

A portrait of Lauren Jacobs, a woman with dark hair styled up, smiling warmly. She is wearing a white textured blazer over a gold sequined top. She is seated in a wooden chair with a cream-colored cushion. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

Lauren Jacobs

PUBLIC SPEAKER AND AUTHOR

*We lend our voices to those who
cannot speak but only until they
have found their own*



Biography



Lauren Jacobs is an award-winning author, who focuses on empowering women to make the positive life changes they are yearning for.

Through careful research and compelling story telling, Lauren pieces together the forgotten stories of history's women, so as to curate and preserve their legacies for this generation. Her debut Novel, *Yehudit Chosen by God* was published by Lux Verbi in 2016. It won the coveted Desmond Tutu – Gerrit Brand award in 2017, for its strong stand for justice and its revelation that women were leaders from the very beginning. Her latest historical novel was published in September 2018 and garnered national media attention for its unique storyline about Ancient Israel's 2000-year-old queen. Lauren

was the editor of a collaborative work featuring 12 global women's stories of hardship and trial. Their stories combined, were published in book format and the profits garnered, was donated to female education in Egypt and to an organisation fighting gendercide in China. She has performed poetry at events, and even featured as the key poet at the Kings and Queens of Africa Summit in 2014.

Alongside her career as a professional author, Lauren has dedicated the past decade to social justice pursuits. From social justice journalism, to conference speaking, radio interviews and collaboration with international organisations, she has frequently written and spoken about issues facing the global community of women. Her work has appeared in magazines, journals, curriculum,

anthologies, newspaper columns, weekly online columns, editorials, art exhibitions and blogs. Her voice flows with intensity and strength as she speaks about women abuse, gendercide, equality in theology, and female education. With a degree in psychology coupled with four years work experience as a trauma counsellor and women abuse therapist, her work is built on personal experience and a heartfelt passion for change.

Lauren studied for 10 years across disciplines, with a B.A in Psychology and English, she continued her studies in the area of criminology, and thereafter she obtained an honours and a master's degree in divinity. Her masters work was ground breaking, as it addressed a topic not spoken about before – the reality of abuse in the lives of affluent South African women, regardless of race. Half of her thesis was dedicated to researching the work of the church in the lives of abused women and how the church should take a more active role in leading healing for abuse. She worked as a non-profit woman abuse counsellor for a crisis centre, and became their woman abuse campaign leader. She led campaigns against women abuse at hospitals, in shopping malls and organised events and breakfasts with key speakers addressing these issues from 2009 to 2012. She is a media writer covering events like the annual 1000 Women

1 Voice event for women abuse and profiling key female leaders in South Africa. Lauren has been a keynote speaker at dozens of events globally, and as a speaker she believes in moving the audience to dig deep in to the layers of their hearts and the recesses of their minds as they connect with the subject matter. She can speak on just about any topic, but prefers speaking on topics that are relevant to our current generation and to women globally.

As an ordained minister, she co – found and co-leads a teaching and outreach ministry with her husband Tim. Their vision is to impact the nations, and empower faith communities to understand the equality that exists between men and women. Lauren has a passion for working with faith communities, whether speaking at conferences or visiting small congregations, her focus is on the upliftment of women. She considers her role as a faith leader as part of her identity and seeks to pursue justice as a primary cause in everything she does. Her passion is the stories of forgotten biblical heroines and those on the margins of biblical history. As a scholar and academic, her written work and speaking topics are thoroughly researched so as to offer truth to the reader or the audience, with all integrity and zeal.



RADIO AND MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS





Conferences

From across South Africa, to West Africa, the United Kingdom and even the United States, Lauren has travelled across the globe to speak at domestic violence conferences, gender equality conferences and women's empowerment events.

As a prolific speaker, Lauren collaborates with organizations, individuals and non – profits to impact global change for women. She hosted Cape Town's first gendercide in China conference

in drawing women together to unite against gendercide and raise awareness and funding for this human rights issue.

Lauren continues to raise her voice on issues of social justice, empowerment and the need for women's stories to be told in this current generation. It is within her DNA to speak out on these issues of importance in the current times.

**REVD NOBUNTU PENXA MATHOLENI
– STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY. RSA
“YOUR PERSONAL NARRATIVES ARE SO NEEDED
IN THE ACADEMIA WORLD.”**

Extract from BELLA

Describing Lauren as
a wonder woman and
inspiration!

