

Media contact for interviews or photo ops:

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MEDIA RELEASE

Attention: Assignment Desk, Listings, City Writers, Business Writers

For Immediate Release:

Ottawa, Canada

Ottawa marches to “STOP THE TRAFFICKING!”

National Freedom Relay set for Saturday, September 14th

September 14, 2013 Ottawa, Canada – Slavery did not end in 1865! Human Trafficking, as we now call it, is the fastest growing crime on our planet today. More people live in slavery now than at any time in history. It is a 32-Billion Dollar industry that feeds off greed and profound human misery.

Chrysalis Anti-Human Trafficking Network and Stop The Traffik, Canada, in collaboration with NGO's across the country will host their third annual Ottawa Freedom Relay on Saturday September 14, 2013 starting at the Human Rights Monument on Elgin St. from 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. to raise awareness about human trafficking and how to end it

This year's 5K walk will build on the success of last year's walk, which raised money for the cause of abolition, and attracted more than thousands of participants across the country. The peaceful walk is expected to be the largest anti-human trafficking event in Ottawa's history.

Human Trafficking victims are sexually exploited, forced to work as unpaid labour and suffer unimaginable psychological, physical and spiritual abuse.

And it's happening here! Canada is a source, transit point and destination for victims of human trafficking. But we can fight back. A concerted effort is underway to unite Canadians and organizations in putting an end to the misery, fear and destruction of human lives caused by this terrible crime.

“The solution to human trafficking begins with all of us, in our communities,” says Danielle Strickland of Stop the Traffik. “By participating in this national freedom relay, Canadians are saying: ‘We will not accept this outrage!’”

“It is about unlocking the chains – and the keys are awareness, support for victims, legislation and law enforcement,” says Jacqueline Linder, Executive Director of Chrysalis. “This event is creating a network to bring these pieces together, and to bring ordinary Canadians into the fight.”

The relay is a series of locally organized events united by common purpose. In Ottawa, PACT – Persons Against the Crime of Human Trafficking is leading the event for the third year.

Make a statement. Take a stand. Make it stop!

PACT Ottawa is pleased to invite to you to attend:

What: 3rd annual 5km Ottawa Freedom Relay (freedomrelaycanada.com) to raise awareness about human trafficking and how to end it.

When: Saturday, September 14th (8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.).

Where: Start Location: Human Rights Monument (Lisgar & Elgin); End Location: Minto Park

Registration: \$30/person or \$100/team at www.freedomrelayottawa.com

Prizes will be awarded to the most money raised by participants

For more information, please visit, www.freedomrelayottawa.com

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PACT-Ottawa is a non-partisan, secular organization whose membership includes professional educators, public servants, social service practitioners, members of faith groups and students, dedicated to the eradication of modern day slavery in all its forms. PACT-Ottawa is a member of the Canadian Council for Refugees, the Chrysalis Anti-human Trafficking Network, the Coalition for an Ontario Task Force and the Committee Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children, and was honoured as a Community Safety Awards finalist by Crime Prevention Ottawa in 2012.

The Chrysalis Network is a national organization that provides free, confidential trauma counselling service to women and men who have been trafficked and exploited for the purposes of commercial sex and forced labour.

STOP THE TRAFFIK is a global movement of individuals, communities and organizations fighting to prevent the sale of people, protect the trafficked and prosecute the traffickers. It has more than 1000 members in fifty countries and tens of thousands of activists all over the world