MARSHALL LAW

181 University Ave, Suite 2200
Toronto, ON M5H 3M7

Kathryn Marshall
T: 416-546-1940
E: kmarshall@marshalllaw.ca

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PRESS RELEASE

Survivors of Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence File Landmark Charter Lawsuit Against Federal Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA, ON - Today, a group of brave survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence (IPV) announced the launch of a landmark Charter lawsuit against the Government of Canada. The plaintiffs allege that systemic failures by the federal government, particularly since the Supreme Court's 2016 *R v. Jordan* decision, have caused severe injustice and left dangerous offenders on the streets.

The *Jordan* decision, intended to protect defendants' rights to timely trials, has inadvertently led to the dismissal or staying of hundreds of sexual assault and IPV charges due to court backlogs and inadequate funding. These systemic delays have denied justice to victims and jeopardized public safety. A staggering half of the cases in Canada's criminal justice system are related to sexual assault or IPV, with only 5% of SA cases resulting in a conviction, and 30% of IPV cases being stayed because of the *Jordan* decision.

The 14 plaintiffs seek declarations that their Charter rights have been violated and demand immediate and systemic reforms, including increased judicial appointments and resources to eliminate trial delays.

"This lawsuit represents survivors across Canada whose right to justice has been stolen from them due to government neglect," said Cait Alexander, Founder of EVE and one of the plaintiffs. "Victims deserve better. Our lives depend on meaningful change."

Kathryn Marshall, representing the plaintiffs, emphasized the lawsuit's importance: "This groundbreaking action will hold the federal government accountable for their constitutional obligations and demand critical reforms that prioritize victim safety and justice."

See the attached Charter Statement of Claim for further information.

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Toronto, ON M5H 3M7

Kathryn Marshall
T: 416-546-1940
E: kmarshall@marshalllaw.ca

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For more information, please contact:

Daniel Schow
danielgschow@gmail.com
(587) 338 - 8292