poverty?
- Forced labor under a changing climate: droughts and debt in semi-arid India.
- The role of market intermediaries in driving forced and unfree labor.
- Beyond Trafficking and Slavery.
- Capitalism's unfree global workforce.

#### **Volume 3. State and the Law**

*Sample title of one subtopic:* Law's Mediations: the shifting definitions of trafficking by Prabha Kotiswaran

#### **Volume 4. On History**

*Sample:* 'Not made by slaves': the ambivalent origins of ethical consumption by Andrea Major

#### **Volume 5. Migration & Mobility**

by Julia O'Connell Davidson & Neil Howard. They state, "*Mobility is and always has been an essential part of humanity's economic, social, cultural and political life. To be able to move freely is a good. Yet in our unjust world, it is also an unearned and unequally distributed privilege. This volume reflects on that privilege, and on the suffering that results when states restrict access to it. The articles included here will explode the spurious contemporary binary between 'smuggling' and 'trafficking', and will argue that anti-trafficking discourse hides more than it reveals. Most crucially, it hides how state restrictions on the freedom of movement are the true threat to human wellbeing. Open the borders!*"

*Another Sample:* Safe migration as an emerging anti-trafficking agenda? by Sverre Molland

*Another Sample:* The case for open borders by Joseph H. Carens

#### **Volume 6. Race, Ethnicity and Belonging**

*Sample:* Racism, citizenship and deportation in the United States by Tanya Golash-Boza

#### **Volume 7. Childhood and Youth**

*Section 1:* are we really saving the children?

*Section 2:* child labor or child work?

*Section 3:* child trafficking or youth mobility?

#### **Volume 8. Gender**

• *Sample Subtopic:* Who's responsible for violence against migrant women? by Jane Freedman

• *Sample Subtopic:* Immigration status and domestic violence by Sundari Anitha

#### **Volume 9. Possible Futures**

(Coming soon)

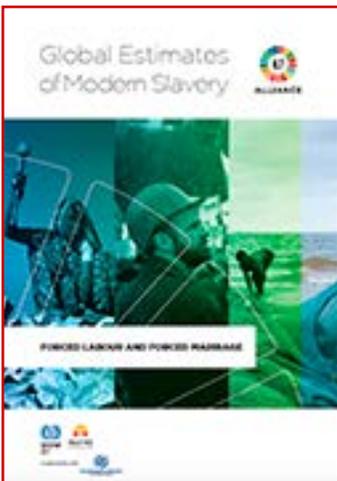
All available & free at:  
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery>



## Awareness

### ‘Global Estimates of Modern Slavery’ Report -- and a Critique

The *Walk Free Foundation* published its first *Global Slavery Index* (GSI) Report in 2013 as a way of spurring the international community to action by quantifying human exploitation in forced labor and forced marriage. The Report received criticism based on its methodology, such as extrapolating from random sample surveys from 19 countries to predict statistics for other countries within that geographic region. Similar criticism continued with the GIS reports of 2014 and 2016.



In 2017 the *Walk Free Foundation* took on a collaborative stance, using data from the *International Labor Organization* (ILO) and the *International Organization for Migration* (IOM), to publish its ‘*Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labor and Forced Marriage* (GEMS).’

A summary of GEMS statistics reported from 2016 (Report, pg. 5) include:

- 40 million people (5.4 victims for every 1,000 persons) were victims of modern slavery (25 million in forced labor and 15 million people in forced marriage.
- There were 5.9 adult victims for every 1,000 adults and 4.4 child victims for every 1,000 children in the world.
- Women and girls accounted for 71% of modern slavery victims.
- Debt bondage affected half of all victims of forced

labor imposed by private actors.

- One in four victims of modern slavery were children.
- In the past five years, 89 million people experienced some form of modern slavery for periods ranging from a few days to the whole five years.

GEMS uses the following definition for forced labor from the ILO Forced Labor Convention, 1930 (No. 29): “all work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.” While forced labor may be particularly widespread in certain economic activities or industries, a forced labor situation is determined by the nature of the relationship between a person and an ‘employer’ and not by the type of activity performed, however arduous or hazardous the conditions of work may be, nor by its legality or illegality under national law. For example, a woman forced into commercial sexual exploitation is in a forced situation because of its involuntary nature and the menace she is facing, regardless of the dangers and hazards she faces in this work or whether it is permitted by law. In recent years, the ILO has focused on the two criteria embedded in the Convention No. 29, namely, “involuntariness” and “menace of penalty” with regard to determining forced labor of adults and forced labor of children.

Access the Report at: [https://www.alliance87.org/global\\_estimates\\_of\\_modern\\_slavery-forced\\_labour\\_and\\_forced\\_marriage-executive\\_summary.pdf](https://www.alliance87.org/global_estimates_of_modern_slavery-forced_labour_and_forced_marriage-executive_summary.pdf)

### Critique

However, in a recent paper entitled, ‘40.3 million slaves? Four Reasons to Question the New Global Estimates of Modern Slavery’ Daniel Mügge challenges the 2017 GEMS statistics. Mügge highlights four problem areas:

1. Weak empirical data, unable to support the global claims based on them;
2. A definition of forced labor that may limit rather than promote debate about labor exploitation;
3. A questionable practice of aggregating countries into regional averages; and
4. The dubious fusion of forced marriage and forced labor into a single statistic.

