



Free the Slaves Executive Director – Biography

Maurice I. Middleberg

As executive director of Free the Slaves, Maurice Middleberg oversees the organization's wide range of innovative anti-trafficking initiatives around the globe. These include frontline community-based projects in hotspot countries to liberate slaves and transform the economic, political and social systems that allow slavery to persist – as well as guiding the group's policy advocacy, corporate engagement and awareness-raising programs inside the United States.

Mr. Middleberg brings diverse skills and experience to the anti-slavery movement, having worked previously in the field of international development and social justice for 30 years. His experience includes projects in 50 countries for CARE, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), The Futures Group, IntraHealth International, and others.

Mr. Middleberg has a 15-year record in senior and executive positions, including extensive relationships with international development institutions. He's an accomplished writer, public speaker and fundraiser.

Mr. Middleberg earned his bachelor's degree in history from Temple University, and pursued doctoral studies in political science at American University. He has served as an adjunct senior lecturer at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, and as a visiting assistant professor and adjunct assistant professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

Professional perspective and personal passion both shape Mr. Middleberg's work as head of one of the world's leading anti-slavery organizations. Slavery has personally affected his family. His grandfather was a survivor of forced labor at Auschwitz in World War II.

"I am honored as someone whose family has been touched by slavery in the past to be in a position where I can work to eradicate slavery in the future," Mr. Middleberg says.