



A Congolese Refugee's Quest for a Purpose and Better Life: More to Life than a Refugee Camp

AUTHOR Gentile Meda Dusenge
COLLECTION EDITED BY Jan Etienne & Reham ElMorally

COLLECTION
Gender Studies

EDITION
1st edition

MARKET
College/higher education
and Professional and
scholarly

This course reading...

- Uses lived experience to explore the cultural and social challenges of being raised a woman in Africa in a displaced community.
- Navigates the challenges of identity formation, and professional growth as a refugee in Rwanda.
- Offers insight into how refugee youth and refugee communities can be supported to live a life of hope and fulfillment.
- Is ideal reading for students of Forced Migration, Displacement, Refugee Studies, Migration Studies, Gender Studies, Sociology, and Education Studies, as well as policy makers.

What does it mean to grow up defined by a label you never chose—*refugee*—and still insist on shaping a life of hope and purpose?

In *A Congolese Refugee's Quest for a Purpose and Better Life*, Gentile Meda Dusenge takes readers inside the often-invisible world of displacement, where childhood is spent in the confines of a Rwandan refugee camp and adolescence unfolds under the weight of stigma, poverty, and gendered expectations. From Kiziba's clay huts to the lecture rooms of Kepler University, from heartbreaking exclusion to the triumph of education, Dusenge charts her journey as a daughter, sister, wife, mother, student, teacher, and advocate. Her story exposes structural violence that constrains millions of displaced people, and challenges systems that silence refugee voices. It is a testimony to the power of persistence, education, and self-determination, while offering a vision of what is possible when refugees become part of the change that is needed. This book is ideal reading for students of Forced Migration, Displacement, Refugee Studies, Migration Studies, Gender Studies, Sociology, and Education Studies, as well as policy makers.

Gentile Meda Dusenge is a Congolese refugee, writer, and advocate whose life journey embodies resilience and purpose. Forced to flee the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1996, she grew up in Rwanda's Kiziba refugee camp, where she confronted the daily realities of displacement, poverty, and stigma. Her memoir traces her path from exclusion to empowerment through education.

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