

## Kave Bulambo Personal Biography

Kave Bulambo, Director and founder of Women Across Borders , holds a bachelor of Social Science Degree in Industrial Psychology and an honours degree in Gender Studies.

Recently nominated in the Mail and Guardian 2013 Top 200 South Africans making a difference Kave was born in Bukavu, a town in the Eastern Republic Democratic of Congo on the 23 of January 1985 in a family of 7 children. Her father was an accountant and her mother a nurse. She completed primary school in 1991 at Lycee International a private school for girls. In the year 2000, 2 years before she completes high school, her and her family were force to flee Bukavu as the civil war broke out.

With other refugees, they crossed over into Tanzania and found refuge in one of the largest refugee camp in Africa *Nyarugusu*. Together with her family they spent 3 months in the camp before moving to Dar Es Salaam where they spent a year and a half, waiting to be transferred to a camp in Mozambique to reunite with her step father, after being arrested whilst attempting to cross the border of Tanzania and Mozambique without any documentation.

In July 2002 kave and her older sister and 2 younger brothers left Mozambique for South Africa in search of their mother who left to find their step father. In the middle of the night they crossed the *Manguzi* river in a boat, without knowing that the river host crocodiles and hippos. Safely they arrived on the other side where a taxi was waiting to transport all those that had crossed the border.

From August 2002 kave and her sister began working in hairs salons to make a living and contribute to the rental cost of where they were staying in Durban.

In 2003 Kave's sister asked her and her two brothers to go back to school so they can have a better future. Because Kave had only two years left to complete high school, she was placed in grade 10, 3 years before completing high school.

In 2005 she completed her high school education with distinction, allowing her to secure a scholarship from the Albert Einstein Scholarship programme (DAFI) which sponsors only refugee students.

In 2006 she was accepted to pursue a bachelor of social science degree in Psychology at the University of Kwazulu Natal Howard College. She founded Women Across Borders in September 2008 after the major xenophobic attacks on refugees and foreign nationals took place in South Africa.

In April 2010 Kave graduated from University and began working with a community based organization that uses a behaviour change model to combat HIV/AIDS amongst young people in Cato Manor Durban.

In 2012 Kave went back to Howard College to pursue a degree in Gender Studies, in line with her work with Women Across Borders and successfully graduated in April 2013. In October 2012 Kave was called upon by the United Nations, High Commissioner for Refugees in Switzerland to speak on the importance of acquiring higher education for Refugees in Africa at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Executive committee meeting of member states.

In April 2009 Kave got married to Ibanda Alain Bulambo and they now have 2 children, Abigail and Reuben Bulambo.

It seems as if the sky is the limit for this young woman. She admits though that without education her life was not going to be what it is today.

Kave Bulambo an ambassador of women empowerment through education and skills development is on the mission to change the lives of African women and girls who otherwise cannot, because of their backgrounds or economic status.