

Team Virage Calls on Motorsport Fans to Join the “Race to End Human Trafficking”

Team Virage and Rob Hodes are racing in the Pro Am division of the European Le Mans Series and Michelin Le Mans Cup raising awareness for The Exodus Road.

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[/EINPresswire.com/](https://EINPresswire.com/) -- Days away from the 4 Hours of Imola race in Italy, Rob Hodes, an LMP3 driver joining the LMP2 ranks for the first time this year, is using his platform to raise awareness for the fight to end human trafficking around the world. Hodes

decided to donate his car’s advertising space to the anti-trafficking nonprofit, [The Exodus Road](https://www.theexodusroad.com/). After visiting Thailand several years ago and seeing children and young women on the streets being offered to tourists for sex, Hodes felt deeply disturbed, he said. He eventually connected with The Exodus Road in 2020.

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Laura Parker, the CEO and Co-founder of The Exodus Road

“Thinking about any human being, let alone a woman or child, being enslaved and violated crushes my soul,” Hodes said. His cousin found The Exodus Road online while helping him search for anti-trafficking nonprofits. The Exodus Road combats human trafficking in Thailand and five other countries through on-the-ground search and rescue with local police, training and education, and aftercare services for survivors.

After connecting with the organization’s founders, Hodes quickly became a financial supporter. And now, he is using

his racing platform to raise awareness for the movement. Team Virage has joined him.

“Awareness on all levels can only accelerate intolerance for human trafficking and lead to the freedom of victims,” Hodes said. “I’ve felt an urgency to do something to stop human trafficking



Team Virage and The Exodus Road team up to raise awareness in the fight to end human trafficking.

for a very long time, and I'm excited to help further the critical work of The Exodus Road."

"We are deeply grateful for the advocacy work of Team Virage this season. It's an innovative, exciting move to leverage a race car on the global stage on behalf of this issue," said Laura Parker, CEO of The Exodus Road. "The first step to fighting human trafficking is for people to understand it, and that's exactly what this type of project will push forward."



Team Virage is racing in the European Le Mans Series and the Michelin Le Mans Cup.

Hodes is racing as an LMP2 entry in the Pro/Am division of the [European Le Mans Series](#) (ELMS); LMP2 is the top class. He is racing with two other drivers, Gabriel Aubry and Jazeman Jaafar, for Team Virage. The second race in the series takes place on May 15 in Imola, Italy.

"The Exodus Road, Rob Hodes and Team Virage are at the birth of a brand-new kind of challenge," said Julien Gerbi, the team manager for Virage Racing Group. "We share common values of perseverance, discipline and the will to progress, and having the European Le Mans Series LMP2 car as a platform to promote the excellent work of The Exodus Road will certainly raise more awareness on the terrible human trafficking situation that all countries face today."

The European Le Mans Series features six races that take place in five different countries – France, Italy, Spain, Belgium and Portugal – from April to June. The races are live broadcasted on YouTube and Facebook. At the end of the ELMS title race, six invitations are awarded to drivers giving them the opportunity to enter in the 24 Hours of Le Mans, according to the ELMS Instagram page.

When asked why the racing community should care about this global crisis, Hodes said:

"Racing is the ultimate freedom. It is a high profile, high octane, fast-paced lifestyle fueled by creativity and resourcefulness that reaches communities around the world as we travel from track to track. It only makes sense that the racing community take a stand. Collectively, we have immense influence, resources and networks to fuel the end of this atrocity. I hope whenever someone sees the message on the Team Virage car, the speed of the car will symbolize an urgency to quickly free the most vulnerable of people trapped in the dark prison of human trafficking. If we choose to ignore the suffering of over 40 million victims – the majority of which are women and children – we devalue humanity as a whole."

The car not only features The Exodus Road logo and "Race to End Human Trafficking," it also

contains a QR code which leads directly to a page full of educational resources for visitors. Team Virage hopes that racing fans will visit the page, learn about the issue, and be inspired to take action to help make a free world.

Visit the Race to End Human Trafficking page [here](#). To learn more about Team Virage, visit their website at <https://virage.ws/>.

About The Exodus Road

The Exodus Road is a global nonprofit disrupting the darkness of modern-day slavery by partnering with law enforcement to fight human-trafficking crime, equipping communities to protect the vulnerable and empowering survivors as they walk into freedom. Working side-by-side with local staff, NGO partners and law enforcement around the world, The Exodus Road fights to liberate trafficked individuals, arrest traffickers and provide restorative care for survivors. Since its founding in 2012, the organization has assisted police in the rescue of more than 1560 survivors and the arrests of 870 offenders; numbers that grow almost daily. The Exodus Road's approach to freedom incorporates prevention and training efforts (TraffickWatch Academy), intervention (Search + Rescue) and aftercare (Beyond Rescue).

In September 2021, The Exodus Road launched TraffickWatch Academy: U.S., a free, online, multimedia training module that unpacks the complexities of human trafficking and educates viewers with methods for identifying signs of trafficking and how to intervene. The organization is also launching a similar training throughout Brazil designed specifically for law enforcement partners. In November, the nonprofit opened Freedom Home in Thailand to house survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The Exodus Road combats human trafficking in the U.S., Thailand, the Philippines, India, Brazil and in another Latin American country, undisclosed for security reasons.

For additional information or to make a donation to help stop trafficking, please visit The Exodus Road's website at <https://theexodusroad.com/>, and check them out on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

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