

PERPETUATING MYTHS, DENYING JUSTICE: COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO BARBARIC CULTURAL PRACTICES ACT

November 18, 2014

TORONTO – Violence against women activists and community legal experts will respond to the Government of Canada’s introduction of the ***Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act (Bill S-7)***.

The Act will introduce sweeping changes to Canada’s *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)*, *Civil Marriage Act* and *Criminal Code*. The government’s statements in support of these changes are not based on any statistical data or research, perpetuate myths about practices of polygamy and forced marriages, and lead Canadians to believe that violence against women is a “cultural” issue that happens only in certain communities.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 19th – 9 am to 10 am

WHERE: Ryerson University, Thomas Lounge
55 Gould St.
Toronto

WHAT: Press conference with violence against women and community legal experts, as well as a short performance by family violence advocates and survivors.

WHO: Avvy Go – Clinic Director: *Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian legal Clinic*
Harmy Mendoza – Executive Director: *Woman Abuse Council of Toronto*
Deepa Mattoo – Executive Director: *South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario*
Audrey Huntley
Farrah Khan – Counselor: *Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic/Coordinator: Outburst! Young Muslim Women Project*
Laverne Blake – Manager of Client Services: *Ernestine’s Women’s Shelter*

From Twitter conversations #beenrapedneverreported, to Parliament, to work environments, there has been a spotlight in Canada on issues of violence against women. The clear message is that we must listen to survivors, and this Barbaric Act proves the Government of Canada is not listening.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario www.salc.on.ca
Metro Toronto Chinese Community Legal Clinic www.mtcsalc.org
Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic www.schliferclinic.com
Woman Abuse Council of Toronto www.womanabuse.ca
Heartbeats: The IZZAT Project www.heartbeatstheizzatproject.com

MEDIA CONTACT

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