



Share Your Story

Clemantine Wamariya

“There was never a day I thought of myself as a woman who was introduced,” [Clemantine Wamariya](#) said after she was welcomed to stage at [Leadercast Women](#) 2018.

In fact, Clemantine had days when she didn't know if she would even survive. After what she described as a childhood she wishes for anyone, her life took a drastic turn at age 6 when war broke out in Rwanda and she and her sister were forced to flee their homeland. For six years, the pair traveled to refugee camps in six African countries before being granted asylum in the United States. Later, despite the adversities she faced as a child, she attended Yale University, where she received her bachelor's degree in comparative literature. She later went on to write a book, [The Girl Who Smiled Beads](#), and speaks around the world about war and her experience as a refugee.

At Leadercast Women, her advice to leaders was simple: “**You have a voice, ears, a mouth and hands. They're not there for decoration. Share your story,**” she instructed. “**This world cannot not wait to hear your voice.**”

Top Takeaways

- The **ideology of hate** and its practice are very sneaky.
- The world becomes cruel **when we isolate ourselves**.
- Nobody is better than anyone else. No one is who you think they are at first glance. **We need to see beyond projections.**