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Abbey Park High School Partners with [free-them] to
Bring Awareness to Human Trafficking in Canada

Oakville, ON – Oakville’s Abbey Park High School has partnered with anti-trafficking organization, [free-them] to bring awareness to the issue of human trafficking in Canada by hosting a Human Trafficking Awareness Week at Abbey Park High School from October 17 to October 21.

Abbey Park High School student, Anu Lalith Kumar discovered the issue of human trafficking when a neighbour asked her to put up posters for [free-them]. She brought the issue to her fellow social change council members who got on board with, Human Trafficking Awareness Week.

There will be a number of activities during Human Trafficking Awareness Week. From October 17 to October 19, [free-them] committee members will be at the school to educate students on the issue of human trafficking and how they can get involved in the cause. On October 20, Abbey Park’s social change council will host a movie night. There will be a speaking engagement with committee members from [free-them], including [free-them] founder Shae Invidiata, followed by a presentation of the movie, “Taken” starring Liam Neeson. The week will close with, “Purple Day” on October 21. Purple, has been chosen because it symbolizes freedom. All students will be encouraged to wear purple on this day.

“Bringing human trafficking to an end is at its beginning stages,” said Founder of [free-them] Shae Invidiata. “It’s the world’s fastest growing crime, yet it’s also the world’s best kept secret. Our generation will bring awareness to this issue, but it is today’s youth who will be the leaders of tomorrow and bring human trafficking to an end. That is why, we at [free-them] are pleased to support the youth at Abbey Park High School. Their initiative and passion for social change is something to be admired.”

Interview opportunities will be made available.

ABOUT SHAE INVIDIATA AND [FREE-THEM]:

[free-them] was officially founded in 2010, by Founder and Human Rights activist Shae Invidiata, [free-them] is an initiative to partner with people, organizations, & businesses to fight human trafficking -- the modern slave trade. For the past eight years, Shae has been fighting the epidemic of Human Trafficking in Canada and around the world. [free-them] is dedicated to raising awareness and funds to abolish global human trafficking. [free-them] has lead and organized different events all over Toronto and the GTA, such as the panel Buying Sex Is Not A Sport at The University of Toronto to premiering and bringing the film Call+Response to Toronto, to seeing Criminal Codes amended. [free-them] played a strong role to see MP Joy Smith's Bill C-268 (a minimum mandatory sentence of 5 years for traffickers caught trafficking minors in Canada) amend the Criminal Code in Canada, Bill C-268 received Royal Assent in June 2010. Invidiata has sat on round table discussions for MPP Kevin Flynn in the efforts to create new policies that were brought before the Legislators in June 2011. October 3, 2011 MP Terence Young gave his Members Statement-S031- in the House of Commons to recognize the work of Shae Invidiata and her efforts with [free-them] to combat human trafficking. Invidiata and [free-them] have appeared on and been interviewed by many different media sources, including but not limited to, The Toronto Star, Much Music, CTV, CP24 News, The Morning Live Show CHCH News, The Daily Show Rogers TV, 106 The "X", The Drew Marshall Show Joy 1280, Metro News, Inside Halton, SNAP Toronto, and SNAP Oakville. Most recently Invidiata has been nominated by Canadian Women's Fashion Magazine Chatelaine as a Top 20 Finalist for "Canada's Women of the Year 2011" for her work and dedication to fight human trafficking and raise up others to join in the worthy fight. For more information about [free-them] and their ongoing efforts please visit their website at www.freethem.ca . For additional information about Invidiata's Chatelaine nomination, please visit www.chatelaine.com/womenoftheyear

ABOUT ABBEY PARK HIGH SCHOOL AND ITS SOCIAL CHANGE COUNCIL:

Abbey Park High is located in Oakville, Ontario and runs from grade 9 to grade 12. It is recognized as a charitable school. Students and staff participate in several annual fundraisers which include the "Terry Fox Run" and "Pencils for Kids". The Social Change Council at Abbey Park is a council that focuses on doing charitable work and fundraising for local and global foundations. Events include a fundraiser named "Piggy-For-Poverty" which raises funds for Abbey Park's two sponsor children, a "Prom Blitz Dress Drive" which encourages students to donate formal dresses to girls in Ontario that cannot afford to buy a prom or graduation dress, the TD shoreline clean-up and more.

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