

**CHANNEL 4 DISPATCHES: BRITAIN'S WITCH CHILDREN
FOLLOW UP COMMUNITY MEETING ON THURSDAY 29 JULY 2010**

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to alert you to the screening of a Channel 4 Dispatches programme on Monday 26th July titled: "Britain's Witch Children."

While we look forward to the screening of this programme, we know that it is bound to elicit different emotional responses from different people and groups as it will highlight some very bad practices in relation to child protection among some African churches across the UK. We are of the opinion that the programme will act as a wake up call for us as a community to act against some unscrupulous people who are masquerading as "Men and Women of God" and who are using their position to harm children and vulnerable adults in our community.

AFRUCA and the UK Congolese Safeguarding Action Group are two of the community groups featured in the programme. In order to take forward some of the issues raised, **we are holding a Community Meeting on Thursday 29th July at 1:00pm in Central London** to bring together members of the community and faith groups. One of the key proposals we want to pursue is a law to ban the branding of children as witches or as possessed by the devil. This is akin to the current UK law against Female Genital Mutilation. We will use the event to tease out reactions from the community about this proposal and how to take it forward. We will also highlight the work being done by the UK Safeguarding Action Group and AFRUCA to combat this growing problem.

We expect considerable interest in both the Channel 4 Programme and the follow up community meeting on the 29th of July. If you would like to attend the meeting, please send an email to Justin Bahunga, Policy Officer at AFRUCA at justin@afruca.org or telephone 0207 7042261 for further information. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis only.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Ariyo
AFRUCA – Africans Unite Against Child Abuse

Thomas Bikebi
UK Congolese Safeguarding Action Group