



Freeman A. Hrabowski was 12 years old when he saw his friends readying for the Children's Crusade march for civil rights in 1963. He convinced his parents to let him join in as a youth advocate, but soon into the march he was swept up in a mass arrest. Birmingham's notorious Public Safety Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor spat in his face and arrested him. The jail guards locked even the youngest freedom marchers in with hardened criminals. Hrabowski spent five terrifying days and nights shielding other youngsters and comforting them by reading his Bible aloud or singing songs. The experience gave Hrabowski a life mission, and he has since been a staunch and tireless campaigner for equality, education, and excellence.