



# VITAL AKIMANA

*Speaker & Facilitator*

## SPECIALTIES

- Mental health
- Anti-racism
- Trauma-informed practices
- Diversity & inclusion
- Peace & Conflict resolution
- Immigrant experiences
- Student leadership
- Storytelling
- Group & individual facilitation

## ➤ BIOGRAPHY

Vital Akimana is a native of Rwanda who came to the US in 1995 after living through the atrocities of wars and the many horrors of genocidal regimes. With a vision to understand the root causes of these traumatic conflicts he embarked on a two-decade long adventure studying and sharing lessons from political and religious conflicts, diversity and inclusion, youth leadership, and the healing arts.

After graduating from his alma mater, Guilford College, Vital went on to work at Cook Ross Inc. where his work focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and educating institutions on unconscious bias. Later his story was featured in Howard Ross's best seller *Our Search for Belonging*.

In his capacity as a youth facilitator, he has served with various organizations such as the National Student Leadership Conference, the National Conference for Community and Justice, and Guilford College's Conflict Resolution Resource Center. Additionally, he has volunteered with youth at Native American Reservations, including the Crow in Montana and the Lakota Sue in the Dakotas.

As an experienced speaker, Vital has shared his life story with audiences across the United States, including at the University of Pennsylvania, American University, and Brown University. Additionally, he has also been featured in multiple news stories, including the Washington Post piece by Courtland Milloy entitled "A Peacemaker Who Knows Horror of War."

When Vital is not speaking, he facilitates healing through multiple modalities including Transformational Facilitation, Massage Therapy, Reiki, and Sports Therapy.

## TO BOOK ENGAGEMENTS OR LEARN MORE:



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