

30 April 2013  
Stellenbosch

To Whom It May Concern regarding Prof. Sarojini Nadar

As part of the Church of Sweden's Pilot programme to explore the intersection between Gender, Health and Theology in Africa, a unique Masters course has been developed at Stellenbosch University's Faculty of Theology as well as at the University of KwaZulu Natal's School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics. As a creative result of the partnership with the Church of Sweden a dynamic regional partnership has developed between the SU and UKZN. One of the inventive initiatives that have developed through this partnership was a recent collaborative workshop for the Gender and Health Master's students involved in the programme. At this event, hosted by the UKZN in Pietermaritzburg 10-13 April 2013, students had the opportunity to present and test their research topics in an interactive session attended by peers and academic staff from the two universities. The goal of the workshop was to assist students in their research process by allowing for creative interaction and critical reflection.

Prof. Sarojini Nadar started of the dynamic interaction that develops in the week by setting the tone in her very creative and interactive presentation. Prof. Nadar is an acknowledged and celebrated expert in the field of Gender and Theology and it was a unique privilege for students to be exposed to her dynamic presentation style and her knowledgeable engagement.

Seeing that students are still at the beginning of their research process, Sarojini used a recent media article to stimulate the students and engage them into critically thinking about how a real-life problem can be translated into a research problem. This approach immediately engaged students and allowed them to participate in the discussion from their unique situated position and to use the contextual tools that they have already developed in an interactive conversation. By using this approach Sarojini helped students to bridge the gap between academic work and the often painful realities faced by so many in the South African society.

Sarojini's style is kind, inviting, inspiring and creative. She communicates with a unique energy that I believe flows from her passion for what she does. She is an inspiring teacher and a great influence for young academics.

I gladly give this testimony and support Sarojini in her academic endeavor.

Kind regards.

Dr. Charlene van der Walt

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