



iyabo onipede

Facilitator, Keynote Speaker, Consultant

*“Hope is my work. Compassion is my method.
Liberation for all and Justice in community are the outcome.”*

Iyabo is a facilitator, keynote speaker, and consultant for organizations that are ready to eliminate racism, dismantle oppressive systems and grow equitable cultures. As a liberation educator, Iyabo’s customized, high touch workshops allow for deep dives into the heart of race, inclusion, equity and racial justice. Iyabo is simply an effective community builder with seasoned experience as an equity consultant.

Iyabo is the founder of The CARA Model™, an integrative liberation framework that moves learners through an exploration of Anti-Racist and Anti-Oppression intentions into an activation of the capacity to become Liberation Practitioners. This trauma-informed individual identity work opens pathways forward for organizations to build just and equitable environments as successful communities of belonging by:

- Educating with a carefully curated curriculum;
- Creating learning spaces for experiential and guided self-reflection; and
- Facilitating challenging exchanges.

Growing up in Nigeria, Iyabo identified as biracial as she was fully in touch with her loving Irish American mother’s influence while growing up in her father’s indigenous Yoruba culture. In addition, she comes from a long lineage of activists and culture changers. When she came to America, as a teenager, she discovered that she was “Black.” She came lured by the promise of what she calls, “the White American Dream.” After pursuing a stellar education, Iyabo came to realize that she was not included in the “American Dream” and became aware of her “Black reality in America.”

Iyabo is a qualified administrator for the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and a certified Emotional Intelligence Coach (EQi 2.0). She graduated from Goucher College (B.A.), Georgetown University Law School (J.D.) and Candler School of Theology at Emory University (M.Div.). She also serves as the Co-Director of a nonprofit organization, Compassionate Atlanta, where she has so much fun loving on her community and where she is the most comfortable in her own skin. Iyabo's home on the web is www.iamiyabo.com and you can connect with her at hello@iamiyabo.com.

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This is "the work my soul must have." ~ Alice Walker

My Priorities

- I am the "queen" of compassion and my work centers the values of compassion, mutuality, and community. Compassion includes truth-telling and holding people accountable.
- My #1 priority is that racial harm must stop immediately. Non-Black, as well as Black people, are both deeply harmed by racism and white supremacist culture.
- Human dignity is the antidote to racism, and it must be restored to all people.
- With the firm belief, race and culture reside in our bodies and not just in our appearance, I help identify and dislodge emotional injury around racial and cultural identity as it resides in the body.
- I practice mutuality with my clients by creating business relationships that are not just transactional but is also transformational.
- I uphold liberation as the possibility for every learning community I am invited into. She wants to see individuals open to living a life of hope and liberation.
- I believe oppressive systems are designed to constrain the human spirit to unhealthy conformity. The dismantling of these systems begins with intrapersonal and interpersonal explorations about the intersection of race, culture, class and gender. Therein lies the possibilities for liberation and justice in community.

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