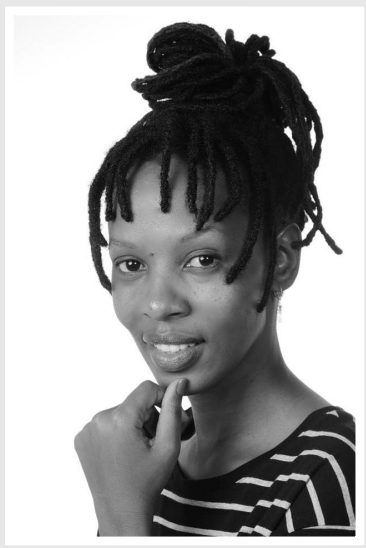


HOPE AZEDA

- EASY TO READ LIFE STORY



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST



Key terms:

Hutus and Tutsis: Most people in Rwanda used to think of themselves as being from one of these two groups. If your parents were Hutus then you were part of the Hutu group, if your parents were Tutsis then you were part of the Tutsi group. Today in Rwanda, people aren't put into these groups, instead everybody thinks of themselves as Rwandan.

Government: group of people who run a country making laws and rules.

Genocide: Genocide is a word used to describe killing people just because they belong to a particular group. This has happened in many countries around the world.

Hope's mother and father were born in an African country called Rwanda. People in Rwanda came from different groups. The largest group of people were called **Hutus** and the second largest group were called **Tutsis**. The Hutus and Tutsis had a lot of disagreements and there was a lot of violence between them. Hope's parents left Rwanda before she was born, to escape from all this.

Hope was born in a country neighbouring Rwanda, called Uganda. She had eight brothers and two sisters.

While Hope and her family were living in Uganda, the problems in Rwanda became a lot worse. The Rwandan **government**, which was run by the Hutus, treated the Tutsis very badly. In April 1994 the Rwandan president died when his plane crashed. The Hutus blamed the Tutsis saying that they had made the plane crash. Some Hutus told all the others that they had to kill the Tutsis.

Many Hutus tried to kill people who were Tutsis, just because of who they were, not because they had done anything wrong. This carried on for 100 days. Many of Hope's relatives were still living in Rwanda and were killed during this time.

Hope had always wanted to go to Rwanda, because her family had told her what a beautiful country it was. In 1998 she went to live there, but she found that the beautiful country was gone. Rwanda was a country that had been ruined by all the fighting and killing. Some Hutus living in towns and villages had attacked their neighbours and friends who were Tutsis. This was hard for people to forget afterwards.

Hope believes the way to move on is to forgive. She wants to think about her loved ones, rather than thinking about the people who killed them. She thinks that life can go on, even after something so terrible, but the people involved have to be brave and look at the future with love and peace and they must respect each other, not feel hatred for those who are different.

Today, Hope lives in Rwanda, with her husband and two daughters. She has set up a dance and acting company called Mashirika. They produce plays and films to tell people about how to stop **genocide** from happening.

Hope says:

‘Life can go on if there is courage to embrace tomorrow with love, peace, dignity and respect.’




Find out more...

Genocide in Rwanda: hmd.org.uk/rwanda

More information about Hope: hmd.org.uk/hope

Other resources for educators: hmd.org.uk/educators

hmd.org.uk
enquiries@hmd.org.uk
020 7785 7029

 [@hmd_uk](https://twitter.com/hmd_uk)
 [hmd.uk](https://www.facebook.com/hmd.uk)
 [@holocaustmemorialdaytrust](https://www.instagram.com/holocaustmemorialdaytrust)

Learning lessons from the past to create a safer, better future