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.

Prof. Francois Venter
Ezintsha, sub-division of Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
fventer@wrhi.ac.za, venter.franscois@gmail.com


Dr Fareed Abdullah, Director: Office of AIDS and TB Research, South African Medical Research Council
Prof. Sumaiya Adam, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Pretoria
Dr Khadija Ahmed, CEO, Ezintsha Research Centre
Prof. Kate Alexander, South African Research Chair in Social Change and Director: Centre for Social Change, University of Johannesburg
Prof. Cathi Albertyn, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Lucy Allais, Professor of Philosophy, University of the Witwatersrand. Henry Allison Chair of the History of Philosophy, UCS
Shafrudeen Amod, Clinical Pharmacist and Health Law, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Dr Chris Archer, CEO, South African Private Practitioners Forum (SAPPF)
Dr Cecile Baard, GP, aesthetic medicine, private practice, Pretoria
Lee Baker, President and on behalf of the South African Society of Travel Medicine
Dr Scott Barker, Private practice, Cape Town
Prof. Karen I Barnes, Division of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Cape Town

Prof. Dan Barouch, William Bosworth Castle Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard, Director of the Center for Virology and Vaccine Research; Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Dr Peter Barron, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Michael Barrow, Orthopaedic surgeon, private practice
Prof. Linda Basson, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State
Dr Zabezhe Bayat, Head of Internal Medicine, Head of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Helen Joseph Hospital and University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Linda-Gail Bekker, Director, Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, University of Cape Town
Dr Peter-John Berlyn, Paediatrician, Kimberley
Prof. Chris Beyrer, Desmond M Tutu Professor in Public Health and Human Rights, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA; and Past President, International AIDS Society, International Co-Chair for AIDS 2016 in Durban, South Africa
Priya Bhana, Perinatal HIV Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Haroon Bhorat, Development Policy Research Unit, University of Cape Town
Dr Geoffrey Bihl, Nephologist, private practice, Western Cape
Dr Duanne Blaauw, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr John Black, Infectious diseases physician at Livingstone Hospital and University of Cape Town
Dr Michael Blackburn, Specialist anaesthesiologist, private practice, Johannesburg
Dr M Blaylock, Medical manager, Manguzi Hospital, KwaZulu-Natal
Prof. Frikkie Booyens, School of Economics and Finance, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Johan Botha, DermAfrica
Natalie Bracher, Hutchinson Centre Research Institute of South Africa
Prof. Keith Breckenridge, WISER, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr David Brittain, Clinical haematologist, private practice, Johannesburg
Prof. Adrian Brink, Head, Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Cape Town
Garth Brink, Family physician, Durban
Dr Sarahan Brophy, private GP, Sea Point, Cape Town
Dr Susan Buchbinder, Prof., Medicine and Epidemiology, UCSF, Member, Executive Management Team, HIV Vaccine Trials Network (in USA)
Dr Suvarna Buldeo, Clinical pathologist, KwaZulu-Natal
Prof. Catherine Burns, Associate Professor of Medical History; Adler Museum of Medicine; Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand
Mr Hennie Butler, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State
Prof. Lydia Cairncross, Department of Surgery, University of Cape Town
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Dr Michelle J Groome, Senior clinical researcher and medical epidemiologist, Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Adam Habib, Vice-Chancellor, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Scott M Hammer, Harold C Neu Professor of Infectious Diseases, Columbia University, Irving Medical Center; Member, Executive Management Team, HIV Vaccine Trials Network

Dr Lucia Hans, Clinical virologist, Molecular Medicine and Haematology, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Sian Hartshorne, President, South African Society for Dermatological Surgery; and University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Woltemade Hartman, Clinical psychologist and Executive Board Member of the International Society of Clinical Hypnosis

Prof. Mark Hatherly, Director, South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative, University of Cape Town

