



Global Women's Leadership Network

New England Sister Society

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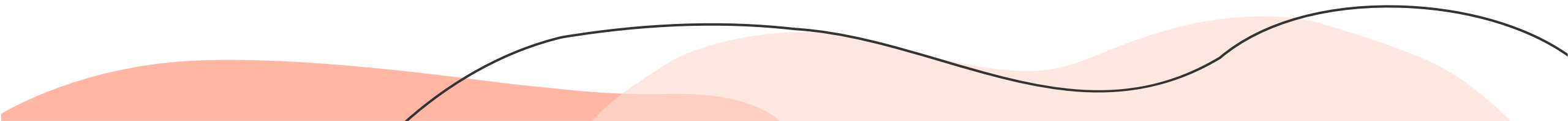


Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Women Leading the Future

Speaker: Dr. Joyner Eke

Opening Reflection

Think of one woman who has inspired your professional journey. What barrier did she overcome?





Why This Theme Matters

- ❑ Women remain underrepresented in leadership roles.
- ❑ Diverse leadership drives innovation.
- ❑ Today, we focus on Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges, and Leading the Future.



The future is female — and collaborative

A Story of Persistence

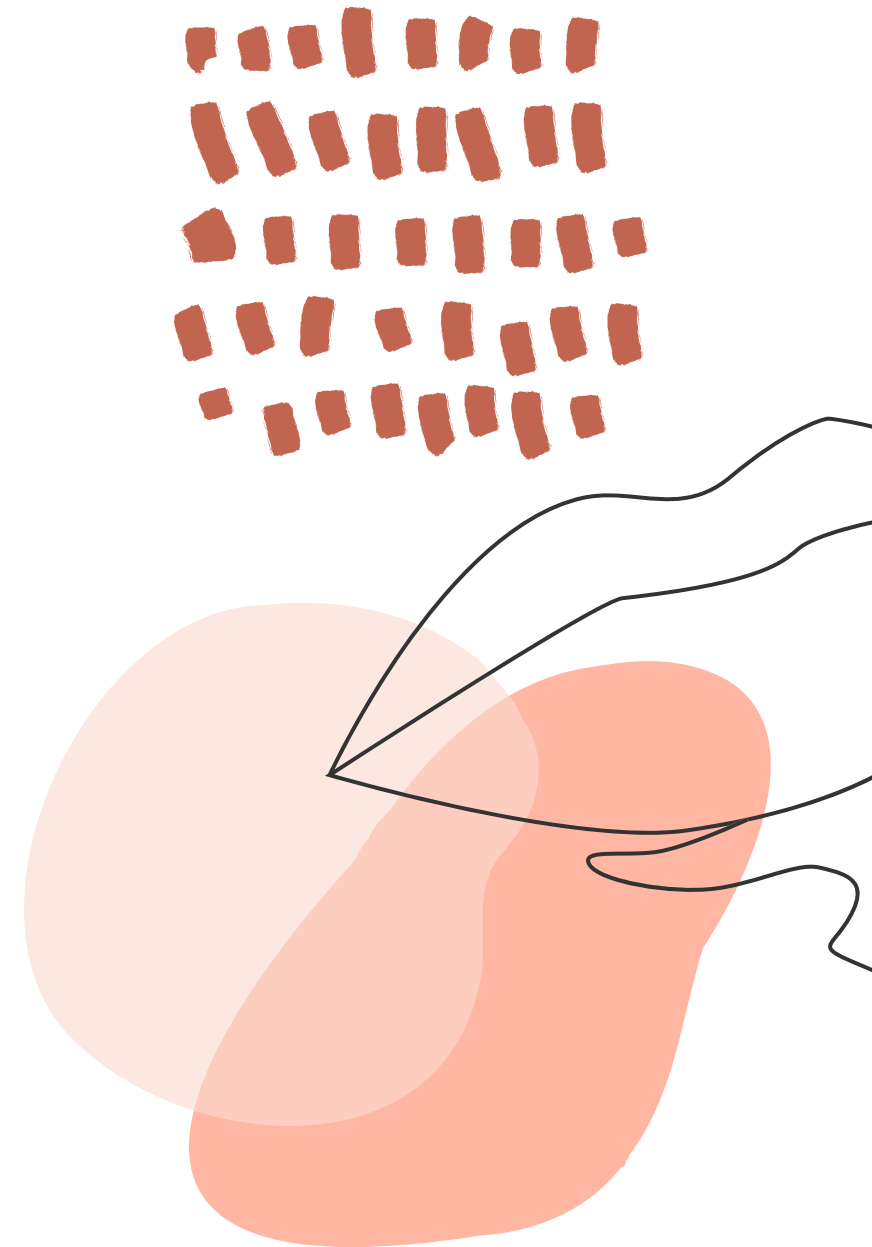


