



AS THE FOUNDER OF THE DNA

Project, Vanessa Lynch has dedicated her life to seeing justice served through the use of DNA evidence and analysis for crime detection. Earlier this year, her decade-long mission to help get the Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Act passed was realised, when the bill was rubber-stamped in Parliament. This legislation means that all prisoners and arrestees will have their DNA taken and their profile entered into a database, allowing for simpler cross-referencing in future police investigations. *Nooshin Erfani-Ghadimi*, project coordinator of the University of the Witwatersrand's Justice Project, pays tribute to Vanessa's tireless work:

She Turned Sorrow Into Inspiration

Most people react to violent crime with helplessness, bitterness and hatred. Vanessa chose purpose, determination and resolve. She decided to not let the violent murder of her father in 2004 be forgotten, but to

use it to change the system that had let him and his family down. As she explains on the DNA Project website, "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."

She Understands Sacrifice

When Vanessa saw first-hand the inadequate forensic facilities available to the police, she began a journey which saw her play a significant role in the signing into law of the new DNA bill. She even gave up her full-time job as a commercial attorney in 2005 in order to run the DNA Project. When the Justice Project wrote about the new act, Vanessa told us she believes the successful implementation of the legislation depends on the continuous oversight and guidance of a National Forensic Oversight Ethics Board, which the legislation proposes. We have no doubt that Vanessa's tireless fighting spirit will continue, to ensure that this is implemented, too.

VANESSA
LYNCH

FOUNDER
AND EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
OF THE
DNA PROJECT