

BIO - Councillor YEMI ADENUGA - (She BUILDS PEOPLE)



Irish Woman of the year - Public Life 2025

www.yemiadenuga.com

Often referred to as "Energy in Motion", Cllr. Yemi Adenuga is winner of the 'Irish Woman of the Year in Public Life' Award 2025 by the Irish Tatler. This audacious powerhouse of value-driven leadership is widely recognised as one of Ireland's most inspirational changemakers. She builds people and communities. Yemi is a history-maker who has many firsts under her cap and leads with heart, builds with purpose, and transforms with results. This multi-award winning high-Impact Global Speaker and people development strategist is the first Black woman to be elected, and re-elected to public office in the history of Irish politics, the first migrant elected to Meath County Council, first migrant to be written into an Irish school textbook and the first migrant *PEACE COMMISSIONER* for County Meath in Ireland.

With a combined 35 years experience as a broadcasting professional, seasoned cost accountant, result-oriented community leader, and women and youth empowerment advocate, Yemi has spent three decades amplifying the voices of the underrepresented, shaping inclusive communities, and pioneering transformative initiatives in Ireland and her country of origin Nigeria. Recognised for her impactful leadership and community service, Yemi is listed as an *Irish Woman of Influence* and recently nominated for the Irish Women of the Year Award by Irish Tatler Magazine, named among *Ireland's 100 Women Changemakers* by the Irish Examiner, and honoured as one of *133 Women Who Change the World* by Diversein.com. She is Founder and Director of Programs at the MIB Institute of People Development which has designed and delivered several impactful training programs, including the Political leadership training program which has successfully produced over 36 women and migrants who are now involved in Irish politics in their communities. With a remarkable 27-year track record in mentorship, Yemi has mentored over 22,000 people through her globally acclaimed YAMAL Program (Yemi Adenuga Mentorship and Leadership Program).

A fierce advocate for diversity, equity, equality and inclusion, Yemi is a social entrepreneur who founded several community transforming initiatives including; SHEROES Global Initiative, (a not-for-profit organisation committed to inspiring, empowering, and celebrating women and young, the Black Irish Sisters Network (a safe and empowering space for Black women in Ireland), Meath African Network (a support Network for the African community in County Meath, Ireland), and Black Coalition Ireland (a unifying body for Black groups in Ireland). She is convener of the AUDACITY Conference, (the largest gathering of Black Women and allies in Ireland) and founder of THE BOYS TO MEN PROJECT (an initiative aimed at raising a generation of good men). Yemi serves on several boards and is actively engaged in charitable and governance work. She is Charity Ambassador for Core Ireland and Peace Ambassador for Universal Peace Federation. She is the Chairperson of board of management of Ard Rí Community National School, Navan, and Chairperson of Meath Comhairle Na Nog steering Committee, board member of Meath Enterprise, board member of Solstice Arts Centre Meath, and board member of Coláiste na Mí Secondary School in Navan.

A PhD student in Sociology at Trinity College Dublin, Yemi's leadership combines academic depth with real-world activism. She holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Enterprise from the UCD Innovation Academy, an MBA with a specialization in Project Management from Liverpool John Moores University, UK, and a Bachelor of Business Studies (Honours) in Entrepreneurship from University College Dublin (UCD). Beyond her professional accomplishments, she is a devoted wife, proud mother of four, and a loving grandmother to three grandchildren who affectionately call her "Glam'ma."

Yemi is a businesswoman, serving as CEO of two thriving ventures: D-Dymensions Communications and Energ' Luxury Oils & Perfumes." Her mantra, "What is worth doing is worth doing well," reflects her commitment to excellence and service. Her legacy is simple yet profound: *build people, and you build the world.*

Expertise

Yemi is:

- a high Impact Global Keynote / Motivational Speaker.
- a Leadership expert.
- a mentorship guru.
- an experienced People development Strategist.
- a DE&I Consultant
- a relationship mentor.
- a Confidence building and transformational coach.
- a business woman.
- a social entrepreneur.
- a women and youth advocate.

Business Involvements:

- Director of Programs: MIB INSTITUTE of People Development.
- CEO: D-Dymensions Communications.
- CEO: Energ' Luxury Perfume oils and gifts (Customised Perfumes, home & body sprays and gifts).
- Founder and Lead Mentor: YAMAL Program (Yemi Adenuga Mentorship and Leadership Program).
- CEO: Energy 'N' motion publishing.

