

LOVE146

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

TRUCK STOPS

HOW TO TALK TO TRUCK STOP EMPLOYEES
ABOUT CHILD TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION





INTRODUCTION

If you're reading this packet, it means that you're ready to take action in your community to end child trafficking and exploitation. Please know that we are with you all the way!

The main goal of this Community Empowerment Initiative is to educate truck stop employees to become aware of the signs of trafficking. Because of their geographic isolation and insulation from other cities, truck stops are a convenient place for customers to purchase sex without being detected.

This packet equips you to talk to employees at truck stops about identifying and reporting potential situations of trafficking and exploitation. It contains detailed instructions, talking points, and additional resources.

While the provided resources can act as a template, it will still require some research and planning will help make this outreach specifically relevant to your community.

We highly suggest that you read through all of the instructions and resources together, and have an organized plan before starting. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, need more information, or just want a virtual high-five (action@love146.org).

Thank you for your tireless commitment to the work of Abolition!



OVERVIEW

Truck stops, state-operated rest areas, and welcome centers can often be sites where trafficking and exploitation are present. These locations are often insulated from local communities, making them convenient places for transient customers to purchase sex with minimal concerns of detection. Geographic isolation also makes it difficult for victims to leave their situations while allowing traffickers the ability to quickly and frequently move victims without interference or undue attention.

Unique Characteristics of Truck Stop Trafficking

- **Advertising:** Sex trafficking at truck stops has its own slang and unique means of communication. Pimps advertise their victims over CB radios using code, johns search online trucker boards for information about where to purchase prostitution, and johns signal that they want commercial sex using their headlights or stickers on their windows. Fake massage businesses at or near truck stops are commonly advertised on billboards or on signs at or near the truck stop.
- **Perpetration of related crimes:** Pimps sometimes demand that their victims steal wallets or other items from the truckers. Occasionally, while drivers are distracted by the commercial sex act, pimps steal cargo.
- **Transportation across state lines:** Often, especially if the victim is a minor, pimps require her to ask the john for a ride across state lines, so that the john, not the pimp, is in violation of the Mann Act. The Mann Act prohibits transportation across state lines for the purposes of prostitution.
- **Regional scope:** Typically, pimps will require their victims to engage in commercial sex at multiple truck stops. Individuals prostituted at truck stops are typically moved out of an area after two to three weeks, and may be moved through a dozen or more states.

Statistics Snapshot

- The availability of statistics is limited due to the crime's hidden nature and limited awareness by law enforcement and social service providers.
- In 2011, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) received 185 calls from callers who self-identified as truckers. Over 50% of those calls referenced human trafficking tips or crisis cases. The NHTRC also received reports about 79 unique cases of potential human trafficking at truck stops in 2011.
- Victims of pimp-controlled sex trafficking are commonly forced to meet quotas of \$500 to \$1,000 a night. Victims working a truck stop typically earn \$25 - \$100 per sex act. All earnings are confiscated by the pimp.

Common Terms Used at Truck Stops Referencing Commercial Sex

Term(s)	Meaning
Commercial company, company, date, bunk bunny, highway hostess, parking lot hostess, lot lizard, road ho, road Juliet, dress for sale, free ride, little bit, pavement princess, professional beaver, trick babe	Women or girls engaging in commercial sex at truck locations
Buffalo, lot lord, good buddy	Men or boys engaging in commercial sex (particularly with males)
Apartment, home twenty, home port	Trucker's cab or an actual physical location
Party row	Location where truckers park for commercial sex
Honey, green stamps, lettuce	Money or cost for commercial sex
Ears, ears on, got your ears on?, I'm all ears	Referring to CB radio
Nap trap, pickle park	Motel, or rest area
Truck stop hook up, beaver patrol	A sexual encounter and/or purchasing commercial sex
Truck stop Tommy	Individual providing drugs or other illegal services (prostitution)
Bear, black'n white, boy scouts, cub scouts, jack rabbit, Johnny Law	Law enforcement



THE LOGISTICS

Getting Started

- Look up information about trafficking in your neighborhood (e.g., do a Google News search, familiarize yourself with legislation, find out when the highest tourist seasons are)
- If there are any recent news articles about human trafficking cases that come up in your search, consider printing them out and including them inside the packet you provide the truck stop employee.
- Open the “Community Empowerment Initiative: Truck Stops” Packet Template and Cover Sheet, and update it. Throughout the packet, you will notice items that are highlighted in yellow; this indicates information that should be specific to you and your region in the template. Replace the highlighted items with information about your area.
- Have the Packet printed and bound.

Necessary Planning

- Gather a group of people and meet to run through logistics and look through the packet.
- Map out where truck stops are in your area. Is your neighborhood along a major interstate highway? Search www.truckstopguide.com for truck stop locations near you.
- Choose the locations that are most at risk based on location, proximity to certain businesses, reputation, etc., and give those first priority.
- Request National Trafficking Hotline posters from the Love146 Action Team (email action@love146.org with the subject line “Truck Stops Community Empowerment - Poster Request.” Include the number of posters you need—estimate about one per location—and the shipping address.)

Get Organized

- Split into groups of at least two people, and divide up the locations.
- Have practice conversations with the provided talking points (see next section).

Take Action

- Choose a day/multiple days for your group to come together for a final check-in and split up the packets and posters.
- Talk to your assigned employees at truck stop locations. (Don't forget to keep track of numbers—see "Data for Our Records.")
- Regroup as a whole team to share about your experiences and organize follow-up steps for the locations that were receptive to receiving further information/materials.

Share Your Experience

- Let us know how it went! Please email action@love146.org with updates on what you did and what the experience was like. We would love to hear from you and share your stories.

Data for Our Records

After you've gone out to the facilities in your area, send an email to admin@146taskforce.org with the numbers of how many people you reached. This will help us continue to find more effective methods of community empowerment.

- Names of truck stop locations you visited
- Number of truck stop employees you talked to
- Number of truck stop locations that agreed to post the Trafficking Hotline poster



SAMPLE PITCH / POTENTIAL TALKING POINTS

Here's an example of what you could say in your initial conversation with the manager of a Truck Stop Travel Plaza, or other business at each truck stop. We suggest you take turns role-playing potential conversations to feel comfortable with the information before you start visiting taxi company offices in your area.

"Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for an anti-trafficking non-profit organization called Love146. Is this a good time to talk? Could you direct me to the person I should talk to? I wanted to talk to you today about working with you to help identify trafficking victims and prevent potential situations of exploitation. We want to clarify that we're talking to you because previous cases of commercial sexual exploitation have occurred at truck stops across the US, not because we have any specific suspicions about your business.

"I have a packet for you that outlines overall information about sex trafficking, information about trafficking at truck stops, information on how to identify situations of trafficking, and instructions on what to do if you see something that concerns you.

"Included in this packet is a flyer with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number and guidelines on how to identify victims. Could you post this somewhere visible to all employees? Perhaps in the break-room or behind the front desk?

"Thank you so much for your time, please take some time to read through the packet and feel free to contact us with the information provided. Also, if you would like more posters or packets, we'll be happy to provide them for you."

Questions? Concerns?

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need more information! Email us: action@love146.org