

MEDIA ADVISORY

[free-them]

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Celebrities, Politicians and the RCMP Constables Who Brought Down Largest Human Trafficking Ring in Canadian History to Walk for Freedom

Toronto, ON Sept. 7, 2012 - Today, anti-human trafficking organization [free-them] invites you to attend the 3rd Annual [free-them] Walk for Freedom presented by The Fairmont Royal York. [free-them] is an initiative dedicated to raising awareness and funds to abolish human trafficking for purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation in Canada and internationally. The walk is an annual event that raises funds for victim rescue and support services here in Canada.

What: 3rd Annual [free-them] Freedom Walk Presented by The Fairmont Royal York

When: Sept. 15 2012

Time: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Where: The Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West in downtown Toronto

Who: Interviews with the following event speakers and honoured attendees will be made available by request:

[free-them] founder and Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient, Shae Invidiata

Founder, Walk With Me Canada and human trafficking survivor, Timea Nagy

Human trafficking survivor and front line worker, Katarina MacLeod

RCMP Constable, Lepa Jankovic, who brought down the largest human trafficking ring in Canadian history: Project O'Papa

Member of Parliament, Joy Smith, who is Canada's leading politician fighting human trafficking

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This year's event will be attended by public figures, members of parliament, law enforcement, celebrities, human trafficking survivors and concerned citizens. Television producer and host of *Bollywood Boulevard* on OMNI Television, Veronica Chail, producer of Cityline, Kate Moore and writer, producer and host of Citytv and OMNI television, Pay Chen are among the notable names set to show their support for freedom at the annual walk.

Also, in attendance will be RCMP Constable, Lepa Jankovic who made history when bringing down Canada's largest human trafficking ring in Hamilton, Ontario. The case titled, Project O'Papa led to the arrests of Ferenc Domotor and several of his family members who lured Hungarians into Canada for forced labour. Timea Nagy of Walk With Me Canada provided support to over 20 victims of the Domotor human trafficking ring.

Ms. Nagy is a human trafficking survivor who was trafficked from Hungary into Canada in 1998. Today, Ms. Nagy rescues human trafficking victims and provides them with aftercare support through her organization. She also educates the public and law enforcement on the world's fastest growing crime, human trafficking. For more information visit, www.walk-with-me.org

Notable speakers will include Member of Parliament Joy Smith. Mrs. Smith has been recognized as one of Canada's leading anti-human trafficking activists. She has led the discussion of human trafficking at a national level which has resulted in her two Private Members Bills amending the Criminal Code in Canada.



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 fulltime as a Sales Representative at The Invidiata Team - #1 REMAX Team in Canada, and #2 RE/MAX Team Worldwide 2010.

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, law enforcement and government to fight human trafficking - slavery today. Invidiata regularly speaks at different high schools, professional groups, public events and speaks with the media to educate, bring awareness, and action to fight human trafficking. [free-them] has lead and organized different events all over Toronto and the GTA, such as paneled discussions at The University of Toronto, premiering and bringing the film Call+Response to Toronto, hosting the 2nd Annual Freedom Walk in Toronto, to seeing Criminal Codes amended.

Invidiata with [free-them] was a Stakeholder in MP Joy Smith's Private Members Bills C-268, and C-310 of which both received Royal Assent and amended the Criminal Code in Canada, June 2010, and June 2012. On June 6, 2012, the Government of Canada launched the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking which stemmed from MP Joy Smith's proposal for a National Action Plan that she released in 2010 entitled *Connecting the Dots*, Invidiata with [free-them] was a Stakeholder for this proposal as well. Invidiata has sat on round table discussions for MPP Kevin Flynn in the efforts to create new policies that were brought before the Legislator in June 2011.

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-S031- in the House of Commons to recognize the work of 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", Actor Eric Balfour "Balfour Yard Blog", Notable.ca, The Drew Marshall Show Joy 1280, Metro News, Inside Halton, SNAP Toronto, and SNAP Oakville.

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. Most recent Invidiata was a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, being recognized for her dedication and service to citizens of Canada.

For more information about [free-them] and their ongoing efforts please visit freethem.ca
For more information about MP Joy Smith and her work please visit joysmith.ca