

Shayla Strapps

Human Rights Lawyer, Coach, Consultant & Speaker

Known for her unconventional approach and a penchant for challenging established norms, Shayla Strapps brings a fresh perspective to the business arena. Her journey as a changemaker extends beyond the legal realm, where she has actively contributed to fostering innovation and pushing boundaries.

In addition to her illustrious legal career spanning two decades, Shayla's leadership sets her apart. Her commitment to equity and social justice has earned her prestigious accolades, including the Lawyer of the Year Award and Woman Lawyer of the Year Award in Western Australia.

Shayla is an accomplished business leader and CEO with over 15 years of experience at the helm of various successful ventures. A seasoned founder, she has demonstrated her entrepreneurial prowess, navigating the challenges of establishing and growing businesses. Currently, Shayla leverages her expertise in the business world to provide strategic advisory services.

Recognizing the toll that the legal profession and other high-stakes environments can take on individuals, Shayla actively seeks unconventional paths to achieve balance. As a mentor, coach, and inspirational figure, she guides others in finding equilibrium in their professional and personal lives. Shayla's journey includes bold decisions such as relocating to France for 18 months and making career shifts in pursuit of passion and balance, resulting in a wealth of amusing anecdotes and profound lessons.

A sought-after expert in her field, Shayla is a regular guest on radio and in the media. Her measured and knowledgeable voice adds depth to discussions on a wide range of current topics. Shayla continues to redefine success, not just as a lawyer but as a visionary business leader committed to making a positive impact on both her community and the professional landscape.

Shayla Strapps talks about:

Start with One

This keynote focuses on the idea that while the world's problems can seem overwhelming, meaningful change starts with helping one person or addressing one issue at a time. Drawing from Shayla's experience working with marginalised and vulnerable communities, "Start with One"



emphasises the power of small, individual actions that can have a lasting ripple effect. Shayla inspires her audience to see that they don't need massive resources or influence to make a difference—by focusing on the person or task in front of them, they can drive real change in their communities and work environments. This keynote offers a practical, grounded approach to creating impact, highlighting that significant transformation often begins with just one step, one conversation, or one decision to help.

Small Steps, Big Change: Equity Through Everyday Actions

This keynote draws from Shayla's 23 years of experience working with marginalised communities—women facing violence, refugees, individuals in detention, and people with mental health issues. Shayla shares powerful stories of how even the smallest actions can create lasting impact in systems that seem too broken to fix. By focusing on helping one person at a time or tackling one issue, Shayla demonstrates how meaningful change is possible, even in the face of overwhelming challenges. Her message encourages individuals to recognize that real progress toward equity doesn't always come from grand gestures—it comes from everyday actions, amplifying the voices of those who are often ignored. Shayla inspires her audience to look at their own lives and careers and see where they can make small changes that will ripple outward, driving equity and justice in the world around them.

Strength in Unity: Resilience for Success

In her 20+ years as a human rights lawyer and CEO, Shayla Strapps has faced the most challenging aspects of injustice—working with vulnerable individuals in prisons, detention centres, and mental health institutions. Through this experience, she learned that resilience is not just about surviving adversity; it's about sustaining progress in the face of immense challenges while never losing sight of the common goal.

In this powerful keynote, Shayla shares the strategies she developed to maintain resilience while advocating for societal change, and how those same principles can be applied to any organisation working toward ambitious goals. Shayla highlights how building strength as a team, defining a shared purpose, and learning from setbacks can lead to lasting impact, even in the most difficult circumstances.

Attendees will walk away inspired by Shayla's stories of persistence and teamwork, understanding that by harnessing collective resilience, we can move beyond short-term wins to create long-term, meaningful change. This keynote is a call to stay focused on the bigger picture, reminding us that the path to achieving any common goal requires strength, solidarity, and an unwavering commitment to progress.

Purposeful Progress: Career and Life Clarity

In the demanding world of law and leadership, and at the peak of her career, Shayla reached rock bottom, overwhelmed by burnout, chronic pain and the relentless pressure to perform. Faced with the reality that her path was unsustainable, Shayla made the courageous decision to redefine success based on her own values rather than external expectations. She rebuilt her life by focusing

on what she genuinely wanted, instead of what she felt she should do, and found a new way to balance meaningful work with personal fulfilment. As a coach, mentor, and consultant, Shayla helps others make this transformative shift. In this keynote, she shares how you can create a life and career that reflect your true desires without having to abandon your profession. By setting boundaries, silencing critics, and breaking away from conventional paths, Shayla inspires you to take bold steps toward crafting a life and career that align with your core values. This keynote will leave you with the clarity to stop pursuing tasks out of obligation and start building a future based on what truly matters to you.

Client testimonials:

“ In a world where we experience crowded channels bursting with public speakers, thought leadership forums and podcasts, really communicating and getting cut through is competitive and not automatic. Shayla Strapps as a communicator of ideas, speaker, influencer in decision making forums and as an advocate, achieves cut through and influence whenever she speaks. Her professional experience, empathy, precise language, exposure to diverse people and perspectives, commanding presence and an ability to tell a compelling and targeted narrative, provides the powerful components to being a standout and memorable public speaker. I have seen Shayla speak in public forums, at Board meetings and as a surprised award winner on the podium and in each case, she speaks, we listen and we reflect. She is measured, thoughtful and human in her communications. There are too many ‘professional’ speakers who are formulaic, repetitive and sometimes with little to say. In these current times, this delivery is bland and unprogressive. Shayla Strapps provides an opportunity to engage and re-engage with ideas, issues and people in a fresh, compelling, inclusive and powerful manner. Highly recommended.

- General Manager Marketing, Business Development & Community Engagement

“ Shayla is a powerful speaker, able to articulate the action required by each of us in achieving social equity. As an award winning lawyer she knows the justice system and has seen first hand how our vulnerable experience disadvantage. And while her message is powerful in regard to the systems level changes that are needed, she also has a message for all of us. That we each need to embody the change we seek.

- Marketing Director, Huddle

“ Shayla is an exceptional public speaker. The way she presents is appealing and engaging, using her extensive experience in the field of law and translating it into practical lessons. It is the way Shayla translates her story and presents her experiences which really make her presentations stand out. Shayla maintains a humility that is refreshing despite her impressive background and she is always truthful, open and clear. Shayla leaves a lasting impression and after hearing her speak I am often reflecting on how I can best implement her learnings into the work I do as a leader.

- General Manager Housing & Homelessness - Ruah Community Services

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