

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 15 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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