

Statement of support for Professor Glenda Gray and the principle of academic freedom of speech

As scientists, academics and policy experts, we are committed to being part of the complex policy response and debate on dealing with the epidemic of SARS-CoV-2 (the cause of COVID-19) in South Africa. We recognise that it is impossible to have perfected the response to the epidemic, but course correction should be rapid and not defensive. With that in mind, we condemn the specific threat made against Prof. Glenda Gray for expressing her opinion in public, which is totally out of step with the public pronouncements made by the President, welcoming criticism. We uphold the right to academic freedom of speech, and call on the South African government to engage openly with alternative views, and for all of us to urgently work towards constructive solutions regarding policy, in the interests of the country.

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Current signatures (alphabetical order), as of 16h00, Monday 25 May 2020. The list is now closed, although you can add your name at the bottom of the *Daily Maverick* site ([https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-25-250-senior-academics-issue-statement-to-support-prof-glenda-gray-and-the-principle-of-academic-freedom/?tl_inbound=1&tl_groups\[0\]=80895&tl_period_type=3&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Business%20Maverick%20Monday%2025%20May%202020%20-%20NinetyOne&utm_content=Business%20Maverick%20Monday%2025%20May%202020%20-%20NinetyOne+CID_c60885d94179ffb149d6d610c2f4435e&utm_source=TouchBasePro&utm_term=250%20senior%20academics%20issue%20statement%20to%20support%20Prof%20Glenda%20Gray%20and%20the%20Principle%20of%20Academic%20Freedom](https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-25-250-senior-academics-issue-statement-to-support-prof-glenda-gray-and-the-principle-of-academic-freedom/?tl_inbound=1&tl_groups[0]=80895&tl_period_type=3&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Business%20Maverick%20Monday%2025%20May%202020%20-%20NinetyOne&utm_content=Business%20Maverick%20Monday%2025%20May%202020%20-%20NinetyOne+CID_c60885d94179ffb149d6d610c2f4435e&utm_source=TouchBasePro&utm_term=250%20senior%20academics%20issue%20statement%20to%20support%20Prof%20Glenda%20Gray%20and%20the%20Principle%20of%20Academic%20Freedom))

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Dr Arne von Delft, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town; and TB Proof co-founder

Dr Dalene von Delft, TB Proof co-founder and board member

Dr Tascha Vos, Centre for Environmental Management, University of the Free State

Prof. Gerhard Walzl, Executive Head, Biomedical Sciences, Stellenbosch University

Prof. Sean Wasserman, Infectious Diseases, Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town

Prof. Nicola Wearne, Division of Nephrology, University of Cape Town

Prof. Edward Webster, Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Alan Whiteside, OBE, Chair of Global Health Policy, BSIA, Waterloo, Canada; and Professor Emeritus, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Prof. Michelle Williams, Department of Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Anna-Lise Williamson, Biopharming Research Unit, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town

Dr Jonathan Witt, Department of Anaesthesia, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. M Wong, Academic Head: Pulmonology, School of Clinical Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Robin Wood, Director, Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, University of Cape Town

Dr Adrienne Wulfsohn, Emergency and Disaster Medicine, KwaZulu-Natal

Ntando Yola, Advocacy for Prevention of HIV and AIDS

Dr Martin Young, Private practice

Dr Dayle Zieff, Groote Schuur HIV Clinical Services