

Glenda Wildschut

Glenda Wildschut grew up in a South African society that was socially engineered to make it impossible for her to succeed. Despite this, she gathered academic and clinical nursing and public health qualifications at home and in the USA. Recently she presented the first course in health and human rights at the University of Cape Town's Faculty of Nursing. She has been a Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission since its inception, worked at WHO headquarters in Geneva, and been part of an African National Congress negotiations team to facilitate the integration of military health personnel in the National Defence Force.

Her special interests are violence, trauma and torture rehabilitation. She has helped to develop a reparation policy for genocide survivors in Rwanda, a reconciliation process in Guinea Bissau, and a church response to the proposed truth commission in Sierra Leone. She has shared her experience with Countries from Indonesia to Italy, Palestine and the Vatican.

Last year she became the Director of the Desmond Tutu Leadership Academy, dedicated to research and development training for leaders, especially women, in fields from politics to business. Her colleagues credit her with 'street-skills' - the wisdom born out of the battles against apartheid - but also with a 'listener's heart' that gives her a love of commitment to humanity.