

## Timea Nagy (ZC Kitchener-Waterloo)



Timea Nagy is a human trafficking survivor and the founder of Walk With Me Canada Victim Services. Walk With Me Victim Services works with victims of human trafficking and provides counselling and a safe environment. In 2014, she closed down this agency due to ongoing financial struggles. Timea was determined to find a way to continue teaching the public and helping survivors. She realized that moving from a non-profit agency to a for-profit organization that implemented a social enterprise model would allow her to do so. Timea's Cause Inc was born in October 2014. Timea now offers training, public speaking, events, and manuals for purchase in raising awareness of how to combat human trafficking.

Nagy, born in Budapest, Hungary, came to Canada when she was 20, answering an advertisement in the newspaper for temporary domestic work. Once Nagy arrived in Canada, she found herself in the centre of an operation run by both Hungarians and Canadians, working in Toronto's sex trade to pay off a debt to her traffickers that didn't exist. She returned to Hungary after three months, having escaped with the help of employees of the strip club she worked in.

Faced with a disbelieving and angry family at home in Hungary, Nagy returned to Canada. There she found an ally – the police officer who believed her story, leading to the indictment of the men who had trafficked her.

Ten years later, Nagy attended a publishing symposium in New York, where she told her story publicly for the first time. This presentation, heard by a former FBI agent, led to Nagy working with local and national police services in the United States and Canada. As sergeant David Hartless, OPP instructor says "Timea is the "face" of Human Trafficking in Canada, however, she is truly much more than that. This woman has been instrumental in the changing of a nation in how Canada views Human Trafficking, her commitment and passion to her work cannot be measured".

She has written two books. The first was called "Memoirs of a Sex Slave" 2010 and her second book is now available for preorder and is called "Out of the Shadows: A Memoir".

Timea currently lives in Cambridge and along with releasing her 2<sup>nd</sup> book, she has created a business to employ survivors making beautiful spa products. She has been known to drive almost anywhere to help a survivor leave her current situation.

Nagy has received many awards and honours for her dedication to victim services, including the Prime Minister's Volunteer Award for Emerging Leader (2012), the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012), Frederick Douglas Award (2012), National Hero Award (2011), as well as Outstanding Victim Services Awards (2011, 2010).

Timea has gone from slave to survivor to saviour. She helps women every day and her mission as stated on [www.timeascause.com](http://www.timeascause.com) "is to educate and unite the community while creating sustainable funding for several rehabilitation initiatives for victims of sex slavery across Canada". She is truly deserving of a Zonta Centennial Award.