

Draft Conference Brochure



Witchcraft Branding, Spirit Possession and Safeguarding African Children

A Two Day International Conference

Venue: The Resource Centre

356 Holloway Road

London N7 6PA

Date: 8-9 November 2011

Supported by:



Draft Conference Brochure



Draft Conference Brochure

Conference Background

Increasing numbers of African children are suffering the consequences of being branded as witches or as possessed by evil spirits. This is particularly so in many parts of Africa and is equally a reality here in the UK. Accusations of witchcraft within a community can lead to a litany of abuses: physical, emotional, and sexual and neglect resulting in maltreatment, torture and in some instances, death. In some African countries, it has led to children being rejected by their families, forcing children as young as 5 years onto the streets where they are further exposed to other forms of abuse and exploitation. These children resort to a range of survival mechanisms including drug abuse and theft. In the UK, there have been many recorded cases of children abused and harmed by their families in the belief that they are witches. At least two cases of children killed as a direct result of witchcraft branding are known to have occurred in the country.

The need to understand the context within which this form of abuse occurs, identify the drivers of witchcraft branding and examine strategies to increase protection for vulnerable children has become necessary in order to protect children from continuous harm.

This unique and timely conference will attract participants from across Europe, Asia and Africa where different themes will be explored through Papers, Workshops, Presentations and Posters.

Conference Aims:

The conference will explore the issue of the branding children as witches in all its dimensions looking at different factors underlying the phenomenon, its impact, different policies and strategies to tackle this growing problem. A focus will be put on the importance of religious beliefs given the role the faith organisations can play in enforcing the recommendations that will come out of the conference.

Outcomes expected:

1. Raise awareness by examining key concepts, laws, policies and practices around the issues of child branding and child protection
2. Promote discussion and information exchange on the various forms of faith related abuse, their prevalence and impact on victims
3. Explore strategies to increase protection for children who are susceptible to branding as witches
4. Identify strategies to increase dialogue and joint working between different stakeholders to help tackle the phenomenon of child branding.

Who should attend?

Academics, policy makers, practitioners in the Social Care, Educational and Health Sectors, social researchers, community and faith leaders, legal experts, human rights activists, crime prevention experts, representatives of EU, AU, UN bodies, Regional organizations and representatives of the media.

Invited Keynote Speakers:

1. Tim Loughton MP, UK Minister for Children and Families
2. H.E Godswill Akpabio, Executive Governor, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
3. Ms. Bience Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union
4. Dr Gianfranco Rotigliano, UNICEF Regional Director, West Africa
5. Rev Nimms Obunge MBE ,CEO The Peace Alliance, Senior Pastor Freedom's Ark Church
6. Debbie Ariyo OBE: Founder of AFRUCA

Draft Conference Brochure

Conference Fee: £155 (per delegate)

Conference Registration and Enquiries

Please complete attached booking form and return with your fee to Justin Bahunga, Policy and Network Development Officer, AFRUCA UK, Unit 3D/F Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP or via email:

Justin@afruca.org

“Witchcraft Branding, Spirit Possession and the Safeguarding of African Children”

Conference Programme

Day One

8.45-10:00 Registration

10:00 - 10:30 Welcome and Introduction by Conference Chair - Prosper Tedam, Chair of AFRUCA UK

10:30 - 11:00 Keynote Speeches

- **His Excellency Godswill Akpabio**, Executive Governor, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria (tbc)
- **Tim Loughton MP**, UK Minister for Children and Families (tbc)
- **Ms. Bience Gawanas**, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union (tbc)
- **Dr Gianfranco Rotigliano**, Director, UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa, Dakar – Senegal (tbc)
- **Rev Nimms Obunge MBE**, CEO Peace Alliance, Senior Pastor Freedom’s Ark Church
- **Debbie Ariyo OBE**, Founder of AFRUCA UK and Nigeria

11:30 – 12.00 Coffee

12:00 to 1:00 - Paper Presentations

- **Mary Orjioko**, Director, Children’s Department, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Nigeria: *‘Witchcraft Branding: Government Responses at the National level’*.
- **Uganda Government Representative (TBC)**
- **Democratic Republic of Congo Government Representative (TBC)**

Draft Conference Brochure

1:00 to 2:00 – Lunch

2:00 to 3:00 - Film Screening

3:00 - 3:30 - Tea Break

3:30 to 4:30 - Discussion Panel and Summary of Day One

6:00 - 9:00 – Evening Reception for Conference Delegates

Day Two

9:00 -10:00 Registration

10:00 – 11:00 Delegates go straight into workshops running concurrently

Workshop One - Witchcraft Branding - Theories and Practices

- **Dr. Richard Hoskins**- Researcher – *‘Witchcraft: Influences from non African Sources’*
- **Leo Igwe**- International Humanist and Ethical Union - *Faith and Witchcraft Branding*
- **Speaker (TBC)**, *Witchcraft and Theology*
- **Yasmin Rehman**- Researcher - *The World of Jinn- Islam and the Occult- a Burgeoning business model*

