

# Matthew S. Friedman

**CEO | Penguin Random House Author |  
Inspirational Keynote Speaker | Modern  
Slavery Expert | Leadership Coach**



**My Mission:** To inspire people to reach their full potential.

## Public Speaking/ Podcast Topics

- Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking: An Overview
- Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking and its Impact on Business
- ESG and Sustainability – Addressing the S in ESG
- Human Rights and Business
- Be the Hero: Be the Change
- My Cancer Journey
- Public Health and the Pandemic
- The DNA of Effective Leadership
- Storytelling – The Art of Inspirational Public Speaking
- Reaching your full potential (Inspirational Talk)
- [Public speaking Sizzler Video](#)

## Speaking Experience

### Presentations Summary (last ten years)

- **Total Presentations:** 1,112 Public Speaking Presentations
- **People Reached:** 152,232
- **Companies Reached:** 2,200 + (conferences and panels)
- **Keynotes:** 142
- **Countries/Territories (live events):** Australia; Bangladesh; Belgium; Cambodia; Canada; China; Denmark; Hong Kong; Hungary; India; Italy; Korea; Japan; Laos; Macau; Malaysia; Myanmar; Nepal; New Zealand; Senegal, Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; United Kingdom; United State of America; the Vatican, and Vietnam. (27 Countries Total)
- **Hours of Presentations:** 1,222 hours = 52 days of presentations (24 hours per day)

### Corporate Events

- **Corporate Events:** 567 Presentations Public Speaking Presentations
- **Corporate Participants:** 61,233
- **Keynotes (Mixed companies):** 54
- **Keynotes (Single company):** 36
- **Keynote Examples:** ACCAMS; American Express; Adidas; Asia Society; BNY Mellon; Bravest Conference; Crimestopper International; CSR Denmark; Dick's Sporting Goods; Elevate Conference; EY; Geographical Society; Harmony Conference; HSBC; Intercontinental Hotel; Justice Conference; JP Morgan, KPMG; Mandarin Oriental;

McKinsey Institute; MGM; Reuters Antislavery Summit; Reuters Women's Trust Forum; Singapore Marketing Society; Standard Charter Bank; Stop Slavery Summit; and United Nations Asia Pacific Regional Conference.

- **Corporate Headquarter Presentations (Live Onsite):** Amazon; AmeriCares; Bank of America; Commonwealth Bank of Australia Cathay Pacific; Clarks; Clover; Coca Cola; Columbia Sportswear; Crayola; David Jones; Disney; Hallmark; Kathmandu; Kodak; Lane Bryant; Li and Fung; Limited Editions; Lululemon; Macquarie; Mandarin Oriental; Microsoft; Nissan; Phillip Morris International; PrAna; Reuters; Scotia Bank; Swire; Vatican; and Winston & Strawn.

## Speaking Experience (Non-Corporate)

### School/University Events

- **School Events:** 178 Presentations
- **School Participants:** 32,577 Students
- **Keynotes:** 41

### Faith-Based Events

- **Faith-Based Events:** 78 Presentations (Churches, Synagogues, Temples)
- **Faith-Based Participants:** 13,693
- **Keynotes:** 11

## Podcast Interviews

### Recent Samples (10 examples)

- [Hashtag Impact Podcast](#)
- [Influencers today](#)
- [Michael Waitze Podcast](#)
- [HKIBC 1](#)
- [University of Arkansas](#)
- [Chiara Condi Podcast](#)
- [The Fierce Freedom Podcast](#)
- [Compliance Perspectives Podcast](#)
- [Moving the Needle](#)
- [Changing Cases](#)

## Recorded Presentations

### Recent Samples (11 examples out of 1,112)

- [Be the Hero – Hong Kong Marketing Society](#)
- [TEDX Wan Chai](#)
- [Reuters Stop Slavery Summit](#)
- [HSBC Talk](#)
- [Stop Slavery Summit](#)
- [Foreign Correspondence Club Japan](#)
- [Washington Compliance Conference](#)
- [Knoble Interview](#)
- [Mekong Club Supply Chain Talk – Short](#)
- [TEDX San Joaquin](#)
- [Foreign Correspondence Club of Hong Kong](#)

## Testimonials

- "Great presentation and a refreshing change." **Fleishman Hillard**
- "Engaging, informative, concise, and everything a good talk should be!"  
**Vancouver Public Library**
- "Inspirational, eye-opening, impactful talk." **VF Group**
- "Powerful and full of heart." **HSBC**
- "Informative and full of useful recommendations." **ACAMS**
- "Thanks again for another informative and inspirational presentation today."  
**Adidas-Group**
- "Powerful and passionate presentation." **Salvation Army**
- "Inspirational talk, something special." **The Vatican**

## Traditional Media

### Media Events

- **Media Events:** 279 articles/TV/Radio interviews/quotes
- **Media Examples:** ABC/Australia; Associated Press; BBC; Bangkok Post; China Daily; CNN; Forbes; Economist; National Geographic; New York Times; Reuters; South China Morning Post; The Straits Times; TVB Pearl Report; and Washington Times.
- **Award:** Asia Pacific Gold Award: Communicator of the Year (2017)
- **Samples:** Full inventory available upon request

### Samples (8 examples out of 279)

- [CNN Andrew Steven's Interview](#)
- [CNN Interview](#)
- [CNN Sweatshop Challenge](#)
- [HSBC PSA](#)
- [Forbes Interview](#)
- [SCMP News Articles](#)
- [Compliance and Ethics](#)
- [Impakter](#)

