



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

TORONTO RESIDENTS DEBATE PROSTITUTION LEGISLATION IN CANADA

Toronto, ON. (Wednesday, May 14, 2014): One of Canada's leading anti-human trafficking groups [free-them] held an open forum prostitution debate this past week where over 50 attendees between 19 and 65 spoke about their opinions of Canada's pending prostitution laws.

Having taken place on Monday, May 12, 2014, the debate involved parties of the opposition and supporters who discussed legalizing or criminalizing actions of pimps and sex purchasers and the consequences of both.

Heated and intense at times, the majority of attendees were pro-criminalization. These participants expressed their desire for a "Canadian version" of the Nordic Model.

Former sex worker, Katarina MacLeod shared her past experiences with "brothels with security" as "unsafe arguing that "police would come around to check for underage prostitutes and owners would hide these children until the police left."

The debate was prompted by parliament's December deadline to pass legislation on prostitution laws in Canada. With many different views over how to proceed, there has never been a more important time than now to examine, debate and discuss the impact of the legislation.

"This is a historical moment in Canada," says Shae Invidiata, founder, [free-them]. "Our country is at a crossroads and awaiting our government's response on how to address and respond to prostitution and exploitation in Canada. The open forum this week was our way to promote conversation on legislation that will affect the lives of Canadians."

A recording of the open house debate will be transcribed and sent to parliament for review.

[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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For media requests or to book an interview with Shae Invidiata or Katarina at [free-them] please contact:

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