



For Immediate Release

Justice Minister Introduces Parliament's Response to Prostitution Ruling

Toronto, ON (Friday, June 6, 2014) - In response to the Supreme Court of Canada's direction to change Canada's prostitution laws, Parliament tabled Bill C-36 on June 5, 2014. Justice Minister Peter MacKay called it a "unique Canadian model" which addresses constitutional concerns that arose from the Bedford decision.

Bill C-36, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act is aimed at striking a balance between full criminalization and full legalization of prostitution.

"There will always be an inherent danger in this degrading activity," says MacKay, "International studies have shown that full decriminalization and legalization ultimately results in higher rates of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. This is not what the clear majority of Canadians want."

Specifically, the Bill is aimed at criminalizing the following:

- Sex purchasers;
- Pimps and exploiters; and,
- Communication for the purpose of selling sexual services in public places where a child could reasonably be expected to be present

MacKay recognized the vast majority of sex sellers are not in the trade by choice, and accordingly the government will be providing \$20 million to assist those looking to exit prostitution.

"Today is a historic day for Canada. Bill C-36 is firmly telling pimps, traffickers and johns that Canada will not tolerate our women and children being bought and sold like commodities, and the abuse and exploitation needs to end." Says Shae Invidiata, [free-them] founder, "This is the first time in Canadian history the demand for paid sex is being criminalized. Now victims of human trafficking who want escape from the sex trade have a legislation to aid their exit and enable their freedom."

Invidiata continues, "There are still parts of Bill C-36 that need to be addressed and worked on, but this is the strongest action the Canadian government has taken to protect and end human trafficking in Canada. I am proud of the Harper Government for their diligence and efforts to insure implementation of the legislation that will help to protect, rescue and restore victims of human trafficking, and the decision to prosecute the exploiters and crack down on the purchasers of sex who by their demand keep these girls enslaved."

[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 or follow them on twitter @free_them.

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To book an interview with Shae Indvidiata, Founder of [free-them] please contact:

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