Breaking Barriers

Overcoming gender bias and structural challenges

- ✓ **Persistence is not blind stubbornness** ; It is disciplined belief supported by continuous learning and experimentation.
- ✓ **Collaboration amplifies innovation** ; her partnership with Weissman turned individual perseverance into global impact.
- ✓ **Representation matters** ; her journey inspires women in the workplace to keep going, even when the system says "no."

Reflection: Write down one barrier you've overcome



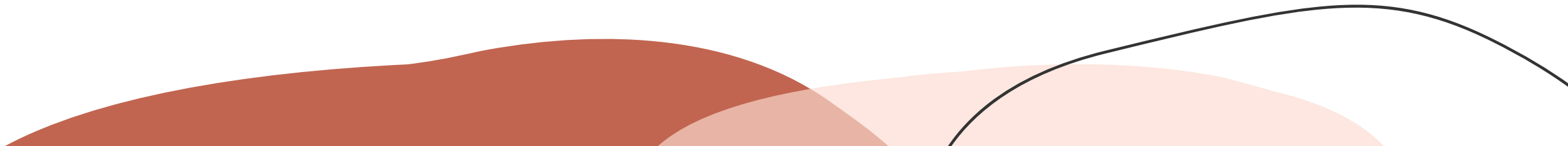
Common Barriers Women Face

Confidence Gap – internalized doubt from external expectations

Visibility Gap – contributions overlooked or undervalued.

