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THE NATIONAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



SORCERY ACCUSATIONS & RELATED VIOLENCE IN PNG

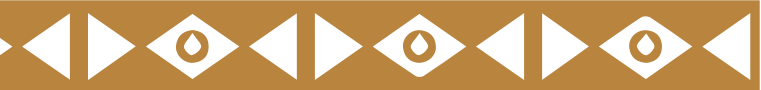
- the Harm and the Healing

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Online format via Zoom &
livestreamed on Facebook



10am-3pm PNG time,
22nd and 23rd June 2021



The aim of this Conference is to take stock of what changes have occurred in addressing Sorcery Accusation Related Violence since the last conference on this topic in 2013. What have been the accomplishments and limitations of the National Action Plan? What have we learned from the activism and research done in PNG in recent times? What can PNG learn from initiatives overseas? What new insights reveal a path for the future? We will explore human rights issues, and social, legal and practical plans for the future.

Day 1 - 22nd June 2021

ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/92827173170?pwd=V2hwdoF3UoZqTkxQnlzbExBdVcydz09>

10.am Welcome: Vice Chancellor of Divine Word University, Professor Philip Gibbs SVD OBE

10.20 Panel 1: Policing SARV

What are the challenges in policing SARV? How are these being overcome at the level of individual police officers and within the strategic vision of the RPNGC?

Name	Institution
Sgt Epenes Nili	Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary
Sgt. Richard Koki	Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary
Sgt. Peter Lari	Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary

11.20 International speaker: Nirmala Nair

Preventing accusations and violence linked to sorcery and witch-branding among rural tribal communities in Eastern India

Dr Nair will discuss an intervention led by his organization that helps to rise above harmful beliefs and practices related to children's and women's health that result in women being accused of sorcery in India. He will outline the link between high mortality rates amongst infants, children and women and accusations of witchcraft, and the learnings from an intervention that encourages women to discuss and prioritize health and societal issues, and to collectively implement prioritized and feasible strategies.

11.40 Panel 2: SARV in the Village Courts:

How are village court magistrates addressing SARV? What strategies work best to prevent violence from occurring? What is needed for justice to be provided following incidents of SARV?

Name	Institution
Linda Tule	Village Courts
Miriam Dondo	Department of Justice and Attorney General
William Kipongi	PNG National Research Institute
Angela Apa	Kup Women for Peace

12.40 International speaker: Carolyn Gent

Developing a model for responding to perpetrators and their confessions without compromising opportunities to engage and to effect change in attitudes and behaviours.

Ms Gent who works for the Bethany Children's Trust and is Chair of the Stop Child Witch Accusations Coalition will share many years of experience in addressing sorcery accusations in sub-Saharan African nations, particularly DR Congo, Togo and Nigeria. She will initiate a discussion about the challenges around responding to perpetrators and to their confessions without shutting down engagement and dialogue, which are effective in bringing about lasting change. She will also share some of the faith based materials produced by her organisation to stop accusations being made against children in particular.

1.00 Panel 3: Reintegration following SARV:

One of the greatest challenges in SARV is enabling those accused and their families to live without fear in their own communities once more. What can we learn from those who have facilitated such reintegrations?

Name	Institution
Benedict Soko	
Kamung Tai	
Serah Chapau	Oxfam International
Bomai D Witne	Queensland University of Technology



2.00 International speaker: Leo Igwe

Humanist movement's to address sorcery accusation related violence

Mr Igwe will discuss the work done by the International Humanist and Ethical Union on addressing witchcraft-related human rights abuses.

2.20 Panel 4: Survivors' experiences of SARV:

What priorities do survivors identify as the most important in addressing SARV? What has helped or made their experiences worse?

Name	Institution
Beverly Kuduk	
Everlyn Kunda	
Regina Are	
Jepi Mortikay	

Day 2 - 23rd June 2021

ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/92920005402?pwd=alZ3enZmZzVkN2Y0R01vai9iVEJzZz09>

10.00 Welcome and Recap

10.20 Panel 5: SARV civil society interventions:

Human rights defenders and NGOs are at the heart of the response towards SARV. What have they found effective in preventing SARV or in assisting victims and survivors? What most needs to change to support their work?

Name	Institution
Mary Kini	Highlands Women's Human Rights Defenders Movement
Lilly Besoer	Voice for Change
Eriko Fufurefa	Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association
Gary Bustin/ Ruth Kissam	PNG Tribal Foundation
Isi Oru	Consultative Implementation & Monitoring Council
Anton Lutz	

11.20 International speaker: Berrie Holzhausen

Links between Dementia and Witchcraft Accusations in Namibia

Mr Holzhausen will discuss the link between accusations of witchcraft and dementia and other mental illness in Namibia, and work that is being done to increase public awareness of the symptoms of dementia to lessen the stigma and risk of accusation against those suffering from such diseases.

11.40 Panel 6: Government responses

The government launched the National Action Plan to address Sorcery Accusation Related Violence in 2015. Since then the Department of Justice and Attorney General has led a series of trainings amongst those in the justice sector. Important initiatives have also been launched at the provincial government level. What has been achieved in the past 6 years? What further work is necessary?

Name	Institution
Betty Koka	Enga Provincial Health Authority
Martha Wame	Milne Bay Provincial Health Authority
Josephine Advent	Department of Justice and Attorney General

12.40 International speaker: Ugne Grigaiteu (Nepal)

Positive Local Initiatives Working to Address and Prevent witchcraft accusation and persecution in Nepal Ms Grigaiteu will discuss the prevalence of SARV in Nepal and discuss her research that documents the way a small number of dedicated local NGOs and activists use original and effective forms of activities for raising awareness on these issues related to WAP. Some do so through completing fieldwork, producing research and fact-finding reports; others – through organizing events, using poetry, song, dance, theatre, movies and public discussions in order to reach out to local communities and communicate their messages to them.



1.00 Panel 7: Church response

Churches in PNG play a significant role in SARV. What Church initiatives help to prevent and heal the harm from SARV? What practices make it worse? What are the challenges to presenting a united message on the evils of SARV?

Name	Institution
ArchBp Jack Urame	Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Dickson Tanda	
Philip Gibbs	Divine Word University

2.00 International speaker and film maker: Paul Wolfram

Dr Wolfram will discuss his ongoing film-making project addressing SARV in PNG and we will screen some excerpts from it.

2.20 Panel 8: Media Representation

What role do media play in contributing to addressing SARV? What are the challenges in reporting on SARV? What are some suggestions for journalists and media organisations moving forward?

Name	Institution
(TBC)	
(TBC)	
(TBC)	
(TBC)	

3.00 International speaker Joerg Nowak, Missio Germany

World Day Against Witch-Hunts

Mr Nowak will explain the background to the World Day Against Witch Hunts that was held for the first time in August 2020 and the vision for its future.

3.10 Closing Remarks



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Facebook Page link:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Divine%20Word%20University/109485755737066/>

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