

Wife, mother, educator, businesswoman. Couple those titles with the duality of being Black and a woman in America.

Navigating in a country where I am the first born in my family.
Navigating in the City of Buffalo where I was not born or raised.
Sometimes feeling so overwhelmed that my insides echo the sound of George Floyd when he cried, "I can't breathe." Still in all, the strength + resilience of the Black woman, to make a way out of no way, to build my own doors when people say I can not enter, to prove statistics wrong and build a legacy for my family runs through my veins.

I have used the pain from my lows to have the tenacity to operate in my highs. When COVID hit, that fight allowed us to pivot. While we watched other businesses around us fall, we were thriving. I stay focused and always grounded in my "why." GOD, Family, all else. Rededicating myself to this order has made not only myself successful but helped my entire family. As a leader in business, work strength comes in knowing what you don't know, and always striving for better. I was a mother, before I was a woman. My mother came to this country from Belize CA. She left an entrepreneurial legacy. I will leave the same for my girls.

The duality of being Black and a woman & the double consciousness of how to function in America is a fine balance. It's exhausting! But, it is necessary! This fight is not only for myself, and my daughters, but those who follow.

Adlene A. Adams