



Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2011

STOP BACKPAGE.COM PROTEST

VANCOUVER – Today, November 16th 2011, Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter will be holding a protest against BACKPAGE.COM.

The protest will be at 5:00pm at the corner of Granville St. and Georgia St. Vancouver, B.C.

This action is in conjunction with the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) and Prostitution Education and Research protest at the same time that will be held in New York in front of the Village Voice Media building for its facilitation of sex trafficking through its website backpage.com.

A large portion of Village Voice Media's profits arise from its facilitation of sex trafficking. Village Voice Media mainstreams online pimping, buying, and selling of women for the explicit purpose of prostitution.

Backpages.com facilitated by Village Voice Media is providing a virtual red light district for traffickers, pimps and johns. In this manner, Village Voice Media is aiding and abetting human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and directly profiting off the buying and selling of women's bodies." said Lisa Steacy a Collective Member with Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter.

Human trafficking of women and girls is fueled by the male demand for prostitution along with the anonymity and impunity of buyers that websites like backpage.com provide. Between 700,000 to 4,000,000 people a year are affected by human trafficking — the vast majority of people who are trafficked are women and children, and 92% of victims are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. (Status of Women Canada).

- **It is estimated that trafficking in persons is a ten billion dollar operation annually.**
(CATW)
- **The average age of entry into prostitution in Canada is 12-14 years old.**
(Prostitution and Trafficking in nine countries: Melissa Farley)
- **Over 80% of women suffer physical violence from pimps and buyers.**
(Sex Trafficking of Women in the United States: Links between International and Domestic Sex Industries)
- **92% of women in prostitution said they would leave prostitution immediately if they could.**
(Prostitution of Indigenous Women: Sex inequality and the colonization of Canada's First Nations Women Melissa Farley, Jacqueline Lynne)
- **Prostitution is a form of MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.**
(VRRWS)

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