

Abbas Alimorad, MA, MPED, PMP

Author Biography

Abbas Alimorad is an international keynote speaker, executive leader, educator, executive coach, and author whose life exemplifies the transformative power of resilience, perseverance, and purpose. His journey—from a child displaced by war in Iraq to a respected executive leader in Canada—has inspired audiences around the world and forms the foundation of his debut book, *From Displacement to Leadership: How Adversity Shapes Extraordinary Leaders*.

Born in Baghdad, Iraq, Abbas was forced to leave his homeland with his family at the age of three. After years living as refugees in Iran during the Iran-Iraq War, his family immigrated to Canada in search of safety, opportunity, and a better future. Those early experiences of uncertainty, adaptation, and rebuilding shaped his understanding of resilience and ultimately became the cornerstone of his leadership philosophy.

Today, Abbas brings more than two decades of leadership experience spanning government, healthcare, higher education, and the private sector. He currently serves as a Senior Project Management Consultant with Global Affairs Canada, where he leads strategic initiatives that support national and international priorities. Throughout his career, he has successfully delivered complex transformation programs, advised senior executives, and helped organizations navigate change while aligning projects with strategic objectives.

Beyond his executive career, Abbas is passionate about developing future leaders. He teaches Project Management at Western University and has previously taught Leadership, Business Operations, and Project Management at Conestoga College. He is known for combining practical leadership experience with academic insight, helping professionals bridge the gap between technical expertise and executive leadership.

Abbas is also deeply committed to community service and volunteer leadership. He serves as President of the Project Management Institute (PMI) Southwestern Ontario Chapter, representing nearly 2,000 project professionals, and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Foundation. Throughout his career, he has served on numerous professional and community boards, believing that leadership is ultimately measured by service to others.

A lifelong learner, Abbas holds a Master of Arts in Leadership from the University of Guelph and a Master of Professional Education in Educational Leadership from Western University.

He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and has contributed to PMI's *Risk Management in Portfolios, Programs, and Projects: A Practice Guide*. He is also a sought-after speaker on leadership, organizational transformation, artificial intelligence, governance, resilience, and strategic project leadership.

His keynote presentations have inspired audiences across North America, including conferences, universities, government organizations, healthcare institutions, and professional associations. Known for his authentic storytelling and practical leadership frameworks, Abbas equips audiences with actionable strategies to lead through uncertainty, build resilient teams, and create lasting organizational impact.

His debut book, *From Displacement to Leadership: How Adversity Shapes Extraordinary Leaders*, is both a deeply personal memoir and a practical leadership guide. Through stories of displacement, immigration, education, setbacks, professional growth, and service, Abbas demonstrates that adversity does not define us—it prepares us. The book encourages readers to embrace challenges, develop resilience, and discover the leader within themselves.

Abbas believes that leadership is not determined by where we begin, but by how we respond to life's challenges. Whether speaking to executives, students, project professionals, or emerging leaders, his mission remains the same: to inspire people to transform adversity into opportunity, uncertainty into confidence, and purpose into lasting impact.

When he is not speaking, teaching, writing, or consulting, Abbas enjoys mentoring professionals, volunteering in his community, and spending time with his wife and five children in London, Ontario.

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