

'The Amber Project'

Enhancing the Response to Child Abuse Linked to Faith & Belief

Tuesday 21st March 2023 – 1pm till 3pm on MS Teams



To Book a place

To register for this free event please use this link which you may need to paste into Google Chrome or Microsoft edge -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/558534159707>

What is The Amber Project? The Amber Project is a multi-agency partnership that seeks to enhance the response to child abuse linked to faith and belief at a Local Authority level. Delivery partners include specialists in abuse linked to witchcraft and spirit possession accusations from the Metropolitan Police Service, University of Chester and Barnardos National FGM Centre.

A two-hour free training webinar has been developed that clearly explains:

- (a) What abuse linked to witchcraft and spirit possession accusations is,
- (b) The factors and indicators professionals need to look out for and
- (c) What safeguarding actions need to be taken by those identifying cases

There is an explicit focus on those within the education sector, policing, social care and health. It is also of benefit to those who are from faith communities and communities working with families and children.

This webinar can accommodate up to 1000 participants. Previous events have been oversubscribed.

The overarching aim is to increase awareness and reporting of this complex form of abuse and improve the multi-agency response when cases are identified.

Why is the Amber Project needed?

Belief in witchcraft and spirit possession is common and exists across the world and in most cases these beliefs do not lead to harm to others. However, there is a need for knowledge and awareness to be enhanced for a wide range of professionals to be supported to recognise the potential for abuse in certain situations.

The Amber Project team acknowledge the positive role of many faith communities and people of faith in safeguarding. The project does not seek to isolate certain religious belief and practices as harmful, or try to change them. It acknowledges that abuse can sometimes follow when a person is accused of being a witch or possessed by an evil spirit.

Efforts to 'exorcise' or 'deliver' the person from witchcraft or an evil spirit can sometimes lead to harm to the person accused.

In 2021, the UN passed an historic resolution on harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft that result in human rights violations. The Amber Project seeks to partner with practitioners and enhance knowledge to enable more effective safeguarding of children, young people and families from this form of harm.

Speakers include:

Professor Lisa Oakley: University of Chester & Chair National Working Group on Abuse Linked to Witchcraft & Spirit Possession Accusations (NWG ALWSPA)

Inspector Allen Davis: Honour, Belief and Sex (crime and vulnerability) Partnership Team – MPS & Deputy Chair of NWG ALWSPA

DS Kate Bridger: Honour, Belief and Sex (crime and vulnerability) Partnership Team – Metropolitan Police Service

Rohma Ullah – Barnardos National FGM Centre

Detective Inspector Wendy Bird – West Midlands Police – HBA lead

