

Adongwot Manyoul's Journey to Cultivating Harmony in Australia

By Adongwot Manyoul

In a dynamic world where cultural intersections define our society's fabric, Adongwot Manyoul stands as a beacon of change, weaving threads of understanding and empathy across diverse communities. As a seasoned communications expert, passionate youth advocate, and influential voice, she navigates the delicate balance between tradition and modernity, fostering dialogue and eradicating biases along the way.

Hailing from a South Sudanese-Australian background, Adongwot's journey embodies the fusion of cultures within the Australian landscape. With a background spanning cross-cultural consulting, radio hosting, and master of ceremonies roles, she brings a unique perspective to her mission of nurturing community harmony. Her academic prowess, culminating in a dual degree in Journalism and International Studies, adds depth to her insights and strategies.

Adongwot's commitment to fostering social cohesion earned her the prestigious Churchill Fellowship in 2019. This recognition propelled her on a global quest to explore effective strategies for nurturing genuine connections among young individuals of the African Diaspora, particularly through educational avenues.

In 2022, Adongwot embarked on a groundbreaking endeavor— a disruptive social enterprise aimed at revolutionizing approaches to diversity, inclusion, and combating racism. Through tailored workshops, seminars, and keynote addresses, she engages participants of all ages and backgrounds in discussions on race and prejudice. By fostering interactive activities and stimulating conversations, she empowers young minds to critically assess their identities within the contemporary Australian environment, encouraging them to embrace multiculturalism's richness.

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Although Adongwot is purpose driven and the belief in humanity's goodness, she encounters notable challenges along the way.

One significant hurdle she faces is navigating through unsafe spaces, particularly when participants resist or show reluctance to engage in discussions about racism and unconscious bias. Despite these obstacles, she confronts them head-on, driven by her commitment to fostering understanding and inclusivity.

The unpredictability of cash flow presents another layer of complexity. Relying solely on contacts for business opportunities introduces inconsistency, requiring her to navigate discomfort during slower periods.

Moreover, as a sole proprietor, with a small team, it can sometimes be a daunting task juggling multiple projects and expanding her scope.

The Heart of the Mission: Disarming Through Dialogue

Adongwot's journey is fueled by her deep-rooted belief in humanity's inherent goodness. Despite facing biases and stereotypes, she recognizes the power of conversation, attentive listening, understanding, and humor in dismantling barriers. Her journey from experiencing biases firsthand to becoming a cultural consultant reflects her dedication to bridging understanding gaps and fostering inclusivity.

A Vision for Harmony: Purpose and Dreams

At the core of Adongwot's purpose lies the aspiration to create a harmonious society where every individual feels valued and respected. Her dreams extend beyond boundaries, envisioning a transformative impact on Australia's social fabric. From expanding her operations to meet growing demands to pioneering research in education for cultural safety amongst

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educators and education practitioners, her ambitions aim to shape a future where empathy and understanding reign supreme.

Adongwot has participated in a plethora of initiatives including several Youth Homelessness Conferences and Summits, VicHealth's first FUTURE RESET conference, the first Bridging the Divide Education Summit presented by the Australian Education Union and Youth Development Australia and a number of speaking engagements. She currently sits on Labor's Victorian African Communities Committee, the board of Youth Development Australia, the advisory committee for African Australian AOD services, Project Sunrise, and the South Sudanese Mental Health Project.

As she continues her journey, Adongwot remains steadfast in her dedication to nurturing the next generation, recognizing that the way children are nurtured today will shape tomorrow's society. Through her unwavering commitment, she leaves an indelible mark on Australia's narrative, inching closer to a future defined by love, empathy, and unity.

At AM Cultural Consultancy, our mission is to provide a comprehensive suite of services tailored to meet the diverse needs of both for-profit and nonprofit organizations. Our offerings encompass cultural consultancy, cultural safety training, and our latest addition, policy auditing. Through our cultural consultancy services, we partner with clients to navigate the complexities of diversity and inclusion, offering strategic insights and guidance to foster a more inclusive and culturally competent workplace environment. Our cultural safety training programs are designed to equip teams with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate cross-cultural interactions sensitively and effectively. And now, with our policy auditing service, we offer organizations the opportunity to assess their existing policies through a cultural lens, identifying areas for improvement and ensuring alignment with best practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are committed to empowering organizations to embrace diversity, cultivate inclusivity, and drive positive change within their communities.

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To learn more about AM visit: www.adongwot.com or reach out on LinkedIn
@<https://www.linkedin.com/in/adongwot-manyoul/>

I am thrilled to share that my report has recently been published, marking a significant milestone as I officially become a Churchill Fellow! The Winston Churchill Fellowship presents an incredible opportunity to explore ways to enhance Australia's capabilities across various fields on a global scale. Despite grappling with feelings of imposter syndrome and fear of failure, I took a leap of faith and am grateful to have been selected to delve into how other nations effectively support black and brown students in completing their education as well as creating a culturally safe environment for them to thrive. It is truly an honor to contribute to this important dialogue. I invite you to read my report on:

<https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/fellow/adongwot-manyoul-vic-2019/>, and consider embarking on your own research journey through this esteemed fellowship program!