Dr Yolandie Hayden, Private practice, Pretoria

Prof. Kim Hein, Emeritus Professor, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Inga Hitteroth, Deputy Director, Biopharming Research Unit, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town

Dr Temlett Hockey, Paediatrician, Paarl

Dr Ronald Hockman, Anaesthesiologist, Gauteng

Prof. Nicola Illing, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town

Prof. Robert Ingle, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town

Prof. Charles Haddad, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State

Prof. Shireen Hassan, WISER, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. W F Harris, Emeritus Professor, University of Johannesburg

Dr Rebecca Hodes, AIDS and Society Research Unit, University of Cape Town

Dr Cara Hollander, Prime Hearing, University of the Witwatersrand

Kathryn L Hopkins, Perinatal HIV Research Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Mitchell Hughes, School of Business Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Jannie Hugo, Department of Family Medicine, University of Pretoria

Prof. Tracy Lynn Humby, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Barry Jacobson, Head, Clinical Haematology, National Health Laboratory Service

Prof. Ian Jandrell, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Jonathan Jansen, Stellenbosch University

Dr Candice Jansen van Rensburg, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State

Dr Bhavna Jasmat, Paediatrician

Dr Zainub Jooma, Department of Anaesthesia, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Stephen Jurisch, Head: School of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Eb Kader, Neuro and General Interventionalist, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Cape Town; and Faculty of Medicine, Stellenbosch University

Prof. Kathy Kahn, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Baves Kana, Personal Professor, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Yatish Kara, Paediatrics, Chairman of the South African Private Practice Forum

Prof. Jonathan Klaaren, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Hester C Klopper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Strategy and Internationalisation, Global Health, FMHS, Stellenbosch University

Prof. Uma Kollamparambil, Head, School of Economics and Finance, University of the Witwatersrand

Emeritus Prof. Beverley Kramer, School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Anna Kramvis, Director, Hepatitis Virus Diversity Research Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Nico Mostert Kritzinger, General practitioner, Klerksdorp

Prof. Mariana Kruger, Executive Head, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Stellenbosch University

Prof. James Kublin, Executive Director of the HIV Vaccine Trials Network; Medical Director of the Malaria Clinical Trials Center at Seattle Biomedical; Professor of Global Health at the University of Washington

Dr Richard Kyte, Orthopaedic surgeon, Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre

Dr Anita Lai, Private practice, sessional rheumatologist at Helen Joseph Academic Hospital, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Erica Lazarus, Perinatal HIV Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Anthony Leaman, School of Economics, University of Cape Town

Prof. Murray Leibrandt, SALDRU, University of Cape Town

Prof. Johann Lemmer, President, Council for Sexual Health Professionals, South Africa – on behalf of >20 colleagues at CSHP

Engelbert le Roux, HCRISA

Prof. Naomi Levitt, Emeritus Professor of Endocrinology, University of Cape Town

Prof. Anthony Leczyens, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Stellenbosch University

Dr Carien Lion-Cachet, Family physician, joint appointee, J B Marks Sub-District DoH and Department of Family Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Theresa Lorenzo, Disability Studies and Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town

Dr Susan Louw, Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Gary Maartens, Head of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Cape Town

Prof. Shabir Madhi, Professor of Vaccinology and Director of the MRC Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Gloria Maimela, Director Health Programmes, Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Mookho Malahleha, Deputy CEO, Setshaba Research Centre

Prof. Helder Marques, Faculty of Science, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Troy Martin, Chief of Staff, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, HIV Vaccine Trials Network (in USA)

