



Wekesa O. Madzimoyo

wekesa@ayaed.com

Bio-Sketch:

Wekesa O. Madzimoyo is co-director of AYA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE based in the Atlanta, GA Metro area. He is a widely known educator, public speaker, facilitator, equity trainer, consultant, and storyteller.

AYA Educational Institute provides quality educational alternatives, resources, workshops, and consultation.

Intra-Cultural

Since 1998 AYA's programs have immersed students, parents and other adults into an African-centered educational and social environment that is rich in our past and culture. These tools enable them to succeed in their current and future responsibilities to themselves, their families, our community, our people and the world -- in that order.

Wekesa serves as the lead trainer and originator of the national workshops: "**Warriors, Healers, and Builders**," "**Healing Oppression's Wounds**," and "**Sankofa Math**." Using an African-centered frame, African Americans support each other in healing the wounds created by external and injected oppression starting with ourselves and extending into our community and into our work lives. This has spawned the workshops

Inter-Cultural:

Using what he calls "**Challenging, Healing, Creating (CHC)**." **CHC** stands for **challenging** oppression, **healing** from the wounds of oppression, and **creating equitable** spaces. Wekesa has over 30 years promoting between-cultures communication that accounts for both the conscious, and often unconscious **superior/inferior** dynamic which is the primary source of intractable conflicts.

Both intra and Inter-cultural programs teaches skills and models such as **Feelings as Messengers: A Re-introduction to "Intelligence of the Heart"** to help us use conflicts as portals for greater understanding and unity through power-equity and mutual respect. His **Flow of Recognition** has facilitated various client populations getting underneath and through the labels of racism, sexism, classism, ageism, etc. and **injected oppression** to create personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural processes that promote authentic communication, creativity and successful collaboration.

He has provided consultation and training to: college and universities, fortune 50 companies, intermediate and small businesses, family guidance centers, youth programs, hospitals, recreational programs, children's service agencies, residential treatment programs for women and children, community mental health centers, human services agencies, schools: public and primary at all grade levels --including college and graduate-- public welfare programs, juvenile justice agencies and child care centers.

Agencies and organizations have used his services to create new strategies for:

- Personal and leadership development
- Building skills for having the difficult conversations and conversions needed to dismantle Racism
- Effective conflict resolution
- Increasing education student performance on standardized exams in math and writing (Praxis) by using culturally sensitive and oppression-averse approaches
- Re-tooling teacher training curricula to include culturally relevant programs, communication approaches, and teaching methods to more effectively serve people of different racial and cultural groups;
- Accelerated learning among targeted populations
- Using technology to create a student-centric educational approach (High-Tech and High Touch)

- Storytelling and story-healing for leadership, management and personal development

Wekesa is also working to educate, empower and restore psychic and emotional balance to our communities hardest hit by economic disparities and the social “blame the victim” labeling.

Wekesa and Afiya have four children: Ayinde Madzimoyo, Chinua Suma, Sarafina and Ife Madzimoyo and four grandchildren: Addae, Olaniyon, Anhur, and Gaiya. Afiya grows some and is determined to grow much of the family’s food.