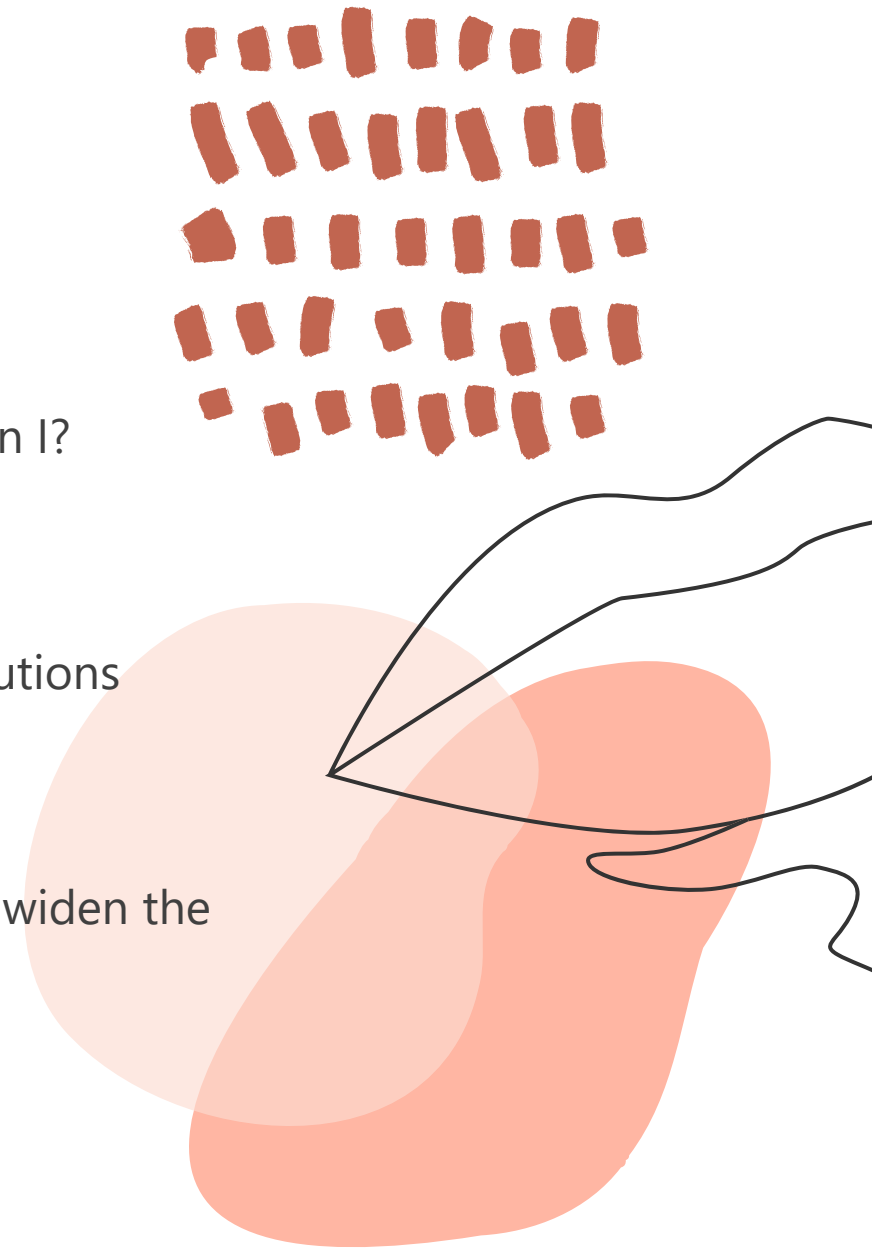
Access Gap – limited networks and opportunities.

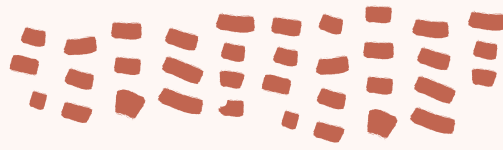
Support Gap – lack of sponsorship or role models.



How Do We Break Barriers?

- ❖ **Acknowledge the Barriers ;** You can't break what you don't recognize
- ❖ **Reframe Limiting Narratives;** We must reframe from "I can't" to "How can I?"
