



AGAPI GESSESSE

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Agapi Gessesse is an award-winning, influential and fearless change-maker named 2020 Top Black Woman to Watch in Canada. She is the Executive Director of the Careers, Education, Empowerment Centre (CEE) for Young Black Professionals and the Founder of Lehezibu Consulting and Strategy group. Agapi ensures hundreds of Black women and girls have the skills and resources needed to succeed.

Agapi has captivated audiences on local and international stages and has been featured and invited as a commentator on media outlets such as CTV National news, Business News Network, Bay Street Bull, Breakfast Television and more. She speaks and writes on topics such as anti-Black racism, government relations, the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) initiative, workforce development and youth engagement.

For over a decade, Agapi has worked to enhance the lives of Black youth through her work with Toronto Community Housing, United Way Greater Toronto, and as the Executive Director of POV 3rd Street,

an organization focused on breaking barriers for young people in the media and film industry.

Agapi devotes considerable energy to creating transformative change by advising large organizations to create policies and practices that ensure Black women are recognized as a key source of talent in the professional world. She also advances the position of Black women on several prestigious boards and committees, including Amnesty International Canada, the Province of Ontario's Premier's Council on Equality of Opportunity, and the Canadian Poverty Institute.

Her roles and mandates focus on social impact, and her career leaves a trail of talented, brilliant minds to show for her visionary leadership.

Agapi affirms, "Allyship is critical to affect change" within her work and in the development of Black women leaders.

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