Ms Velashka Martin, Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Neil Martinson, Perinatal HIV Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Mooketsi Mathe, Private practice; lecturer, University of the Witwatersrand
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Dr Catherine Mathews, South African Medical Research Council; and School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town
Prof. Richard Matzopoulos, Chief Specialist and Co-Director: Burden of Disease Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council
Fatima Mayat, Perinatal HIV Research Unit
Dr Elizabeth Mayne, Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Marc Mendelson, Head, Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine, University of Cape Town
Prof. Colin Menezes, Academic Head, Department of Internal Medicine, School of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Thaddeus Meta, Distinguished Professor, University of Johannesburg
Prof. Gesine Meyer-Rath, HERO, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Adam Mahomed, Head of Internal Medicine, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Marinda McDonald, Private practice, Johannesburg
Prof. Juliana M McElrath, Professor and Director of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division, Senior Vice-President of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Member, Executive Management Team, HIV Vaccine Trials Network
Dr Kirsty McHarry, Private practice, Kaysna
Prof. James McIntyre, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town
Dr Kate Mclachlan, General practitioner, Somerset West
Dr Gary McMichael, Specialist physician/medical oncologist, private practice, Flora
Dr Ruchika Meel, Consultant cardiologist and Post-Doctoral Carnegie Fellow, Cardiology, Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital and University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Shaheen Mehtar, Emeritus Professor, Stellenbosch University
Minja Milovanovic, Perinatal HIV Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Tessa Minter, College of Accountancy, University of Cape Town
Prof. Duncan Mitchell, Emeritus Professor of Physiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Kirsten McHary, Emeritus Professor of Family Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Jeremy Nel, Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Basinwe Ikala-Dlamini, School of Human and Community Development, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Ntobeko Ntusi, Head of Medicine, Wits University
Prof. Ruksana Osman, DVC Academic, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Ravi Prasad, Perinatal HIV Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Maria Pappas, Assistant Dean of Research and Postgraduate Support, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Charles Parry, Director: Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council
Prof. Jon Patricios, Sport and exercise medicine physician; Associate Professor, Wits Institute for Sport and Health (WISH), Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Frank Persson, Clinical radiation oncologist, Vereeniging
Prof. Craig Peters, Department of Botany, Rhodes University
Debra Peters, Perinatal HIV Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Audrey Pettifor, Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina
Dr Beth Pfeiffer, Gynaecologist, retired
Prof. Devan Pillay, Sociology Department, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Barney Pityana, Emeritus Professor, University of South Africa
Dr Deirdre Pretorius, Lecturer, Department of Family Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Sharon Prince, Head, Department of Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town
Prof. Juliet Pulliam, Director, South African DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis (SACEMA), Stellenbosch University
Shelley Ramirez, HIV Vaccine Trials Network
Yvette Raphael, Advocacy for Prevention of HIV and AIDS
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Dr Nika Raphaely, Public health medicine specialist, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and Department of Community Health, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Peter Raubenheimer, Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town

Prof. Robert Reid, HoS Mechanical, Industrial and Aeronautical Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. S J Reid, Glaxo-Wellcome Chair of Primary Health Care, Primary Health Care Directorate, University of Cape Town

Dr Haroun Rhemtula, Head of Clinical Unit and Head of Obstetrics, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Chrissie Rey, School of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Guy Richards, Emeritus Professor, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Tyrone Richards, Emergency Medicine, Life Flora Hospital

Dr Marilyn Richter, African Centre for Migration and Society, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Marina Rifkin, MHS, Epidemiologist, University of California San Francisco

Ela Romanowska, RTTP, Director: Innovation Support, Wits Commercial Enterprise

Dr Michelle Robinson, Medical officer, primary care, Johannesburg

Prof. David Root, HoS Construction Economics and Management, University of the Witwatersrand

Bill Rosenberg, BSc (Civ Eng)

Emeritus Prof. Bernd Rosenkranz, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University

Prof. Jannie Rossouw, Wits Business School, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Paul Ruff, Head of Medical Oncology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Pragna Rugunananan, Professor and Head of Department, Department of Sociology, University of Johannesburg

Prof. Edward Rybicki, Biopharming Research Unit, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town

