



## PRESS RELEASE

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### *For Immediate Release*

## **ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION BELIEVES SEX SLAVERY AND EXPLOITATION WILL THRIVE IN CANADA WITHOUT BILL C-36**

**Toronto, ON (Wednesday, June 11, 2014):** The second reading of Bill C-36 enters Parliament this Thursday, but with a focus on pro-legalization of prostitution, anti-human trafficking organization [free-them] believes citizens are supporting sex slavery without realizing it.

Bill C-36 is the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*. It fights against the legalization of prostitution and offers exploited women and children an exit strategy while helping victims integrate back into society and holding the exploiters (buyers and sellers) accountable.

While Bill C-36 is the first Bill that cracks down and criminalizes demand of prostitution in lieu of supply, [free-them] feels citizens are focusing on legalization and not recognizing that the vast majority in prostitution are not there by choice but enslaved in a life of exploitation. The focus should be on the legislation that offers the most freedom.

"We are focused on trying to make a dangerous and degrading line of work less dangerous. It is time for Canada and its citizens to address the root problems of prostitution and take a stand to say that prostitution should not be a conceivable option in this country," says Shae Invidiata, Founder, [free-them]. "Women and children should never be subject to the demands of men who pay to have access 'and the right' to exploit a female body."

Invidiata and [free-them] are not the only ones who feel that Bill C-36 is a necessary step in the right direction, but can have detrimental consequences should prostitution be a legalized profession.

"As an ex-prostitute who spent 15 years being raped and degraded daily, I had no resources and no help," comments Katarina MacLeod, former sex trade worker. "Woman who are trapped in the 'sex trade' do so out of desperation, poverty, drug addiction, lack of education and coercion."

[free-them], along with MacLeod, strongly believe that a majority of those in the sex trade are not in it by choice. According to the group and MacLeod, the legalization of prostitution will only endorse the continual exploitation of women and children in the sex trade industry.

"Citizens of Canada need to stand up to support the first piece of legislation that offers women and young girls compassion, and empowers law enforcement to rescue and support victims of



exploitation and human trafficking," adds Invidiata. "If this Bill is not passed it will be the destruction of this country and its next generations."

***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 businesses, government and law enforcement to fight human trafficking (slavery today) through awareness, education, legislation and fundraising for front line organizations. For more information about [free-them], please log on to [www.freethem.ca](http://www.freethem.ca).*

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