Trafficking: A Booming Business

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Trafficking is a Crime!

Illicit Tobacco Trafficking

Human Trafficking
By the end of this presentation, the participants will be able to:

• Describe Human Trafficking
• Describe Illicit Tobacco Trafficking
• Explain why Trafficking exists
• Identify resources to aid in the awareness and assist in the prevention of Trafficking

Human Trafficking

• Human trafficking is a hidden crime, and the first step to combating it is to identify victims so they can be rescued and help bring their perpetrators to justice.
• The Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) Blue Campaign has developed awareness and training materials to help increase awareness and educate on the indicators of human trafficking.
Concealment Methods

- Human trafficking is often “hidden in plain sight.”
- There are a number of red flags, or indicators, which can help alert you to human trafficking.
- Recognizing the signs is the first step in identifying victims.

Smuggling vs. Trafficking

- Human smuggling involves bringing (or attempting to bring) a person into a country in violation of immigration or other laws.
- Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person for sex or labor.
- Human trafficking does not require movement or transport across borders – the exploitation is what makes the person a victim.
Indicators of Human Trafficking

• Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
• Has a child stopped attending school?
• Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
• Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
• Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?

Indicators of Human Trafficking

• Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
• Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive? Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
• Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
• Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
**Indicators of Human Trafficking**

- Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
- Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?
- Not all indicators listed above are present in every human trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

**Victims**

Trafficking victims can be men or women, boys or girls, U.S. citizens or foreign nationals. Human trafficking can involve school-age youths, particularly those made vulnerable by unstable family situations, or who have little or no social support. The children at risk are not just high school students – studies show that the average age a child is trafficked into the commercial sex trade is between 11 and 14 years old.
Targeting

Traffickers may target young victims through social media websites, telephone chat-lines, and after-school programs, on the streets, at shopping malls, in clubs, or through other students who are used by the traffickers to recruit other victims.

In fact, a person can be trafficked without ever leaving his or her hometown.

Targeting

Child trafficking can take a variety of forms including commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution) or forced labor.

Those who recruit minors for the purpose of commercial sex are violating U.S. anti-trafficking laws, even if no force, fraud, or coercion was involved.
Virginia Cases

On January 4, 2013, an undocumented foreign national living in Maryland was sentenced in federal court for transporting more than 100 women from other states to engage in commercial sex in Virginia. The defendant took over leadership of a multi-state sex trafficking ring and “trained an employee where to drive the prostitutes, how to collect proceeds, and how to avoid law enforcement. He advertised the prostitution business by handing out business cards at Spanish restaurants, check cashing stores, construction sites and day laborer sites. Eventually, the proceeds of the operation were sent to the enterprise’s former leader in Mexico.”

An Arlington, VA resident...
pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Sex
Trafficking by Force, Fraud and Coercion on
November 19, 2013. The defendant admitted that
from May 2011 through July 2013, she was the
leader of a venture that prostituted women,
including undocumented foreign nationals, at
various hotels and motels in Northern Virginia. She
coerced some of the women to prostitute by
claiming that she had ties to U.S. immigration
agencies and that she could have the victims
removed from the United States if they refused.
The same Arlington, VA resident... coerced other women by claiming that she had ties with local law enforcement agencies and that the victims would be arrested if they did not perform commercial sex acts. One victim incurred a debt to the defendant who used a form of debt bondage to induce this victim to perform sex acts. The defendant also claimed to be affiliated with a criminal street gang and implicitly threatened victims with harm if they failed to comply with her demands.

On December 14, 2012, a 22-year-old man from Alexandria, Virginia was sentenced in federal court for his role in a gang-run juvenile prostitution ring. According to the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Eastern District of Virginia, the defendant became involved in juvenile sex trafficking through his membership in MS-13. MS-13 members prostituted the victim at various motels and apartments in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, and Falls Church. The victim was not permitted to leave the prostitution scheme, and MS-13 members plied her with drugs and alcohol to make her more compliant while her body was being exploited for profit.
In March 2012, the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Eastern District of Virginia announced the arrest of five alleged members of a Fairfax-based affiliate of the Crips for offenses related to underage sex trafficking. The group was accused of luring girls as young as 16 by approaching them at high schools, Metro stations, and on the street, as well as through social media such as Facebook. Once they were lured in, the girls were forced into prostitution through violence and drugs. The girls were from wealthy neighborhoods – they lived at home with their parents, they were not runaways.

