

DNA Project

Speaker at the 'BestWriting' breakfast, Vanessa Lynch, described how she started the DNA Project in 2005 after the brutal murder of her father.

Due to the large amounts of evidence lost during the investigation into his murder, she wanted to make a difference.

The DNA Project was created to make all South Africans aware of the importance of preserving the crime scene. It is practically impossible not to leave some kind of evidence behind, whether its fingerprints, footprints, hairs, fibres or the important biological evidence. All of those can link a perpetrator back to the crime scene, and unlike witnesses or suspects the physical evidence cannot lie.

It is an unfortunate scenario but due to the high crime rate in South Africa, chances are you may come across a crime scene. The main thing

to do at a crime scene is to not touch anything. By touching DNA evidence you may contaminate it and the forensics team will then be unable to use that evidence.

Insist that no one interfere with the crime scene, as the fewer the number of people that enter the area, the greater the chance of preserving the evidence. It is often the actions of the first person at the crime scene which affect the final result of the entire case, so by protecting the crime scene, you are making sure that the perpetrators will be found.

The DNA Project offers free DNA Awareness training mainly targeted at first responders who are the most vital point where the evidence left at a crime scene can be compromised. It is in our best interest to support this initiative.

Enquiries: Tel. 021 418 0647 or email maya@dnaproject.co.za. Visit www.dnaproject.co.za.



Vanessa Lynch.