

I left South Africa a young black woman in the 1960's, told that I could never return; but they could never take South Africa away from me. I worked in Holland, speaking to everyone who would listen, in large and small forums and in the media, imploring the Western powers to stop their economic support of the apartheid regime in South Africa. I and others like me wanted to talk, really talk, to the minority white rulers of our homeland, to persuade them of the full humanity of the black majority, to liberate everyone, white and black, from a dehumanizing social and political order. We thought liberation would come quickly; it did not. But we never lost hope.

Coming to the United States in the 1980's to continue the work of liberation, I began to teach American college students about difference, about how human beings must live morally in a world of "racial," gender, national, class, generational, and religious difference. I want my students above all to *think*, to see beyond the surfaces presented to them, and live undeceived, large-spirited, joyous lives.