S

Sag, maar doelgerig, streef Lauren daarna om daaglik haar doel hier op aarde te vervul. Oktober is Domestic Violence Awareness Month en Lauren is 'n inspirasie vir BELLAS. Sy is Suid-Afrika se eie *Wonder Woman* wat in die voorste linies van die oorlog veg, vir iets wat nie noodwendig eers haar battle is om te

fight nie. Sy verskuif grense vir gelykheid en bied 'n veilige hawe van hoop vir vroue wat mishandel word.

DIS IN HAAR DNA...

“Toe ek klein was, was ek al sensitief vir dinge rondom my wat 'sleg' was in die wêreld. Ek



SPEAKING AT

TED^x

In November 2018, Lauren was a speaker at Africa's largest Ted event, Tedx CapeTown. Her topic “A Forgotten History, where are our Women?” addressed the need for action to preserve and retell women's history.

As a historical fiction author, Lauren delivered her Ted talk with zeal and confidence, evoking deep emotion in many of the audience members.

"LAUREN JACOBS CHANGED THE MOOD WHEN SHE SPOKE ABOUT THE 'BLANK PAGES' IN HISTORY WHEN IT COMES TO 'WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS, POWERFULLY STATING THAT 'IF GIRLS CAN'T READ ABOUT WOMEN IN BOOKS, WE ARE TELLING THEM THAT THEY ARE WORTH LESS'" – CAPE CHAMELEON MAGAZINE

WHAT EXACTLY IS TED^x ?

Ted is a non-profit devoted to ideas worth spreading. These ideas are shared in short, powerful to the point talks on various subjects covered by various individuals all over the world. Ted itself began in 1984 as a conference focusing mostly on Technology, Entertainment and Design

(the 3 letters themselves make up the word Ted). Today, Ted is hosted in cities all over the world in more than 110 languages. A Tedx event is part of the global Ted community, but it is hosted independently by a particular city or community.

FILM



Lauren has added her voice to numerous film campaigns. Selected as a strong influential leader, she featured on the Spice 4 Life Leadership Film series, encouraging young female entrepreneurs, activists and influencers to “never let anyone look down on you because of your youth.” In 2018, Lauren was part of the Refocus Foundation's 16 Days of Activism against women abuse campaign. The narrative film series was powerful and Lauren added her voice, urging victims to know “they are believed and they can get help to break free from the cycle of abuse.”

The South African Faith and Family Institute chose Lauren to feature on their first major documentary, a powerful training tool to equip individuals at national level, to combat domestic violence in South Africa. She spoke out about women abuse

and faith, detailing her findings of abuse within the Church structure and what communities can do to change this reality.

In 2016, she was commissioned to write a screenplay based on the miraculous true-life story of a cancer survivor in South Africa. Lauren wrote the screenplay and appeared in the pre-production trailer of this moving film. Her interest in film filters down in to the world of tough female film directors and producers. She has profiled some of South Africa's own powerhouse award – winning directors like Roberta Durrant and Uga Carlini, to name a few.



RADIO

Lauren has been a frequent guest on over a dozen radio stations nationally and abroad and continues to be in demand for radio interviews. Her ability to tell stories connects the listener with any topic, drawing them in to the narrative where words become pictures and they journey in to their imagination.

Whether advocating for gender equality, speaking about the hard topics, or teaching about women's histories or telling women's stories, Lauren empowers women through the air waves and impacts lives for positive change.

Lauren has her own teaching series on Radio Pulpit since October 2017 and co-hosts her own show The Coffee Break, with her husband every Sunday since April 2017. She has a passion for delivering radio interviews, messages of encouragement, teachings, adverts and radio voice overs. She's even known to add her voice to film advertisements when asked.



SPEAKING AT *Religious Events*

As an ordained minister, with over a decade of ministerial experience and a master's degree in divinity, Lauren ministers at religious events both large and small.

Her messages are always from the heart for the heart with the purpose of sharing a message of challenge and hope.

She has been invited globally to share the Word of God, it's one of her favourite things to do.

A number of Lauren's teaching videos on YouTube have blessed thousands of women. Her very first video teaching ever, a sermon on Proverbs 31, received over 30 000 views within its first few weeks of going live!

**WHETHER SEEING HER
LIVE OR LISTENING TO
HER ONLINE HER
PASSION AND HEART
IS SO CONTAGIOUS
AND REAL ONE CAN
NOT HELP BUT BE
SWEPT AWAY AND
INSPIRED**

**— MARLIZE VAN DER
MERWE**



Contact Lauren and invite her as your Guest Speaker

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