- ❖ **Innovate from the Inside;** Challenge outdated practices with creative solutions
- ❖ **Model the Change;** Every time someone sees you defy expectations, you widen the path for others





Building Bridges –The Power of Connection

We rise higher when we lift each other

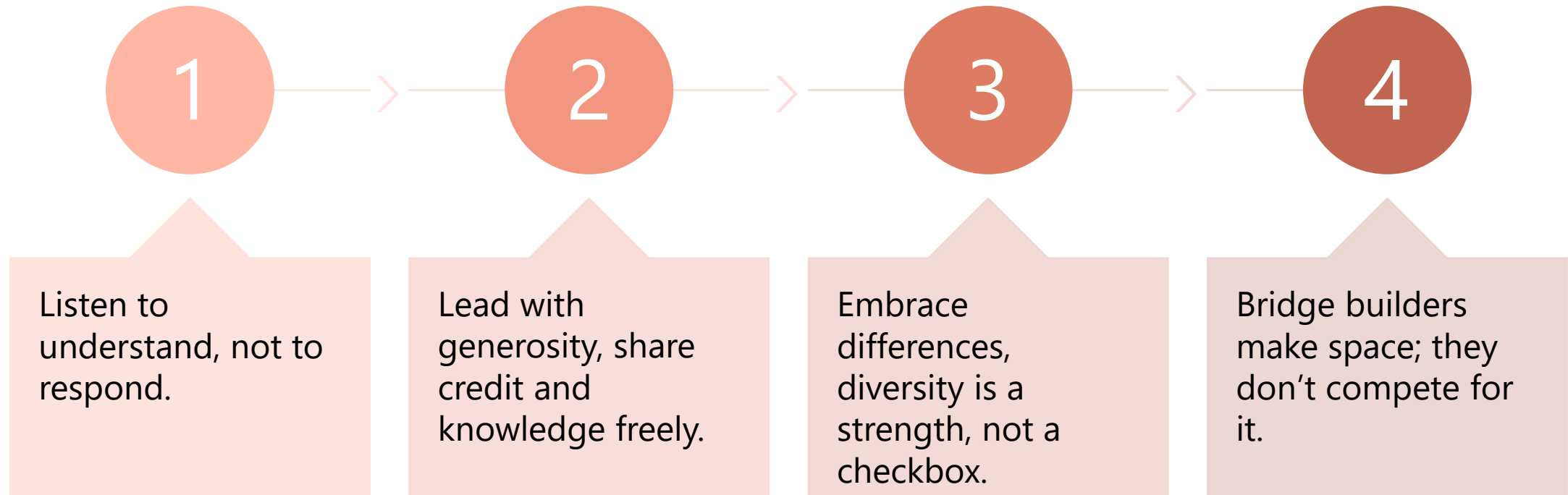
Three Pillars of Bridge-Building:

