



# FREDERICK DOUGLASS FAMILY FOUNDATION

## A Father's View

They were, without a doubt, the two greatest moments of my life. They arrived so tiny and so vulnerable from the safety of my wife's womb awash in the remnants of their earlier existence. The first time I held them I thought they would break, but, of course, they didn't. I pictured them grown and couldn't help but imagine the possibilities.

Now my daughters are 16 and 13-years-old and I heard that the daughters of other parents are being sold for sex on the Internet. A certain degree of helplessness is inherent when you have teens: will she make friends with the wrong kid, will she get hurt, will she get sick, will she be all right? There are some things, however, we can and must control.

Information technology and the Internet have allowed us to accomplish some wonderful things and the potential for a positive evolution of this technology is boundless. But, assuming that Internet businesses will self-regulate at the expense of profits is unreasonable. In the absence of sensible legislation that helps protect potential victims of crimes that are initiated online, it's up to all of us to demand a change in the corporate policies that threaten our children.

In any society, one can expect the darkest and most dangerous elements to exist in the shadows. If they must exist, at least we can warn both potential victim and perpetrator alike about the danger of wandering into those shadows. Websites like Backpage.com, managed by Village Voice Media Group, however, help to normalize the exploitation of children by permitting traffickers to promote sex with children in the same place where used lawn mowers are sold. How is this possible?

There will always be dangers, real or perceived, from which we cannot protect our children. That's why it's vital that we stay vigilant and move quickly to protect them from those dangers we can control.

[Click here](#) to find out how to help.

In Freedom,

Kenneth B. Morris, Jr.  
President

**Frederick Douglass Family Foundation**  
[www.fdff.org](http://www.fdff.org)

Great-great-great grandson, Frederick Douglass  
Great-great grandson, Booker T. Washington