

Media Advisory

[free-them]

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Toronto Loft Party Exposes Human Trafficking in Canada

Toronto, ON May 9, 2012 - Today, anti-human trafficking organization [free-them] announces the inaugural [free-them] Loft Party to raise funds for the rescue of victims of human trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour in Canada. The event is hosted by Toronto-based lawyers Michael Kutner and Brian Sweigman.

“Brian Sweigman and I are always looking for great causes to support,” said Michael Kutner, Associate, Fogler, Rubinoff LLP and [free-them] Loft Party host. “When we heard about what [free-them] is doing to combat human trafficking in Canada and around the world, we couldn’t think of any cause more worthy of our time and efforts.”

[free-them] proudly invites you to attend:

What: Inaugural Free-Them Loft Party Presented by Loft404

Where: 263 Adelaide St., W. in Toronto

When: May 25, 2013 at 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

“Human trafficking is one of the world’s darkest secrets,” said [free-them] founder, Shae Invidiata. “Bringing awareness to this crime and explaining exactly how it is happening in Canada is vital to ensuring the safety of our citizens. Michael Kutner and Brian Sweigman are taking a stand against human trafficking while hosting the [free-them] Loft Party which will enable our frontline partners, Walk With Me to rescue victims of human trafficking here in Canada.”

Toronto’s premier house music trio: Walmer House Mafia will be headlining the event. DJ duo Five to 9 will be opening the party.

Sponsors include: Loft404, Smokes Pouterie, North of Brooklyn Pizzeria, Tequila Tromba, Junction Craft Brewing, Uber, Product Toronto, Socking Behaviour and Rock Lobster

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About Shae Invidiata and [free-them]

Invidiata moved to the United States at 18 to pursue a degree in Advertising at Hawaii Pacific University, which is where her journey began in her fight against human trafficking. Seven years later, with an associates in Marketing from HPU and a BA in Religious Studies from The University of British Columbia, Invidiata works full-time as a Sales Representative at The Invidiata Team - #1 REMAX Team in Canada, and #1 RE/MAX Team Worldwide 2012. In January 2010, Invidiata officially founded [free-them], an initiative dedicated to raising awareness and funds to abolish human trafficking in Canada and abroad by partnering with people, organizations, & businesses to fight human trafficking - slavery today. Invidiata regularly speaks at different high schools, professional groups and events to educate and bring awareness and action to fighting human trafficking.

[free-them] regularly speaks a high schools, universities, faith groups, and conferences, and has led many events all over Toronto and the GTA, including our 3rd Annual Freedom Walk in Toronto every September. [free-them] is a Stakeholder to both MP Joy Smith's Private Members Bill C-268 and Bill C-310. With much work both Bills received Royal Assent and amended the Criminal Code in June 2010 and June 2012. [free-them] is a Stakeholder to the Federal Government's National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, which was adopted June 6, 2012. Invidiata with [free-them] is one of the founding Coalition members to forming the first Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. On October 3, 2011 MP Terence Young gave his Members Statement-SO31- in the House of Commons to recognize the work of Shae Invidiata and her efforts with [free-them] to combat human trafficking.

Fifteen months after proposing a 40-page proposal for an Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking to the Toronto Mayor's Office and City of Council, with continuous work throughout the year, we now have the first Human Trafficking report that was brought before Executive Committee on February 5th of this year. [free-them] continues to lead as a Stakeholder in this report to see a Slave Free Toronto. Invidiata and [free-them] have appeared on and been interviewed by many different media sources, including but not limited to, the Toronto Star, GlobalTV, CTV, CityNews, CP24 News, the Toronto Sun, The Morning Live Show CHCH News, MetroMorning, CBC Radio, Metro News, Inside Halton, Cogeco and Rogers TV.

Invidiata was a nominee for 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. Invidiata was recognized with the YMCA Peace Medallion 2011. In June 2012, Invidiata was a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, being recognized for her dedication and service to citizens of Canada. Most recently, [free-them] was awarded the National Freedom Award in October 2012, being recognized as one of Canada's Heros for the work [free-them] has done to combat human trafficking in Canada.

About Brian Sweigman and Michael Kutner

Brian is a lawyer with Goldstein, Rosen & Rassos LLP. Sweigman completed his undergraduate studies at the Wilfrid Laurier University before completing both an American JD and Canadian LLB at the University of Detroit Mercy and University of Windsor. Sweigman's community involvement includes the Windsor Law Charity Basketball Tournament, which was co-founded with Michael Kutner and raised money for the Windsor Food Bank. Michael Kutner is a lawyer with Fogler, Rubinoff LLP. Kutner completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Western Ontario before completing both an American JD and Canadian LLB at the University of Detroit Mercy and University of Windsor. Kutner co-founded (with Brian Sweigman) the Windsor Law Charity Basketball Tournament which raised funds for the Windsor Food Bank.