



FREE THE SLAVES eUPDATE

A quarterly progress report to supporters about Free the Slaves activities and impact



New Year's Message of Hope

It's been quite a year at Free the Slaves, especially for **Executive Director Maurice Middleberg**. He has spent much of 2013 on the road **visiting our front line programs in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean**. His **meetings with slavery survivors** and activists have led to an **important insight**.

"Slaveholders and traffickers are astonishingly vulnerable, while their intended victims can be amazingly powerful," Maurice says. **"This is our great discovery."**

You can see Maurice's [New Year's video message now on YouTube](#).



"Education, organization, advocacy and protection. These are the tools that tumble the walls of slavery," Maurice says. **"Our goal is to deploy these tools far and wide."**

What's Your Slavery IQ?

How many people are enslaved in the world today? How many of them are children? How many are women? **Which country has the most slaves?** Do you know?

Where does the U.S. rank among nations for number of slaves? **Which industries are tainted by slavery?** How much money does slavery generate for traffickers?

To overcome slavery today, **it's important to know the facts**. You can **brush up on slavery basics with our new Trafficking and Slavery Fact Sheet**. It's now available on the Free the Slaves website. **"Knowledge is power,"** said Francis Bacon. **"Information is liberating,"** says former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. So, get smart about slavery. Then, **get active**.



January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month



What can you do to end modern-day slavery? **Take action in January** by spreading the word that slavery can be overcome. Here are some ideas for how you can help:

Tell your relatives, coworkers, classmates, colleagues and neighbors. **Play a [Free the Slaves video](#)** at your place of worship. **Pick a [Free the Slaves book](#)** for your book club. **Write to your local newspaper** editor to request more coverage of human trafficking. **Write to your local, state and federal elected representatives** and ask them to support funding for projects that prosecute traffickers and assist slavery survivors. **Visit the [Free the Slaves Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#)**, then like us, share our posts and tweets, **follow** us and **join the conversation**. And, **raise funds** for the movement any way you can: see our [Fundraiser and House Party Preparation Guide](#) for easy-to-follow tips.

If you're in New York City or South Florida, there are major events planned for January.

On **January 10th** Free the Slaves experts will be speaking at the **Brooklyn Historical Society** at a **free event called "Fighting Modern-Day Slavery."** The event will feature a sneak peak at a new exhibit that chronicles unsung heroes of the abolition movement: Brooklyn Abolitionists in Pursuit of Freedom.

On **January 11th** **Plymouth Church in Brooklyn** will be hosting a **benefit concert for Free the Slaves**. The Impressions, Naomi Shelton, members of The Dap-Kings, The Gospel Queens and the Abyssinian Baptist Church choir are scheduled to perform.

On **January 30th** **Broward College in Fort Lauderdale** will host a **day-long event entitled "Human Trafficking: Exposing the Crisis, Devising Strategies and Solutions."** The event will feature political, economic, academic and human rights experts who will examine how law enforcement and multinational businesses can help eradicate slavery in the U.S., Caribbean and Latin America.

Mark your calendars!

Free the Slaves Featured in New Documentary Playing in 30 U.S. Cities

A remarkable new documentary will be **premiering in 30 U.S.** cities from February 1st to April 7th. It's called **[#standwithme](#)**, and it **showcases** the innovative front line anti-slavery work of **Free the Slaves**.



The film tells the story of **humanitarian photographer Lisa Kristine** and a **California family that was inspired to act** after seeing Lisa's photos of Free the Slaves work. **Vivienne Harr, age 9, decided to raise thousands of dollars** for the anti-slavery movement. The film explores Lisa's journey of discovery as she is awakened to the existence of modern-day slavery, and it chronicles Vivienne's remarkable fundraising efforts by selling lemonade. The **movie takes viewers to the front lines of slavery** to explain the groundbreaking strategies employed by Free the Slaves and others to help slaves break free and stay free.

You can sign up to attend a premiere screening in your city by visiting the **[#standwithme](#)** website.

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Free the Slaves

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