



## Sorcery Accusation and Related Violence in PNG

– the Harm and the Healing

### Conference program

Online format via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook

10am-3pm PNG time, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 - 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

**Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/92827173170?pwd=V2hwd0F3U0ZqTkxkXzExBdVcydz09>

**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?

Moderator: **Richelle Tickle**

Confirmed speakers:

Name	Institution	Via Zoom from:
Sgt Epenes Nili	Royal PNG Constabulary	Enga
Sgt. Peter Lari	Royal PNG Constabulary	Mt Hagen

SARV in PNG





**11.20 International speaker:** Nirmala Nair (pre-record)

***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. She 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.

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**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?

Moderator: **Fiona Hukula**

Confirmed speakers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Via Zoom from:</b>
<b>Linda Tule</b>	Village Courts	Port Moresby
<b>Miriam Dondo</b>	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Port Moresby
<b>William Kipongi</b>	National Research Institute	Port Moresby
<b>Angela Apa</b>	Kup Women for Peace	Mt Hagen

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**12.40 International speaker:** Carolyn Gent (live, Miranda Forsyth to moderate)

***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?

Moderator: **William Kipongi**

Confirmed speakers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Via Zoom from:</b>
<b>Benedict Soko</b>		Wewak
<b>Kamung Tai</b>		Mt Hagen
<b>Serah Chapau</b>	Oxfam International	Goroka
<b>Bomai D Witne</b>	Queensland University of Technology	Goroka

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### **2.00 International speaker:** Leo Igwe (pre-record)

#### ***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.

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### **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?

Moderator: **Prof Philip Gibbs**

Confirmed speakers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Via Zoom from:</b>
<b>Beverly Kuduk</b>		Wewak
<b>Everlyn Kunda</b>		Goroka
<b>Regina Are</b>		Goroka
<b>Jepi Mortikay</b>		Mt Hagen





**Day 2 - 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**

**Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/92920005402?pwd=alZ3enZmZzVkN2YoRO1vai9iVEJzZzO9>

**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?

Moderator: **Jackie Kauli**

Confirmed speakers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Via Zoom from:</b>
<b>Mary Kini</b>	Highlands Women’s Human Rights Defenders Movement	Mt Hagen
<b>Lilly Besoer</b>	Voice for Change	Mt Hagen
<b>Eriko Fufurefa</b>	Kafe Urban Settlers Women’s Association	Goroka
<b>Gary Bustin/ Ruth Kissam</b>	PNG Tribal Foundation	Port Moresby
<b>Isi Oru</b>	Consultative Implementation & Monitoring Council	Port Moresby
<b>Anton Lutz</b>		Port Moresby
<b>Dickson Tanda</b>	Caritas	Mt Hagen

**11.20 International speaker:** Berrie Holzhausen (pre-record)

***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?





Moderator: **Fiona Hukula**

Confirmed speakers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Via Zoom from:</b>
<b>Betty Koka</b>	Enga Provincial Health Authority	Enga
<b>Martha Wame</b>	Field Coordinator for Data for Health Initiative and HRD	Alotau
<b>Josephine Advent</b>	Department of Justice and Attorney General	Port Moresby

**12.40 International speaker:** Ugne Grigaitė (Nepal) (pre-record)

***Positive Local Initiatives Working to Address and Prevent witchcraft accusation and persecution in Nepal***

Ms Grigaitė 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?

Moderator: **Anton Lutz**

Confirmed speakers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Via Zoom from:</b>
<b>ArchBp Jack Urame</b>	Lutheran Church of PNG	Port Moresby
		Mt Hagen
<b>Philip Gibbs</b>	Divine Word University	Madang

**2.00 International speaker and film maker:** Paul Wolframm (pre-record and film trailer)

*SARV in PNG*





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?

Moderator: **Verena Thomas**

Confirmed speakers:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Via Zoom from:</b>
<b>Scott Waide</b>		
<b>Alison Anis</b>	CIMC-FSVAC	
<b>Jo Chandler</b>		

**3.00: International speaker** Joerg Nowak, Missio Germany (pre-record)

***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.

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**3.10 Closing remarks:**