Workshop Two – Witchcraft, Poverty and Social Exclusion

- **(Speaker to be confirmed) NAPTIP Nigeria** - *Human Trafficking, Oath Rituals and Witchcraft Branding*
- **Harrison Matey & Enobong Etuk**, Positive Impact Worldwide - *Mitigating the Impact of Witchcraft: Poverty and Social Exclusion Among African Children,*
- **Justin Bahunga**, Policy and Network Development Officer, AFRUCA UK – *Immigration, Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK*
- **Romain Matondo**, Co-ordinator, Congolese Family Centre - *Witchcraft Branding and the Congolese Community in the UK.*

11:00 - 11:30 - Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:30 – Workshops

Workshop Three - Improving Knowledge and Understanding of Witchcraft Branding: The Role of Research

- **Eleanor Stobbart** - Independent Researcher - *Child Abuse Linked to Accusations of Possessions and Witchcraft,*
- **Adeyem J i Ademowo**- Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria - *The Political Economy of Witchcraft Branding*
- **Bidi Broderick**- Researcher – *The Mental Health Impact of Witchcraft Abuse in the UK*

Draft Conference Brochure

Workshop Four- Government Responses to Witchcraft Branding

- **Akwa Ibom State Nigeria**, Combating the Stigma of Witchcraft Branding in Akwa Ibom (TBC)
- **UK Government Department for Education**: National Action Plan on Witchcraft Branding and Spirit Possession
- **London Safeguarding Children Board**: Working with Families to Safeguard Children

12:30 - 1:30 - Lunch

1:30 - 2:30 – Plenary (Chair: Francis Kaikumba Chief Executive, African Health and Policy Network)

Workshop Five- NGO Responses to Witchcraft Branding in Africa and the UK I

- **African Network for the Prevention Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) Nigeria** - *Combating Child Witchcraft Branding in Nigeria – Our Responses*. (P.O Ebigbo, Udor Elewachi,)
- **Afrikids**, *Working with Traditional Communities in Ghana to Combat Witchcraft Branding –* (Sally Eastcott)
- **Stepping Stones Nigeria** *Advocacy Strategies for Combating Witchcraft Accusations: Lessons Learnt from the Niger Delta* (Emilie Secker)

2:30 - 3:00 - Teabreak

Workshop Five- NGO Responses to Witchcraft Branding in Africa and UK II

- **AFRUCA UK** – *Advocating for Policy and Regulatory Action to End the Branding of Children as Witches* (Justin Bahunga/Teamirat Seyoum)
- **Congolese Family Centre** – *Engaging the Congolese Communities in London to Address the Branding of Children* (Romain Matondo)
- **Churches Child Protection Advisory Group** - *Working with Faith Organisations to Safeguard African Children* (Simon Bass)

3:00 - 4:00 - Plenary (Conference Summary and Conclusions)

4:00pm - Conference Ends

Draft Conference Brochure

Witchcraft Branding, Spirit Possession and Safeguarding African Children

A two day International Conference

8-9 November 2011

Conference Booking Form

Delegate Name and Contact Details

Name:

Job Title:

Organisation:

Address:

.....

Post Code:Country:

Email:Telephone:

Fax:

Please return completed booking form by post or fax to:

Justin Bahunga, Policy and Network Development Officer, AFRUCA UK, Head Office Unit 3d/f Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP

Email: justin@afruca.org **Fax:** +44(0) 2077042266. **Telephone:** +44 (0) 2077042261

Please photocopy this form if you want to book more than one delegate place

To book a Workshop, indicate your highest preference with 1 as most preferable and 3, least. There will be 2 workshops running concurrently.

Workshop Details:

Workshop One - Witchcraft Branding - Theories and Practices

- **Dr. Richard Hoskins**- Researcher - *Witchcraft: Influences from non African Sources'*
- **Leo Igwe**- International Humanist and Ethical Union - *Faith and Witchcraft Branding*
- **Speaker (TBC),***Witchcraft and Theology*
- **Yasmin Rehman**- Researcher - *The World of Jinn- Islam and the Occult- a Burgeoning business model*

Draft Conference Brochure

Workshop Two – Witchcraft, Poverty and Social Exclusion

- **(Speaker to be confirmed) NAPTIP Nigeria** - *Human Trafficking, Oath Rituals and Witchcraft Branding*
- **Harrison Matey & Enobong Etuk**, Positive Impact Worldwide - *Mitigating the Impact of Witchcraft: Poverty and Social Exclusion Among African Children,*
- **Justin Bahunga**, Policy and Network Development Officer, AFRUCA UK – *Immigration, Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK*
- **Romain Matondo**, Co-ordinator, Congolese Family Centre - *Witchcraft Branding and the Congolese Community in the UK.*

Workshop Three - Improving Knowledge and Understanding of Witchcraft Branding: The Role of Research

- 
- **Eleanor Stobart** - Independent Researcher - *Child Abuse Linked to Accusations of Possessions and Witchcraft,*
 - **Yemi Ademowo**- Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria - *The Political Economy of Witchcraft Branding*
 - **Bidi Broderick**- Researcher – *The Mental Health Impact of Witchcraft Abuse in the UK*

Workshop Four- Government Responses to Witchcraft Branding

- **Akwa Ibom State Nigeria:** Combating the Stigma of Witchcraft Branding in Akwa Ibom (TBC)
- **UK Government Department for Education:** National Action Plan on Witchcraft Branding and Spirit Possession
- **London Safeguarding Children Board:** Working with Families to Safeguard Children.

