

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gay McDougall

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	McDougall, Gay J.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall,
Dates:	May 10, 2023 and October 22, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019 and 2023
Physical Description:	18 uncompressed MOV digital video files (8:50:49).
Abstract:	Lawyer Gay McDougall (1947 -) served as executive director of the Southern Africa Project from 1980 and 1994, securing the release of thousands of political prisoners. She later served on the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and as the first United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues. McDougall was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 10, 2023 and October 22, 2019, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_114
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lawyer Gay McDougall was born on August 13, 1947 in Atlanta, Georgia to Inez Johnson and Louis Johnson. After graduating from Booker T. Washington High School in 1965, McDougall became the first African American student to attend Agnes Scott College. She transferred to Bennington College in 1967, and received her B.A. degree in social science from there in 1969. McDougall went on to receive her J.D. degree from Yale University in 1972 and her L.L.M degree in international law from the London School of Economics in 1978.

McDougall worked at the firm of Debevoise, Plimpton, Lyons & Gates from 1972 to 1974, before joining the National Conference of Black Lawyers as general counsel in 1975. She served as a staff attorney in the minimum standards unit of the New York City Board of Correction in 1976, worked at the African National Congress Office to the United Nations in New York in 1978, and served as associate counsel in New York's Office of the Deputy Mayor for Criminal Justice in 1979. From 1980 to 1994, McDougall served as executive director of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law's Southern Africa Project, securing the release of thousands of political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia and founding the Commission on Independence for Namibia. In 1994, McDougall was appointed to serve on South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission, where she worked closely with Nelson Mandela. She joined Global Rights in 1995 as executive director; and, in 1997, she was elected to serve a four-year term as an independent expert on the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In 2005, McDougall was appointed the first U.N. Special Rapporteur on minority issues. She served as a distinguished scholar in residence at American University Washington College of Law in 2006 and as the Father Robert F. Drinan Visiting Professor in Human Rights at Georgetown University Law Center in 2011. In 2015, she was elected to another four-year term on the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and served as vice-chair.

McDougall served on the board of the Southern Africa Legal Services and Education Project, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, and Africare. She also served as vice chair of the board of Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) USA from 2001 to 2003, and as chair of the governance committee of CARE International from 1994 to 2003. In 2005, she joined the board of the Global Fund for Women. McDougall also served on the advisory council of Realizing Rights and on the executive council of the American Society of International Law.

In 1999, McDougall received the MacArthur Foundation “Genius Grant” for her work on behalf of international human rights. She also received the Candace Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women in 1990, the Thurgood Marshall Award from District of Columbia Bar in 2010, and the Goler T. Butcher Medal from American Society for International Law in 2011.

Gay McDougall was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 23, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Gay McDougall was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 10, 2023 and October 22, 2019, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 18 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Lawyer Gay McDougall (1947 -) served as executive director of the Southern Africa Project from 1980 and 1994, securing the release of thousands of political prisoners. She later served on the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and as the first United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

McDougall, Gay J.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

McDougall, Gay J.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

United Nations Southern Africa Project

Occupations:

Lawyer

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, May 10, 2023 and October 22, 2019. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_001, TRT: 1:29:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_002, TRT: 2:30:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_003, TRT: 3:29:15 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_004, TRT: 4:29:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_005, TRT: 5:29:53 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_006, TRT: 6:28:19 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_007, TRT: 7:27:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_008, TRT: 8:33:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_009, TRT: 9:30:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_010, TRT: 10:25:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_001_011, TRT: 11:22:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_002_012, TRT: 12:33:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_002_013, TRT: 13:32:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_002_014, TRT: 14:30:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_002_015, TRT: 15:32:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_002_016, TRT: 16:35:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_002_017, TRT: 17:31:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gay McDougall, Section A2019_114_002_018, TRT: 18:20:08 ?