



Cheryl Perera is an accomplished children's rights activist, a captivating speaker and the Founder and President of OneChild, the premiere organization empowering a movement of children and youth taking action against child sex slavery. Her extraordinary contributions to protect children, and her high innovation, achievement, and leadership have earned her honors such as the World of Children Founder's Award, the BRICK Award in the Global Impact category and distinguished her as one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100, and Canada's Top 20 Under 20.

Cheryl became socially involved at age 16, after reading about the exploitation of children, for a high school project. What she read filled her with anger, determination and resolve. Eager to take action, she traveled to her native country Sri Lanka in 2002, to investigate the exploitation of children. Wanting to get an insider's look into the child sex industry, she participated in a treacherous STING operation, as the "decoy" the main role of a 15 year-old child prostitute, that led to the successful apprehension of a 40 year-old child sex offender. There was extreme physical danger in this risky mission, and it required a very high degree of heroism, and self- sacrifice. Her breadth of knowledge and bravery attracted the attention of dignitaries, and she was recognized by the Sri Lankan Government, having been offered a placement of one year at the Presidential Secretariat to serve as the President's Nominee on Child Protection, at the age of 17.

These experiences led her to begin a unique education-driven initiative to mobilize the Canadian Travel and Tourism Industry to take a stand against child sex tourism. What began as a one-child initiative grew to involve hundreds of Canadian...

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Speech Topics

- Youth
- Women's Issues
- Women in Business
- Family
- Change

