



DNA FINGERPRINTING IN FORENSICS MEDIA ROUND TABLE

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Public Understanding of Biotechnology Programme

VANESSA LYNCH

Vanessa Lynch (BA LLB), Executive Director and founder of the DNA Project, qualified as an attorney from UCT in 1993 and after completing her articles, worked as a Commercial Attorney in London. On returning from London in 1998, Vanessa Lynch entered the Corporate World and worked as the Legal Advisor in a Smart Company, which she helped to set up. Vanessa gave up her full-time job in 2005, in order to undertake the DNA Project on a full-time basis. Vanessa's legal background and her acquired skills in drafting and research, together with an innate determination and ability to 'think on her feet', are the ingredients required to fulfill the objectives of the DNA Project.

Vanessa believes that the use of DNA Profiling in crime resolution throughout the world can be achieved in South Africa through the objectives of the DNA Project. Issues such as legislation changes, funding additional equipment, training and receiving outside assistance from institutions such as the FSS, are some of the projects being tackled by the the DNA Project.

"I find the use of DNA evidence in criminal intelligence, fascinating, and there is compelling evidence that a comprehensive National DNA database will not only help solve crime in SA, but will also act as a deterrent."

Vanessa says that whilst she is passionate about her work on the DNA Project, the irony of her undertaking is with her everyday, and comes at a great sacrifice – the murder of her father, John Lynch.

"I would like to believe that by making a difference, I can at least ensure that my father's life was not taken in vain by creating something good out of something so awful. Perhaps the fulfillment of the objectives of the DNA Project will ensure that all those lives in SA that have been violated and taken from us so violently, may too be given the respect that they and their families deserve – its time the majority took back, from what the small minority in this country have taken away from us."



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