Two men from Hampton and Newport News were convicted on charges stemming from obtaining money in exchange for sex acts performed by a 13-year old victim. The victim was transported to hotels in Hampton Roads to engage in prostitution. The defendants provided the victim with alcohol and illegal drugs, they then videotaped the victim engaging in sex acts. The defendants made fliers and posted additional advertisements on Backpage.com.
On November 23, 2011, two individuals were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of forcing two Indonesian women to work long hours at well below minimum wage as domestic servants in the defendants’ home. The defendants allegedly isolated the two women and paid them less than promised in their contracts – at times less than $400 per month, despite requiring long hours of work.

The defendants allegedly also imposed a number of rules on the women, such as prohibiting them from conversing in any language other than Arabic, prohibiting the women from speaking to the neighbors, and not permitting them to leave the property unless accompanied by a member of the defendants’ family. At least one of the victims was threatened with arrest and imprisonment if she left the house, and both victims were forced to engage in sexual conduct with one of the defendants. In addition, the defendants confiscated the workers’ passports.
Partnership:

• Trucking Industry

• Law Enforcement

• Public

You Can Make a Difference

• Truckers Against Trafficking recognizes that members of the trucking industry and individual truckers are invaluable in the fight against this heinous crime.

• As the eyes and ears of our nation's highways, you are in a unique position to make a difference and close loopholes to traffickers who seek to exploit our transportation system for their personal gain.

• www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org has been created to inform members of the trucking industry and other travelers of the basic issues involved in human trafficking and a summary of ways you can help. We invite you to travel through this website and learn how you can join this worthy cause and save lives.
Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT)

Our Mission
Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is a 501(c)3 that exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking and travel plaza industry to combat domestic sex trafficking.

TAT Goals
• Make the TAT training DVD, wallet cards (and other materials) a regular part of training/orientation for members of the trucking industry so that when they suspect human trafficking is taking place they can call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-3737-888 and report what they know.
• Partner with law enforcement to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking.
• Marshal the resources of the trucking industry to combat this crime.
Harriet Tubman Award Winners 2015 -- Kevin Kimmel
Con-way Truckload driver

• Con-way Truckload driver Kevin Kimmel from Tavares, Florida has been named the 2015 Harriet Tubman Award winner by Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) for his actions which saved a woman from torture and modern-day slavery.
Illicit Tobacco Trafficking

- Black Market
- Contraband
- Counterfeit
- Excise Tax
- Grey Market Goods
- Stamping Agent
- Tax Stamp
- Wholesaler

Highs and Lows of Excise Taxes

As of December 2014
- Chicago, IL $6.16
- NYC, NY $4.35
- TX $1.41
- VA $0.30
- MO $ 0.17
The Math

- 20 cigarettes = 1 pack
- 10 packs = 1 carton
- 60 cartons = 1 case
- 1 car = 10 cases: $20,000 profit
- 1 van = 50 cases: $100,000 profit
- 1 truck = 800 cases: $1.6M profit
- 1 shipping container (40’) = 1,000 cases: $2M profit

Average street sale price NYC/avoidance of excise taxes

Dirty Money

- In 2008-2009 Canadian Authorities discovered the Hells Angels financed and oversaw numerous tobacco manufacturing and smuggling operations between NY and Quebec.
- Dozens of arrests were made and the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) later discovered the cigarettes smuggling profits were being used to finance meth labs.
Organized Crime

- In 2005, 87 members of an Asian Organized Crime Group were arrested for distributing meth, trafficking approximately 800,000 cases of counterfeit cigarettes and conspiring to import antiaircraft missiles into the US.

Funding of Terrorism

- In 2002, a cell of the terrorist group Hezbollah had been trafficking cigarettes from North Carolina to Michigan and was sending the proceeds to the Middle East.
- It is estimated that they were buying 4,500 cartons/day, shipping them to Michigan, making about $13,000/van load profit and an average of 3 van loads/day.
- They were also involved in identity, credit and bank fraud, visa, marriage and immigration fraud.
The Real Cost......

• The illicit tobacco trade incites secondary criminal activity not associated with tobacco

• “It is a cycle of criminal activity that feeds on and breeds additional criminal activity”
  Bart McEntire, ATFE RA (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives Resident Agent in Charge)

What can I do......

• Contact your local Law Enforcement or Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

• If you are Law Enforcement, CONTRABANDTOBACCO.COM provides information, education and support
Contact Information

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
www.DMVnow.com

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