Prof. Haroon Saloojee, Department of Paediatrics, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Vishwas Satgar, Department of International Relations, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Gabriella Scarlatti, Head of research, Viral Evolution and Transmission Unit, IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy; and professor at the Microbiology and Tumorbiology Center, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Dr Evan Shoul, Infectious diseases specialist, Milpark Hospital

Prof. M Schoeman, Head: Department of Political Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, University of Pretoria

Dr Ingrid Schoeman, Operational Manager, TB Proof

Prof. Lesley Scott, Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Soraya Seedat, Executive Head, Department of Psychiatry, Stellenbosch University

Prof. Jeremy Seekings, Centre for Social Science, University of Cape Town

Dr Kate Shearer, Johns Hopkins University

Prof. Gayle Sherman, Empliwent Services and Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand

Mr Fana Sibanyoni, Chief Operations Officer, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Nandi Siegfried, Independent public health medicine specialist and Chief Specialist Scientist, Medical Research Council

Dr Elvira Singh, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Helen Sommerville, Family physician, private practice, HIV practitioner

Prof. Martin Smith, School of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Johan Smith, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Stellenbosch University

Dr Jonathan Smith, President: Dermatology Society of South Africa

Dr Julian Smith, Paediatrician, Pretoria

Dr Geetesh Solanki, Senior Specialist Scientist, Health Systems Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council

Dr Simiso Sokhela, Ezintsha, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Kathy Sole, Department of Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering, University of Pretoria

Prof. Mark Sonderup, Division of Hepatology, University of Cape Town

Prof. Antonny Stacey, President: Academic Staff Association of Wits University (ASA WU), University of the Witwatersrand

Maria Stacey, Director, Equal International

Dr D M Stander, GP, Colesberg

Dr Kim Steegen, Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Simon Strachan, Paediatrician

Prof. Garth Stevens, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Wendy Stevens, Professor and Head, Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr S A Strachan, Paediatrician, Johannesburg

Prof. Leslie Swartz, Professor of Psychology, Stellenbosch University

Azwi Takalani, Regional Medical Liaison, Hutchinson Centre Research Institute of South Africa

Dr Fazleh Taleb, Neurosurgeon, private practice

Prof. Jantjie Taljaard, Head, Division of Infectious Diseases, Stellenbosch University

Dr Mvuyiso Talatala, South African Society of Psychiatrists; and Department of Psychiatry, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Dr Jill te Water Naudé, GP, Paarl

India Tindale, HIV Vaccine Trials Network

Prof. Steven Tollman, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Georgia Tomaras, Professor of Surgery, Immunology and Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at Duke University; Director of Research for the Duke Human Vaccine Institute; Associate Director for the HIV Vaccine Trials Network Laboratory Center

Prof. Keyan Tomaselli, Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg

Prof. Mark Tomlinson, Institute for Life Course Health Research, Department of Global Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University

Dr Michele Trollett, Family physician, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof. Estelle Trengove, School of Electrical and Information Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Richard Tuft, Executive Director, Radiological Society of South Africa

Dr Astrid Turner, Specialist, Public Health Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Prof. Tina Uys, Department of Sociology, University of Johannesburg
Prof. Imraan Valodia, Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Liesl van As, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State
Prof. John van den Berg, Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, University of Pretoria
Prof. Alex van den Heever, Chair in the field of Social Security at the Wits School of Governance
Prof. Tess van der Merwe, Centres of Excellence for Metabolic Medicine and Surgery of South Africa, University of Pretoria
Dr Annemie van der Straeten, Private practice
Prof. C H van Heerden, Research Professor, Tshwane University of Technology
Dr Nienke van Schaik, Independent medical practitioner
Prof. Ebrahim Variava, Department of Internal Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Jo Vearrey, African Centre for Migration and Society, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. Martin Veller, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof. ZebLon Vilakazi, DVC Research, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Avy Violari, Perinatal HIV Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand
Dr Heinrich Cyril Volmink, Public health medicine specialist
Prof. Jimmy Volmink, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University
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