

Bio of Melanie Taddeo-Nxumalo

A passionate advocate for inclusion, Melanie Taddeo-Nxumalo, who at the age of 21 suffered a massive stroke that left her completely paralyzed on her left side and legally blind.

After years of therapy, Melanie was able to regain her independence and went on to become the first legally blind teacher to graduate in Ontario, Canada. A certified special education teacher with over 20 years of experience in program development, fundraising, community outreach, volunteer management, and public speaking.

Melanie founded Connect4Life and Voices 4 Ability based on her personal experience of the lack of programs for people with disabilities that promote independence. She has made it her goal to help empower others to achieve their dreams despite the challenges they may face.

Over the last decade Melanie has expanded her portfolio to include advocating, training and helping organizations and companies embrace inclusion. Specializing in EDI Melanie has helped these organizations make Equity diversity and inclusion a priority not because they have to, but because it is the right thing to do.

Melanie started her consulting company Gaining Vision 2020 to take her work and passion to a Global stage. Working in Canada, South Africa, and the United States. It is her goal to help companies, schools, and organizations embrace Inclusion.

2024 kicked off with Melanie opening up a chapter of Connect4Life in South Africa. She is excited to see how it will grow in the upcoming years.