## Social Media Reach

### Mekong Club Social Media

- Twitter: 2,945 Followers
- Facebook: 2,672 Followers
- LinkedIn: 3,200 Followers
- Email: 6,600 mailing list (business contacts)

### Personal Social Media

- LinkedIn: 4,100 Followers
- Facebook: 20,000 Followers
- Instagram: 13,600 Followers
- Email: 3,900 mailing list (persons/business contacts)
- Be the Hero Facebook: 6,039 Followers
- 852 Freedom Campaign Facebook: 4,893 Followers

## Related Websites/Blogs

- [Mekong Club \(Official Website\)](#)
- [Matt Friedman: Speaker Website](#)
- [Matt Friedman: Coaching Website](#)
- [Be the Hero Campaign Website](#)
- [Sylvia and Matt Friedman Blog](#) - 32,629 followers

## Books in Print

### Thirteen Books in Print

- **Where Were You: A Profile of Modern-Day Slavery**, Penguin/Random House, Singapore, October 2021, (Non-Fiction)
- **Storytelling: The Art of Inspirational Public Speaking**, Freedom Press, Hong Kong, March 2021 (Non-Fiction)
- **Be the Hero: Be the Change**, Freedom Press, Hong Kong, February 2020 (Non-Fiction)
- **Afghan Girl**, Freedom Press, Hong Kong, November 2014 (Fiction – Novel)
- **Paths Less Travelled**, Pilgrims Publishing House, Varanasi, India, April 2009 (Fiction -- Novel)
- **In the Shadow of the Tamarind Tree**, Vijitha Yapa Publishing House, Colombo, Sri Lanka May 2005, (Fiction – Novel)
- **Nepalese Cast Ceremonial Lamps**, Pilgrims Publishing House, Varanasi, India, June 2003 (Non-fiction)
- **Proximity and Time**, Pilgrims Publishing House, Varanasi, India, February 2003 (Non-Fiction)
- **Shailan: A Portrait of a Village**, University Press Ltd, Dhaka, Bangladesh, November 2001 (Non-Fiction)
- **Bangladesh Metal Casting: Five Techniques**, University Press Ltd, Dhaka Bangladesh, April 2001 (Non-Fiction)
- **Nepalese Casted Decanters, Vessels and Bowls**, Pilgrims Publishing House, Varanasi, India, April 2000 (Non-fiction)
- **The Gorkha Urn**, University Editions, Huntington, WV, March 1997 (Fiction -- Novel)
- **Tara: A Fleshtrade Odyssey**, Vikas Publishing, New Delhi, India, March 1997 (Fiction -- Novel)

## Awards

### International Awards

- Pidotodhar Medal from King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal
- The Gold Standard Award for Asia Communicator of the Year 2017

*"Because of Matthew's absolute commitment to the issue and his tireless drive to reach as many people as he can, he is Communicator of the Year."*

## Matthew S. Friedman Personal Bio

**Matthew S. Friedman** is a leading, internationally renowned global expert on modern slavery and human trafficking. An award-winning public speaker, author, filmmaker, and philanthropist, Matthew regularly advises heads of governments and intelligence agencies.

As the founder and CEO of The Mekong Club, Matthew is considered the leading catalyst of the anti-slavery movement in Asia's business sector by captains of industry.

In 2017, Matthew received the prestigious "Asia Communicator of the Year Gold Award" for giving more than 1,100 presentations to 150,000 people including government leaders and the Vatican on the topic of modern slavery within a five-year period in different countries. Matthew has a unique and powerful speaking style that inspires people and helps them reach their fullest potential.

Each year he is cited at least 40 times in the news media (CNN, Bloomberg, Reuters, Associated Press, the Financial Times, the Economist, etc.) and invited to speak at major international conferences around the world.

He has managed and directed tens of millions of dollars to major humanitarian portfolios impacting millions of people for the World Bank, the U.S. State Department, and the United Nations. His work over the last 30 years of pioneering and managing international anti-human trafficking projects from Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand and Hong Kong has given him access to many influential networks in different countries throughout the world.

Matthew is the author of 14 books ranging from action novels, non-fiction accounts of his human rights work, to a book that outlines his unique philosophy of "time." A long-time supporter of film and the media arts, Matthew was an executive producer and advisor on four award-winning films, one of which was nominated for an Emmy and another executive produced by Emma Thompson.

Matthew provides a range of inspirational keynote speeches to teach, mentor and motivate people from all walks of life to step up and take a stand in life. He has an uncanny ability to take something as complicated and confusing as slavery and break it down into a series of simple messages that walk a person down a path to understanding. He has shifted the mindsets of many, even the most resistant detractors. His is always a message of hope.

Matthew is married to Sylvia Yu Friedman who is an award-winning journalist, filmmaker, international speaker, and author of *Silenced No More: Voices of Comfort Women* who also fights the scourge of modern slavery. Together in the summer of 2016 they gave 113 presentations in 27 U.S. cities over a 70-day period.

## The Mekong Club

The Mekong Club is one of the first not-for-profit organizations of its kind in Asia to use a 'business-to-business' approach to fight slavery. Bridging the gap between the public and private sectors, the Mekong Club helps companies of all sizes to understand the complexities of human trafficking and to reduce their vulnerability within their supply chains/business environment. Together with business partners, the Mekong Club is spearheading innovative and strategic projects to achieve a slave-free world.

## Contacts

### **Matthew S. Friedman**

- **Email:** [matt.friedman@themekongclub.org](mailto:matt.friedman@themekongclub.org)
- **Phone:** 852-9500-7627
- [Public Speaker Website](#)
- [Coaching Website](#)