



FREDERICK DOUGLASS FAMILY INITIATIVES

Kenneth B. Morris, Jr.
Co-Founder & President, Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives



Ken descends from two of the most influential names in American history: he is the great-great-great-grandson of Frederick Douglass and the great-great-grandson of Booker T. Washington. Ken continues his family's legacy of anti-slavery and educational work as co-founder and president of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives (FDI), a nonprofit organization based in Rochester, New York. His career and life path have been driven by a clear focus on FDI's mission, *"To Build Strong Children and to end systems of exploitation and oppression."*

Among his many accolades, Ken has been a keynote speaker at the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's annual conference in Vienna and Luxembourg, received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of La Verne in California, been named as the first man to be awarded the Women's E-News 21 Leaders for the 21st Century *Ida B. Wells Award for Bravery in Journalism*, and appointed to the 2018 Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission, serving as Commission Chair, by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

Ken appeared in the 2022 documentaries *Abraham Lincoln* and *The American Presidency with Bill Clinton* on the History Channel, the Emmy-nominated *Frederick Douglass in Five Speeches* on HBO and HBO Max, *Becoming Frederick Douglass* on PBS, and *1000 Years of Slavery* on the Smithsonian Channel. Previously, he appeared in the documentaries *Civil Warriors* and *Rise Up: The Legacy of Nat Turner* on National Geographic and *Blood and Glory: The Civil War in Color* on the History Channel.

Ken contributed the preface to Isaac Julien's *Lessons of the Hour*, published in 2022, the afterword to *Picturing Frederick Douglass: An Illustrated Biography of the Nineteenth Century's Most Photographed American*, published in 2015, and the foreword to the bicentennial edition of the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, published in January 2017. He contributed the foreword to the Douglass Family Edition of the *Narrative*, which will be published in June 2023 by Frederick Douglass Books, an imprint of Forefront Books, and distributed by Simon & Schuster

Ken received a Bachelor of Arts Religion degree from the Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies at the University of La Verne. As did Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, he firmly believes that education is the pathway to freedom.

Contact information:

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