- **Mentorship** → Share wisdom, not just advice.
- **Allyship** → Use your voice when others can't.
- **Collaboration** → Replace silos with synergy.

Raise your hand if you've ever opened a door or made an introduction that changed someone's career.

Is there someone you could reach out to and connect with this week — and what might be holding you back?

The Bridge Builder's Mindset



Mentorship vs Sponsorship

	Mentorship	Sponsorship
Purpose	Guidance & development	Advocacy & advancement
Focus	"Help me grow"	"Help me move up"
Visibility	Mostly private	Public & influential
Who drives it	Mentee	Sponsor (earned through results)
Typical action	Gives advice	Creates opportunity
Outcome	Stronger skills & confidence	Promotions, stretch roles, visibility

Mentors talk **to** you — Sponsors talk **about** you in the rooms that matter.





The Ripple Effect

One act of inclusion can transform a culture.

One sponsor can change a career.

One bridge can connect generations of leaders.

“Bridges outlast walls — build wisely.”



Leading the Future

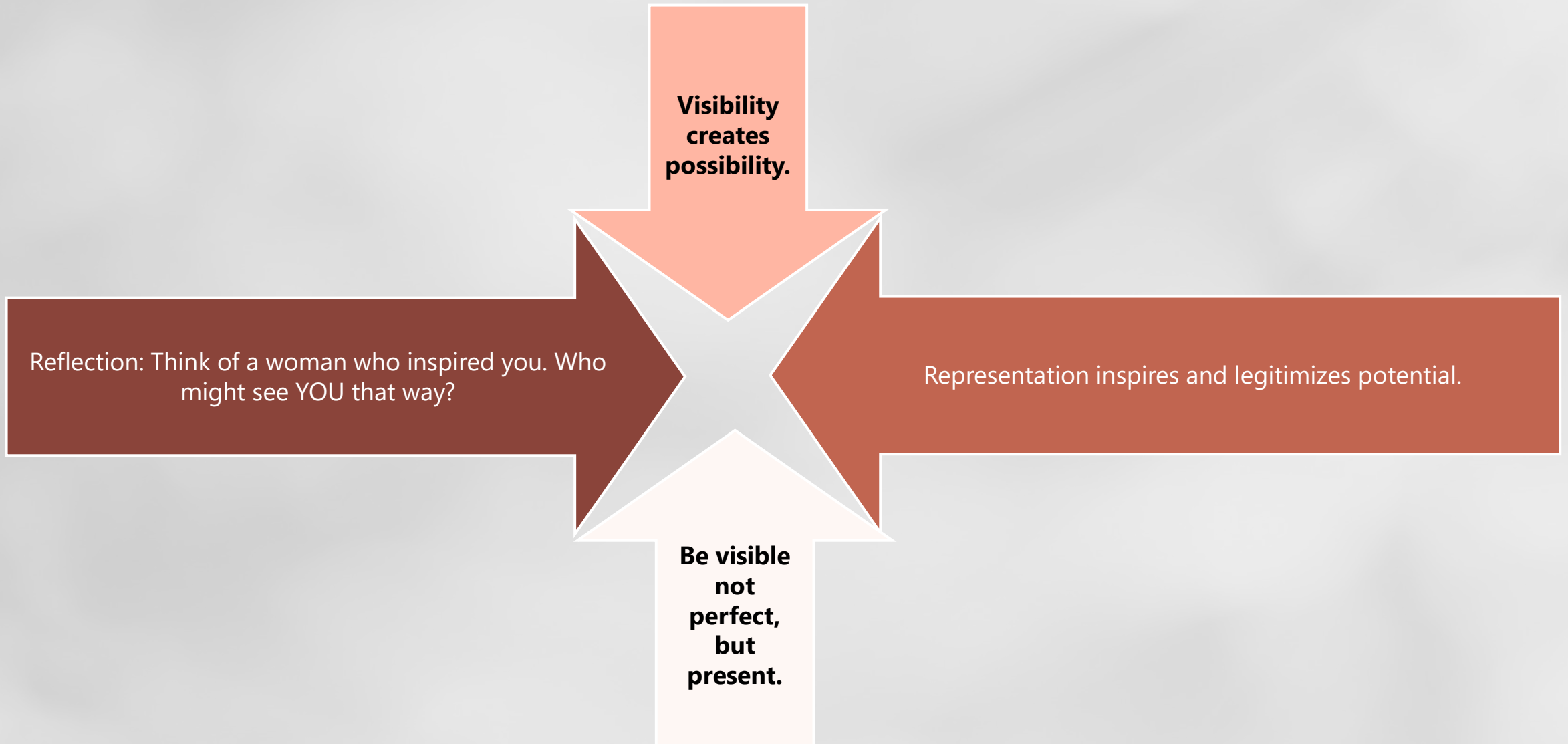
Redefining leadership for the next decade.

The future demands empathy, adaptability, and innovation.

Leadership isn't about answers ; it's about asking the right questions.

Imagine it's 2050. What 3 words describe your leadership legacy?

The Power of Representation





Leading with Confidence

Silence the imposter, own your excellence.

Confidence is built from authenticity.

Show up even when you doubt — that's real courage.

Raise your hand if you've doubted but succeeded anyway

Navigating Change & Innovation

**Thrive in
uncertainty.**

**Progress comes from
courage, not
certainty.**

**Women are
redefining
industries.**

**Example: In biotech
and beyond, women
are rewriting the
playbook.**

Balancing Leadership & Well-being



Sustainable success means rest and reflection.