Activists, politicians and journalists are interested in headlines, supportive data, and neat maps, not in the nuanced ‘ifs’ and ‘buts’ of data collection. Once written about, the data takes on a life of its own, even if inaccurate.

Access the critique at:  
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyond-slavery/daniel-m-gge/403-million-slaves-four-reasons-to-question-new-global-estimates>





## Advocacy

6

# Advocacy to Prevent Human Trafficking on U.S. Highways

The “No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act” (S. 1532/H.R. 3814) and “Combatting Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act” (S. 1536/H.R. 3813) were both signed into law by President Donald J. Trump in January 2018.

“No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act” directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to disqualify from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life an individual who uses such a vehicle in committing a felony involving a severe form of human trafficking.

The “Combatting Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act:”

- Directs the DOT to designate an official to:
  - Coordinate human trafficking prevention efforts across DOT modal administrations and with other federal agencies;
  - Take into account the unique challenges of combating human trafficking within different transportation modes.
- Expands the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s outreach and education program and DOT’s commercial driver’s license financial assistance program to include activities for the recognition, prevention, and reporting of human trafficking.
- Directs DOT to establish an advisory committee on human trafficking, which shall:
  - Make recommendations on actions the DOT can take to help combat human trafficking; and
  - Develop recommended best practices for states and state/local transportation stakeholders in combating human trafficking.

The bill was supported by Truckers Against Trafficking, National District Attorneys Association, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, and ECPAT-USA.

Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Bill Nelson (D-FL), and John Thune (R-SD) were the original co-sponsors of the Senate bills, while U.S. Representatives Elizabeth Esty (D-CT-5) and John Katko (R-NY-24) were the original co-sponsors of the House versions of these bills

“Commercial drivers and truckers are often the first line of defense against human trafficking, yet they do not always have the tools necessary to help prevent these crimes. The passage of these two bills (S. 1532 & S. 1536) brings us one step closer to equipping and empowering our drivers to help prevent these heinous crimes we see too often in Minnesota and around the country.”

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)



“I’m proud that we were able to turn bipartisan proposals to protect Americans threatened by the horrible and inhumane crime of human trafficking into reality. Our truckers are our eyes and ears on the road, which is why they’re often the best positioned to see when trafficking activities are occurring and report them to the authorities.” U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty (D-CT-5)

(<http://brookfield.dailyvoice.com/politics/estys-second-bipartisan-anti-human-trafficking-bill-signed-into-law/730691/>)  
(<https://www.jjkeller.com/learn/news/012018/New-law-addresses-human-trafficking-on-the-roadways>)



Action

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline**  
**National Human Trafficking**  
**Resource Center**  
**1.888.3737.888**  
**Text "BeFree" (233733)**

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

**The Enough Project**  
<https://enoughproject.org/>

**Walk Free Foundation**  
<https://www.walkfreefoundation.org/>

**Open Democracy**  
 (A UK-Based Enterprise)  
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery>

## Take Action to End Human Trafficking

Ultimately, we are all part of the solution. Rather than look for quick fixes, we can all participate in creating lasting systemic and cultural change. What follows are suggestions for tackling various aspects of human trafficking.

### Help Close Illicit Massage Parlors

- Advocate for sound laws regulating massage businesses. Let elected officials know this matters to their constituents.
- Call out the press for exposing victims. Let newspaper reporters and editors know they should not publicize the names of women arrested for "prostitution" at massage parlors.
- Share what you know and shut down naive attitudes about massage parlors. We are all responsible for shifting our culture to one that treats human trafficking as a serious problem, not just another business.

Write legislators to urge them to pass the 'Trafficking Survivors Relief Act'.

Go to:

<https://act.polarisproject.org/page/7846/action/1>

The map to the right shows the areas from which calls regarding trafficking in illicit massage businesses (IMBs) came in to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline. Trafficking related to IMBs accounted for 2,949 cases — second in prevalence only to trafficking in escort services (<http://polarisproject.org/typology>).



### Take Action Against Conflict Minerals

Contact the ranked companies directly to let them know how their conflict minerals policies will impact your future purchasing habits!

Go to:

<https://enoughproject.org/demandthesupply>

Under the 'Take Action' section, click on the company logo to open a new window with a letter addressed to each ranked company.

### Get Truckers Involved

One of the *Truckers Against Trafficking's* (TAT) most effective strategies in the fight against human trafficking is the *Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement* model.

Given the remarkable success of this IA-MEV model, TAT provides technical assistance to interested states with a goal of full implementation of State-Based Initiatives (SBIs) on a national level. SBIs partner with government agencies, legislators, and law enforcement to disseminate TAT's educational materials through a variety of entry points in the trucking industry.

To find out where your state stands on implementing the IA MVE effort, go to:  
<http://www.truckersagainstrafficking.org/new-page/>

Watch the TAT 26-minute training video at:  
<http://www.truckersagainstrafficking.org>

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

To access back issues, go to:  
<http://www.stopenslavement.org/past-issues-chronological.html>  
 To contribute information, please contact:  
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