Workshop Five - NGO Responses to Witchcraft Branding in Africa and the UK I

- **African Network for the Prevention Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) Nigeria** - *Combating Child Witchcraft Branding in Nigeria – Our Responses.* (P.O Ebigo, Udor Elewachi,)
- **Afrikids**, *Working with Traditional Communities in Ghana to Combat Witchcraft Branding –* (Sally Eastcott)
- **Stepping Stones Nigeria** *Advocacy Strategies for Combating Witchcraft Accusations: Lessons Learnt from the Niger Delta* (Emilie Secker)

Workshop Five - NGO Responses to Witchcraft Branding in Africa and UK II

- **AFRUCA UK –** *Advocating for Policy and Regulatory Action to End the Branding of Children as Witches* (Justin Bahunga/Teamirat Seyoum)
- **Congolese Family Centre –** *Engaging the Congolese Communities in London to Address the Branding of Children* (Romain Matondo)
- **Churches Child Protection Advisory Group** - *Working with Faith Organisations to Safeguard African Children* (Simon Bass) tbc

Draft Conference Brochure

PAYMENT (Please tick one option only)

I enclose a UK cheque made payable to AFRUCA

Or

Please invoice (Note an extra £8 admin charge will be applied)

Purchase Order Number:

Pay by Telephone, international or online banking, our details are:

NatWest Bank; **Sort Code:** 56 – 00 – 33; **Account No:** 78849314

IBAN: GB58NWBK56003378849314

BIC: NWBKGB2L

*For us to identify and confirm your payment, please put your full name as a reference when you make the payment.

Just Giving

<http://www.justgiving.com/afruca>

Please go to the web address above and make a donation for the conference fee and any additional charges agreed.

Once your donation has been accepted you will be given a reference code which you should pass to us so that we could cross reference the payment and confirm receipt.

If you do not send a cheque with your booking form you will automatically receive an invoice. We would normally charge an administrative fee of £8 for invoicing.

Please indicate who we should invoice if different from above:

.....
.....

Note: The details of your organisation received will remain confidential to AFRUCA. Your details will be held on a computer database so that we can send you information about our training events, conferences, publications and products or services that may be of interest to you. Please advise us in writing if you do not wish to receive further information from us.

Applicant's signature:

Date:

Draft Conference Brochure
Hotels Close to Conference Venue

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Contact/Booking Email</u>	<u>Website</u>
Hotel California	4-8 Belgrove Street, City of London, WC1H 8AB	reservations@hotelcaliforniauk.com +44(0)20 7837 7629,	http://www.hotelcalifornia.uk.com/
Best Western London Highbury	374 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4 2PG	+44(0)8457 66 04 18	http://www.bestwestern.co.uk/Hotels/London-Highbury-London-
Premier Inn	26-30 York Way, Kings Cross, N1 9AA	+44 (0)8715278672	http://www.premierinn.com/en/checkHotel/KINPTI/london-kings-cross-st-pancras
Hilton Hotel	53 Upper Street London, N1 0UY	+44 (0)2073547700	http://www.hiltonhotelfinder.co.uk/hotels/56/Hilton-London-Islington-
Queens hotel	33 Anson Road Tufnell Park, London N7 0RB	stay@queenshotellondon.co.uk, +44 (0)207 607 4725	http://www.queenshotellondon.co.uk/index.php?page=index&lang=en
Travel Lodge	Willings House 356-364 Grays Inn Road, Kings Cross WC1x 8BH	+44 (0)8719846256	http://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/info?hotelId=258
Jurys Inn Islington	60 Pentonville Road,, Islington, N1 9LA London	+44 20 7282 5500	http://londonhotels.jurysinns.com/jurysinns_islington?gclid=CLqs0rO00aoCFZRc4Qod-Q-Zyg
Crestfield Hotel	3-4 Crestfield Street, King's Cross, WC1H 8AT	info@crestfieldhotel.co.uk, +44 (0)20 7837 0500	http://www.crestfieldhotel.co.uk/
Holiday Inn	1 Kings Cross Road London WC1X 9HX	+44 (0)871 423 4876	http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/london/lonkc/hoteldetail
Five Kings Hotel	59 Anson Road, Tuffnell Park, N7 0AR	booking@traveltura.com, +44 (0)2081660990	http://fivekingshotel.com/about-five-kings-hotel-london.php

For more information please visit websites: www.laterooms.com; www.bookings.com

NB. Please note that delegates are expected to make their own arrangements for their travel and accommodation in London. AFRUCA has made no arrangements with these Hotels on behalf of delegates

Directions to conference venue

The Resource Centre on Holloway Road is easily accessible by bus from across London. The nearest underground station is Holloway Road on the Piccadilly Line. To plan your journey from your hotel to the conference venue please visit this website: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/> and click on “Journey Planner” on the right hand side and fill in your location. The planner will provide you with the quickest and best routes to take to the conference venue.