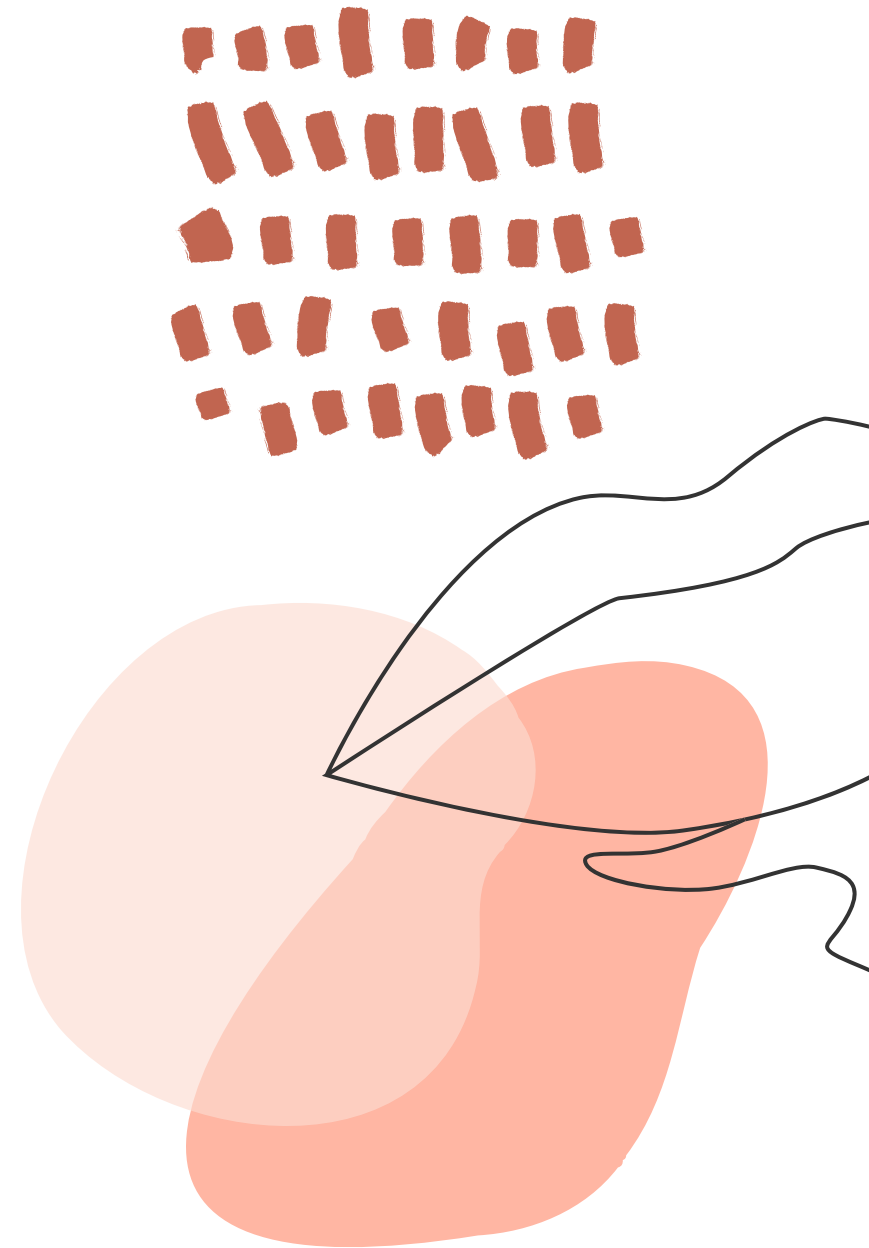
Boundaries protect brilliance.



Mindful Moment: What drains you? What restores you?

The Legacy of Leadership

- Leadership is not about position; it is about purpose.
 - Every conversation you start, every barrier you break, and every bridge you build leaves a legacy.
 - True influence is measured by the doors you open for others.
- “Your legacy is not what you achieve, but what you empower others to achieve.”**





Call to Action

Breaking Barriers – Challenge what limits progress.

Building Bridges – Connect, collaborate, and uplift.

Leading the Future – Redefine what leadership looks like.

“Tomorrow begins with one action you take today. What will yours be?”



Thank You & Final Reflection

"May we continue to break barriers with courage, build bridges with compassion, and lead the future with vision."

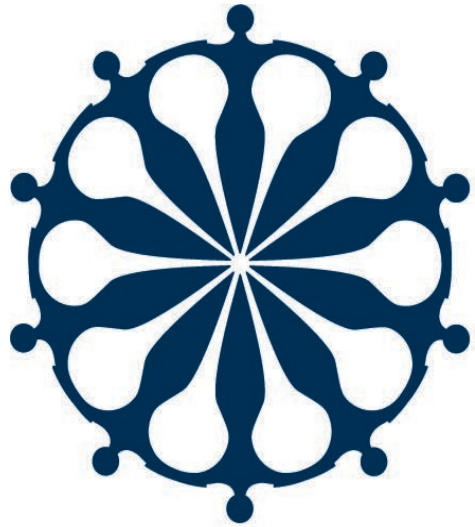
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Thank you for attending



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