

## Kim Plewes

Kim Plewes is a passionate young person who has dedicated her life to the service of others. She has worked as a key leader within Free The Children since 1998, dedicating her creativity and energy to inspiring, empowering and supporting children both locally and globally.

After more than nine years with Free The Children, Kim is now a seasoned speaker, having addressed more than 35,000 adults and young people across North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Kim represented Free The Children at the 2006 World Children's Prize ceremony and speaking tour in Sweden. She traveled throughout the country, bringing Free The Children's message to hundreds of students and held an audience with Queen Silvia of Sweden and Olara Otunnu, UN Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.



In August 2007, Kim represented Free The Children at the Power of Youth for Peace conference, held in Egypt for 600 participants from more than 100 countries. She sat on a variety of panels to discuss peace and how young people can promote peace throughout the world.

Kim's involvement with children's rights started at the age of 12, when she learned about child labour and the reality of global inequalities. With her newfound knowledge, Kim started a petition urging the Canadian government to eradicate the exploitation of children. She continued the petition for four years, collecting more than 6,000 names from 18 countries. She then presented her completed petition to the Honourable David Kilgour, Minister of Latin America and Africa.

Kim has spent time volunteering in Nicaragua, Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Cambodia and Thailand, helping to build schools and homes and teach English while exploring a reality very different from her own. Kim has had the opportunity to travel to over 30 countries.

In 2005-2006, Kim coordinated Free The Children's Life in Action program for elementary school children across Canada. She wrote and developed curricula, brought more than 40 schools on board and inspired more than 20,000 young people with motivational speeches about active living, healthy eating and social responsibility.

Today Kim uses her ability to connect with young people as one of Free The Children's international youth coordinators. She is fluent in or learning six languages—English, French, Spanish, Danish, Creole and American Sign Language.

In recognition of her work, Kim received her school's Leaders of the Pack Award, the 75th Anniversary Award for Excellent Extra Curricular Contribution at her high school graduation and the 2004 Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Award. Her work has been profiled in the *Toronto Star*, *Faze Magazine*, *Urbanology* magazine, as well as on City TV, Reading Rainbow, MuchMusic and CBC radio.

To book Kim please contact Marianne Woods at 1.647.259.3455 or [Marianne@freethechildren.com](mailto:Marianne@freethechildren.com)

## Presentation Topic

### **Be the Change, Global Change Begins from Within.**

Mahatma Gandhi said, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world."

The problems of the world can seem overwhelming to most people, which can lead to a feeling of helplessness. But Gandhi's message was that even change on a global scale must begin from within.

While travelling to over 30 countries, including Nicaragua, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Thailand and Cambodia, Kim Plewes has had the opportunity to meet and make friends with people in some of the most impoverished places in the world. She has led schoolbuilding volunteer trips to Kenya and Mexico. From these travels she has emerged with a message--not of despair, but of hope.

Only 21 years old, Kim has been an active member of Free The Children and its sister organization, Leaders Today, for nearly a decade. She has spoken to over 35,000 people all over the world, and in front of world leaders, including the Queen of Sweden, the First Lady of Egypt and former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

A speech from Kim Plewes will bring context to the alarming poverty statistics people may hear on the nightly news. Through her passionate stories of her first-hand experiences, Kim will humanize these statistics, motivating students and educators alike to change the world, through changing themselves.

As a young person herself, Kim has the ability to connect with a young audience as a peer. The combination of her youth and her experience makes her uniquely suited to engage young people and challenge them to take action, both locally and internationally.

Through her in-depth knowledge of Free The Children and Leaders Today programming and her understanding of international development models, Kim will provide her audience with concrete actions they can take to "be the change."

## Audio Visual Requirements

- Handheld/Lapel wireless microphone
- LCD Projector
- White Screen for projection suitable to size of room/audience
- Sound system to be hooked into speaker's laptop



233 Carlton Street  
Toronto, ON  
Canada M5A 2L2

Tel: 1.416.925.5894  
Fax: 1.416.925.6855  
Email: [info@freethechildren.com](mailto:info@freethechildren.com)

[www.freethechildren.com](http://www.freethechildren.com)  
[www.leaderstoday.com](http://www.leaderstoday.com)  
[www.metowe.org](http://www.metowe.org)

To book Kim please contact Marianne Woods at 1.647.259.3455 or [Marianne@freethechildren.com](mailto:Marianne@freethechildren.com)

## Testimonials

Kim's presentation was dynamic, well paced and absolutely riveting. She adapted to the diverse audience with ease and at the end of the presentation, everyone wanted her to connect with her. Kim's youthful presence belies a strong, forceful and committed advocate for children.

- Faith Schmidt (Principal), Steve MacLean Public School, Ottawa ON

Kim was exceptional in every way. The way that she is able to communicate such important messages to elementary school aged kids was extraordinary. I really can not say enough about her. As always, Free The Children has far exceeded any and all expectations.

- Lynda (parent), Ottawa ON

Kim was amazing and we all--including the supervising teachers--are in awe of her accomplishments at such a young age. As well, she had the audience totally engaged with her presentation.

- Dorothy Davis (Vice-Principal & Director of Admissions), University of Toronto Schools, Toronto ON

