



Truckers banding together to fight human trafficking

By Allison Preston, Morning News Co-Anchor [CONNECT](#)
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Truck drivers, police and transportation officials across four states teamed up to take a stand against the growing problem of human trafficking in the U.S.

Leaders from Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota held the first ever coalition led by Truckers Against Trafficking, a group created in 2009 to raise awareness on human trafficking.

The coalition was filled with information on what to look for and stories of victims that have been rescued. They also provided training for bystanders to step in if they think someone is being trafficked.

Kendis Paris, Executive Director of Truckers Against Trafficking, said truck drivers are key to helping in the cause.

"The strategic role trucking can actually play as additional eyes and ears out there on our nation's highways and how they can work with truck stop members to put a dent in the business of trafficking."

So far, Truckers Against Trafficking has been involved in over 350 investigations involving around 650 trafficking victims.

"It's an issue that law enforcement can't battle alone," said Dave Lorenzen, Chief Motor Vehicle Enforcement for Iowa DOT. "The trucking industry, the truck stops, and the different resources that we have out there, it's all additional eyes and ears and together we can build a coalition to continue to combat human trafficking."

To learn more about the organization, visit truckersagainstrafficking.org.

Below are 11 tips for identifying sex trafficker behavior from the organization:

1. Gets jealous easily, seems controlling or becomes violent
2. Is significantly older than the person they are with
3. Promises things that seem too good to be true to get a person to travel with them
4. Encourages victims to engage in illegal activities
5. Suggests they can help a person make money
6. Buys expensive gifts for the victim
7. Is vague about their profession or relation to the victim
8. Gets pushy or demanding about sex
9. Wants to take suggestive photos of the victim
10. Makes the victim feel responsible for his/her financial stability
11. Openly discusses financial matters

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