

PRESS RELEASE

Monday, August 18, 2014

For Immediate Release

**ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION BRINGS
FREEDOM WALK TO COUNTRY'S CAPITAL**

Ottawa, ON. (Monday, August 18, 2014): One country, two cities, one purpose: end human trafficking across Canada.

[free-them], one of Canada's leading anti-human trafficking organizations celebrates the 5th year of its annual [free-them] Freedom Walk, a four kilometre walk dedicated to raising funds and awareness for fighting human trafficking in Canada. To celebrate the milestone, [free-them] launched the [free-them] Ottawa Freedom Walk, an identical walk taking place in Canada's capital on Saturday, September 27, 2014 at the same time as Toronto's flagship walk.

"This year, our movement has expanded to Ottawa where an inaugural [free-them] walk is taking place alongside the Toronto walk on Saturday, September 27, 2014," says Shae Invidiata, Founder, [free-them]. "The walks in both cities will unite survivors, law enforcement, politicians and civilians in coming together to take a stand against human trafficking."

Approximately 1,500 people from all over Canada will be joining the walk this year, including national law enforcement, political figures, and notable names in media, film and government.

Some expected notable guests for this year include:

Sex Trafficking Survivor, Timea Nagy
Minister of Public Safety, Stephen Blaney
Member of Parliament, Terence Young
Member of Parliament, Joy Smith
Toronto City Councilors
Ottawa City Councilors
Ottawa Police Detective, Carolyn Botting
The Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Ontario Provincial Police
Canada Border Service Agency

Toronto Regional Police
Niagara Regional Police
Halton Regional Police
Peel Regional Police
Ancaster Police
Toronto Crime Stoppers
OMNI Host, Veronica Chail
CityLine Producer, Kate Moore
Sex Trade Survivor, Katarina MacLeod
Human Trafficking Survivor, Simone Bell

"There are over 29 million people in global slavery today with 80% of victims being women and children. 70% are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation," comments Invidiata. "In Canada, the average age of entry is 13 years old, which means children at even younger ages are being coerced and forced into slavery across the nation."

"Since our last walk in 2013, we've seen a dramatic increase in the amount of reported human trafficking cases, arrests and convictions across Canada," says Invidiata. "Awareness about this horrific crime is critical to combat it and we are thrilled that people have begun the dialogue. We want to bring as many people together to talk about the topic and find ways to fight human trafficking in our country."

The annual [free-them] Freedom Walk will take place on Saturday, September 27, 2014 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in downtown Toronto and The Ottawa Convention Centre in downtown Ottawa.

During the opening ceremonies, registrants will enjoy breakfast, guest speakers and a kid-zone prepared with fun activities for children.

Registration for the walk is now open at www.freethemwalk.ca. For those wanting to join the purple wave, [free-them] t-shirts will also be available for purchase at the event, and will be free to those who raise \$100 or more.

For more information or to register for the 5th Annual Freedom Walk, please log on to www.freethemwalkottawa.ca.

About [free-them]:

[free-them] is a volunteer-based initiative dedicated to raising awareness and funds to abolish human trafficking in Canada and abroad. Founded in January 2010, [free-them] is committed to partnering with business, government and law enforcement to fight human trafficking (slavery today) through awareness, education, legislation and fundraising for front line organizations. For more information please log on to www.freethem.ca.

Facebook: freethemnow

twitter: @free_them

Instagram: @free_them_

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