Social Enterprises & projects:

- Founder and president - SHEROES GLOBAL: a social enterprise that inspires, empowers, and impacts women and Young people to be more and celebrates them when they dare to be more through their various life changing programs and projects.
- Founder and Leader Mentor - YAMAL PROGRAM (YEMI ADENUGA MENTORSHIP AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM): a global mentorship program for women and young people in various areas of life including business, leadership and relationship. Yemi has mentored over 22,000 mentees in over 26 years.
- Founder: THE BOYS TO MEN PROJECT, A SHEROES GLOBAL INITIATIVE aimed at raising boys to be GOOD MEN.
- Festival Director - CULTUREFEST: an annual celebration of diversity and inclusion through the arts in the republic of Ireland under the umbrella of Nigerian Carnival Ireland.
- Founder - EXPLORING OPTIONS PROJECT: aimed at inspiring young people to think of a possible career path early in life and use their skills while in school or vocational training. Through the project, Yemi gives her second book, 'Exploring options...a guide to making career choices' free to young people. Till date, she has given out 12,500 copies of the book.
- Founder - BLACK IRISH SISTERS NETWORK: a support network for all black women in Ireland.
- Convener - AUDACITY Conference (Biggest gathering of Black Women in Ireland) and SHEROES CONFERENCE AND AWARDS (an annual women and young girls conference celebrating ordinary women who do extraordinary things).

Education:

- PhD student of Sociology at Trinity College Dublin - Current
- Post-graduate certificate in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise from the University of Dublin (UCD) Innovation Academy - 2016.
- Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree (Project Management stream) from the Liverpool John Moores University, United Kingdom - 2011.
- Bachelors of Business Studies (BBS Honours, Entrepreneurship Stream) from University College Dublin-(UCD) - 2010.
- Diploma in Business Studies (Human Resource Management Stream) from University College Dublin-(UCD) - 2008.
- Higher National Diploma (HND), Business Studies (Business Law stream) and Diploma in Accounting both from Inchicore College of Further Education, Ireland - 2002.
- Studied Accountancy and Mass Communication at the Ogun State Polytechnic, (now Moshood Abiola Polytechnic) Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria 1994 / 1996.

Professional Affiliations:

Yemi is a member of several professional bodies including:

- The Institute of leadership and Management, Ireland.
- The MBA Association of Ireland.
- Project Management Association, Ireland.
- Associate of the Irish Institute of training and development.

Awards and Recognitions:

- Winner: Irish Woman of the year in Public Life 2025, by the Irish Tatler magazine.
- Winner: Global Woman Leadership Award - in New York, as a trailblazer and champion who cares, by the Global Women on the World Stage.
- Winner: The Clevendar Media Award for Leadership in Politics, Diversity & Inclusion - Spain.
- Winner: Global BlackStar TrailBlazer Award - By the Black Stars Experience, New York.
- Winner: The Global Change-Maker Award - in the Leadership & Advocacy category - by Pan African Women Empowerment Network (PAWEN).
- Winner: The Community Builder of the year Award by WIN Inspo, Ireland.
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- Listed as an Irish woman of influence by the Irish Tatler Magazine.
- Recognised as one of Ireland's 100 women changemakers, powerbrokers and champions of humankind by the Irish Examiner
- Named "*Game-Changer in Irish politics*"... The Irish Independent Weekend Magazine.

Achievements

Today, Yemi has risen through adversities and challenges, breaking barriers, and making history along the way.

As a history maker, Yemi is:

- The 1st Black-Female Public Representative to be elected in the Republic of Ireland.
- The 1st Migrant Councillor to be elected to Meath County Council.

- The First migrant to be written into an Irish school textbook, (the 6th class Geography and Science textbook by folens publishers), making her a topic of study in primary schools across Ireland.
- The first migrant *PEACE COMMISSIONER* for County Meath in Ireland.
- Yemi and her family 'THE ADENUGAS' are the first migrant family to feature on Ireland's Number 1 reality TV program "Gogglebox Ireland" aired on Virgin Media TV.
- The first female presenter to present a programme on the first private Radio station in Nigeria, Ray Power 100fm.
- The director and producer of the first programme ever to be aired, on the first private Television station in Nigeria, Africa Independent Television (AIT).
- Seasoned broadcaster of nearly 3 decades who hosted and produced the Multi-Award-winning TV talk show, 'Sharing with Yemi' which was Nigeria's leading talk show from 1996 – 2000. The program now airs online on Facebook with a viewership as high as 10,000 in an episode.
- 2-time bestselling Author of "The Power of Thank you" and "Exploring Options".
- She is married to Deji Adenuga, Nollywood A-list actor, and is a mother of 4 and grandmother of two handsome boys.
- She is a multi-Award-winning TV- Personality and Global motivational speaker.

