

Conversation with Jacqueline & Kassaga

In this People First Talk, we explored what kind of leadership we need today and how to cultivate it. Watch the talk [here](#).

Key ideas

- The old paradigm that puts individual leadership at the center does not work in this interdependent world. We must put our shared humanity at the center, and embrace new leadership qualities such as moral imagination and holding values in tension.
- Collective action is tough because organizations are already overwhelmed with urgent tasks and resource constraints, and collective work can take more time. However, if we wish to achieve impact in communities at scale, we need collective leadership.
- Our world is becoming increasingly polarized. To counter this, we can begin by bringing diverse groups of leaders together, not just those who look diverse on the surface, but people who have been raised with truly different experiences and belief systems.
- With these diverse groups, we then need to create safe and brave spaces where hard conversations can take place and where we can explore tensions. Powerful readings (e.g. Martin Luther King letter, Rumi poetry) can be one tool to open up such spaces.
- To change the status quo, we have to learn to partner with those who we might disagree with or dislike. This requires building an understanding of our own identities and of others' identities, and then using this as a tool to connect with one another.



Jacqueline Novogratz
Founder & CEO, Acumen



Kassaga Arinaitwe
Co-founder & CEO, Teach For Uganda

“We need moral imagination - the humility to see the world as it is and the audacity to imagine it as it could be.” - Jacqueline Novogratz

“We’ve seen that grassroots leaders - people who are closest to the challenges that we face - are really the ones who can drive the solutions.” — Kassaga Arinaitwe

Our next People First Talk will be with **Mauricio Miller**, Founder of the [Center for Peer-driven Change](#) on Sept 7 at 11am EST / 4pm BST / 8:30pm IST. You can register for the talk [here](#).

For more information on the People First Community and effort, please visit peoplefirstdev.org, or sign-up [here](#).