

## Registration Form

Title (Dr/Ms/Mr/Mrs)

First name

Surname

Email address

Phone number

Name of employer/organization

Present position

Brief professional profile

Do you have any specific access or learning needs?

No  Yes (please specify)

Do you consent to your personal information and professional profile being shared with other participants through a participant list?  Yes  No

How did you find out about this course?

A registration fee of £150 for 2 days is due to Fahamu Refugee Programme. Please send payment (payable to Fahamu Trust) with this form to: Fahamu, 51 Cornmarket Street, Oxford, OX1 3HA. For other payment methods, please send this form to [rebecca@fahamu.org](mailto:rebecca@fahamu.org), who will provide bank details for transfers.

The deadline for registration is 21<sup>st</sup> August 2010

## Key details

### Where?

Mawby Room, Kellogg College  
62 Banbury Road,  
Oxford OX2 6PN  
United Kingdom  
<http://www.kellogg.ox.ac.uk/about/contacts.php>

### When?

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
10:00 – 18:00  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
09:00 – 18:00

### How to register?

If you are able to attend, please complete one registration form (attached) for each participant and email to [rebecca@fahamu.org](mailto:rebecca@fahamu.org). Please do so as soon as possible as places are limited. Registration deadline: 21 August 2010. £150 registration fee to be paid to Fahamu Trust. Please note that participants must meet all of their own expenses including travel, accommodation and meals.

UNHCR and Fahamu Refugee Programme look forward to engaging with you in relation to this significant, emerging issue in refugee law.

For any enquiries regarding UNHCR's involvement in the course, please contact Maria Riiskjaer in the Policy Development and Evaluation Service in UNHCR: +41 22 739 8032, [riiskjae@unhcr.org](mailto:riiskjae@unhcr.org).



## Invitation to attend

### Witchcraft allegations, refugee protection and human rights A course for lawyers and legal advisers

This course aims to arm lawyers and legal advisers with the information, networks and resources they require to represent those accused of witchcraft. Participants will learn how to best represent those whose claims to asylum are based upon accusations of witchcraft, an emerging area of refugee law in which there is a need for specialized knowledge and training.

Accusations of witchcraft are occurring today in communities around the globe. Startling accounts of torture, starvation, abandonment and death have been documented. Accused witches have been executed by hanging, burying alive, drowning and burning, with paraffin or petrol thrown at them to ignite the fire. Victims are often from vulnerable groups: the elderly, the disabled and increasingly over the past two decades, children.

Co-hosted by Fahamu Refugee  
Programme & UNHCR  
4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
Oxford, United Kingdom

# Witchcraft allegations, refugee protection and human rights: a course for lawyers and legal advisers

## The program

**First**, the course will introduce participants to 'What is witchcraft?' and 'What is not witchcraft?'. Participants will learn to distinguish those accused of witchcraft from other groups with whom they are often confused, involving black magic, sorcery and healing and those whose lives are threatened because body parts are believed to bring good luck or fortune. Contemporary examples of persecution of those accused of witchcraft will be used.

**Second**, the course will discuss the provision of legal representation in the refugee status determination process to those accused of witchcraft.

**Third**, the course will bring together legal and NGO practitioners, academic experts and staff from UNHCR and other international organizations to discuss practical strategies, issues and challenges in providing legal representation to those accused of witchcraft.

## The presenters

**Kylie McGrath**, BA, Political Science, BA International Law, is a solicitor with experience in dealing with asylum claims based on witchcraft accusations, which have been successful before decision-makers in Australia. She has spent time within the Policy Development and Evaluation Service at UNHCR developing this course and researching its content.

**Isak Niehaus** is a lecturer in Anthropology at Brunel University in the United Kingdom. He previously held teaching positions at the Universities of the Witwatersrand and of Pretoria in South Africa, and has served as visiting professor at Yale University in the United States. Isak has done extensive ethnographic research in different South African rural areas, and has published widely on the topic of witchcraft. He is the author of the monographs **Witchcraft, Power and Politics: Exploring the Occult in the South African Lowveld** (Pluto, 2001) and **Father of Misfortune: The Life of a South African Teacher, 1964–2005** (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming). His research has enabled him to serve as expert witness and as assessor in South African rape and murder trials, involving witchcraft as defence.

**Kingsley Jesuorobo** is a Barrister and Solicitor of Ontario, Canada and Nigerian Bars. He was born in Nigeria where he studied law at the University of Benin and Nigerian Law School. After migrating to Canada, he also studied law at the University of Toronto and completed the Bar Admission Programme of the Law Society of Upper Canada. He has been a relentless refugee law litigator and advocate at Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board and Federal Court since February 1996. He has garnered extensive experience from successfully handling asylum cases of those accused of witchcraft before Canadian tribunals and courts. Some of his cases have been cited in major scholarly works on treatment of asylum claims based on witchcraft accusation.

**Professor Jean La Fontaine** is an anthropologist whose research interests, kinship, witchcraft and Satanism, have led her to become involved in contemporary debates concerning witchcraft accusations as a ground of asylum claims in Europe. Born, raised and educated in Kenya, she completed a BA and PhD Cambridge, and taught at Birkbeck College and the London School of Economics, where she is now Professor Emeritus. She specialised in Africa, having done research in Uganda (1953–55) and the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire (1962–3). Since 1984 she has worked freelance on research and consultancy projects in the UK, and in the 1990s was funded by the Department of Health to investigate allegations of satanic ritual abuse. Her 1998 book **Speak of the Devil: Tales of Satanic Abuse in Contemporary England** compares the modern hysteria surrounding the subject with that of the witchcraft accusations of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. She has been an expert witness in a child protection case in UK and has advised in cases concerning asylum seekers in the USA. Jean La Fontaine currently holds an Emeritus Fellowship from The Leverhulme Trust for research into allegations of witchcraft against children in London and is an Honorary Research Fellow of Inform, the charity that specialises in providing reliable information about new religious movements. She has been Chair of the Association of Social Anthropologists, President of the Royal Anthropological Institute and has been awarded honorary doctorates by Linköping University (Sweden) the Open University, and Goldsmith's College London.