Involvements:

Yemi serves as Ambassador for, and is director on the boards of, several organisations, and is a member of numerous statutory committees and a Special Project Committees in and outside Ireland.

- Charity Ambassador for Core Ireland.
- Chairperson of the board of Ard Rí Community National School, Navan, Meath.
- Board member of Meath Enterprise.
- Chair - Comhairle na nÓg steering committee.
- Board member of Colaiste na Mí, secondary school, Navan, Meath.
- Board member of Solstice arts centre, Meath.
- Member of the Meath County council Climate action forum.
- Served as board member of National Women's Council of Ireland (NCI), Ireland.
- Served as two-time Chairperson of the Board of Management of Cultúr Migrants Centre, Meath.
- Served as the Chairperson of the steering committee of the M.I.M.E project (Migrants Integrating in Meath Equally), Ireland.
- Served as Vice-President of the Meath Intercultural Network (MIN).
- Was project Manager for Cultúr Migrant Centre, Ireland.
- Worked with a team of other PLA researchers to carry out a thorough and very successful research project work which led to the development of an Integration Strategy in County Meath.
- Former member of Africa advisory Council, Change foundation, California, USA.
- Former Chair of the Meath Local Travellers Accommodation Consultative Committee, Meath. 2019 - 2024
- Former Chair of Fine Gael Intercultural Network (FGI). 2019 - 2023
- Former Board member of Saoirse Ireland. 2020 - 2024
- Member of Advisory board for Africa projects, AUNUA, Ireland.

- Former member of Meath Local Community Development Committees. 2019 - 2024
- Former member of the Joint policing committee, Meath. 2019 - 2024
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Her Story

Yemi's story is that of determination, courage, and perseverance.

This wife, mum of 4 and Glam'ma of two grandsons was born and raised in a polygamous home where her father had 7 wives and 27 children. She is number 16. Her mother was the last of the 7 wives with 6 biological daughters, 4 stepdaughters, but no son. Her mother raised 10 girls and was told by her husband's family that the 10 girls would never equal 1 boy, that they would amount to nothing, and be nobodies who will all end up on the streets of Lagos as prostitutes. Yemi was only 13 years old when she heard those words. Those words became the motivation for Yemi's determination to be somebody.

Yemi believes that: "*NOBODY has the right to tell ANYBODY they cannot be SOMEBODY, and ANYBODY who is determined to be SOMEBODY can be*".

Against all odds, Yemi turned the words of her father's family around to make her life meaningful and impactful. With nothing but a dream to be somebody, a determination to discover her purpose and an openness to embrace possibilities, Yemi built valuable life skills, learnt to recognize, take, and use opportunities well and is now paying it forward through her people-building programs that change lives positively across the globe.

Her Family:

Yemi is married to Nollywood A-List Actor Deji Adenuga, they've been married since 1992 and they have 4 children and 3 grandchildren who call her "Glam'ma".

Her Values:

Yemi's Core values are:

C- consistency

R - Respect for self and others

I - Integrity

D - Do unto others as you'll have them do unto you.

L - Love for God, self, Family and real friends.

A - Authenticity

Her Passion:

Yemi is passionate about family, faith, friends and building women and young people.

Her mission and mentorship program

This change agent is on a mission to empower and build women & young people globally.

Through her mentorship program, '***The Yemi Adenuga Mentorship and Leadership program' (YAMAL PROGRAM)***', this dynamic storyteller and role model demonstrates by her own examples, determination and hard work, that any goal can be achieved, building the confidence of her mentees, and enabling them to take the key to their own success.

Her life motto

Yemi's motto in life is: What is worth doing, is worth doing well.

Her Success Mantra

Where there is a will, there is always a way.

Her 8 Principles to live by

1. Find and define Yourself
2. Set your Values.
3. Pray, love, live.
4. Find a MENTOR.
5. Believe in something higher than you.
6. Stand for something or fall for everything.
7. Find and pursue your passion and purpose.
8. Surround yourself with the right NETWORK.