

A workshop on
“Faith and Public Policy”
in Africa

A workshop to become equipped for public life

For five years organisations in the United Kingdom have trained young Christians in a programme to promote and defend the effective witness of Jesus Christ in the public square. The need for Christians to become equipped for public life has grown in all regions of the world. Now, Christian groups are collaborating to provide similar training in the African context in 2015. The programme honours and encourages Christians to express their faith in public life and to promote Biblical values in all spheres. Extensive experience of Christian lawyers, politicians, journalists and activists who operate within a secular environment is harnessed to equip young leaders for their roles in public professions and leadership positions.

A **three day workshop** will be hosted from **16 to 18 November** in **Franschhoek**, Western Cape and repeated from **19 to 21 November** in **Johannesburg**, Gauteng. While both events are located in South Africa, guests are already planning to attend from Namibia, Nigeria and Zambia. Participants from across Africa are encouraged to attend. The programme will be a collaboration between partners from the UK (Christian Concern and the Oxford Centre for Religion in Public Life) and South Africa (The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa, Shofar Institute and the Southern Mission Society). Confirmed speakers include Ade Omooba, Andrea Williams, Andrew Marsh (all from Christian Concern), Joseph Boot (Westminster Institute), Moss Ntlha (TEASA), Frank Chikane (Apostolic Faith Mission, and formerly from the Presidency of the government of South Africa) and Joshua Banda (former Chair of the General Principles Committee of the Constitutional Commission of Zambia). More information on the organisations and speakers are contained below.

Workshop content

The workshop will provide in-depth analysis on the current state of religious freedom in various international contexts. It will create awareness of the many prominent issues that currently present challenges to a Christ-centred approach in public life (such as approaches to poverty alleviation, addressing HIV/AIDS, abortion, homosexual marriage, socio justice, ethics in governance, and the co-existence with other religious and non-religious interest groups). A key feature of the academy is to address practical solutions, and to assist Christians to increase their policy impact. Given the expertise of the speakers, various strategies will be highlighted: the role and use of the law, working through the media, influencing parliament and amplifying the voice of leaders in civil society.

Application

Applications are invited from recent or prospective tertiary graduates, who intend to embark on a public career, and would be interested in taking up an internship in a Christian organization for a period of 3 to 9 months. Applications are also warmly invited from members of Christian churches, particularly young professionals and activists working in public life.

A limited number of scholarships will be offered to assist in covering accommodation and subsistence costs for the duration of the academy. **Costs will amount to R1500**, and will include a shared room for 2 nights, all meals and a formal dinner that offers the opportunity to meet and interact with Christian leaders. Travel costs to the respective locations are for the account of attendees.

All applicants (in particular those who request a scholarship) should provide a short biographical sketch (of no more than 150 words), indicating their background and existing interest in public life. Additionally, they should provide a brief outline (of no more than 150 words) of prospective involvement in public affairs and their envisioned role in their respective societies (both in their countries of origin and abroad, if applicable).

Applications are welcomed until **31 October 2015** and should be sent via e-mail to faith.publicpolicy.africa@gmail.com

Attendees who require invitation letters for the purposes of visa applications should explicitly request this in their communication with the organisers. Additional information will be communicated to successful applicants.

Important information for applicants

- Indicate whether you will attend in Franschhoek or Johannesburg
- Dates: 16-18 November 2015 (Franschhoek); 19-21 November 2015 (Johannesburg)
- Please submit a brief biography and brief background on your current and/or proposed involvement in public life
- Indicate whether you require an invitation letter to apply for a visa to travel to South Africa
- Indicate whether you are applying for a scholarship
- Costs: R1500, includes 2 nights of accommodation and all meals - payment details will be provided to successful applicants
- DEADLINE: 31 October 2015 by e-mail to faith.publicpolicy.africa@gmail.com
- The workshop will be conducted in English

More information on speakers



Pastor **Ade Amooba** is a co-founder of Christian Concern. He descends from Nigeria and is actively involved in public life in the United Kingdom.



Bishop **Joshua Banda** is the former Chair of the General Principles Committee of the National Constitutional Commission (2007-2010) and of the National AIDS Council of Zambia (2007-2014), having previously served as Programmes Committee Chair of the National AIDS Council Board since 2003. He was also appointed to contribute to a subsequent Constitutional process (2011-2013) by the Current Zambian Government. He has recently submitted a doctoral dissertation on the role of the Christian community in addressing AIDS.



Joseph Boot is from the Ezra Institute for Contemporary Christianity, Westminster Chapel, Toronto, Canada



Rev **Frank Chikane** is the head of the Apostolic Faith Mission, and is a former director-general of South Africa's National Presidency.



Andrew Marsh is Christian Concern's media campaign director. He has run successful public campaigns to create awareness, inform debate, and rally parliamentarians around issues central to the Christian worldview.



Rev **Moss Ntlha** is the Secretary General of the Evangelical Alliance of South Africa (TEASA). He is a well-known evangelical public policy activist in South Africa and also serves on the leadership of Freedom of Religion South Africa (FOR-SA).



Andrea Williams, CEO of Christian Concern, is a barrister who has extensive litigation and media experience. She passionately defends Christ in the public sphere.

More information on partner organisations

Christian Concern is an organization that has a passion to see the United Kingdom return to the Christian faith. They do so by equipping local churches to engage in public life, by actively contributing to public policy debate, and through litigation on behalf of Christians whose freedoms have been violated:
<http://www.christianconcern.com/about>

Christian Concern also hosts the annual Wilberforce Academy in prominent university cities (such as Oxford and Cambridge) to equip young leaders:

<http://www.wilberforceacademy.org.uk/>



The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa (TEASA) seeks to connect evangelical churches in the country, strengthen their capacity to positively influence their communities, and convey common concerns to the media, government, and other stakeholders: <http://www.teasa.org.za/>



The mission of **Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life (OCRPL)** is to equip the Christian Church, particularly in the non-western world, in its Public Witness through research in public policy and its relation to religion and through training in research, advocacy and engagement in the public sphere:

<http://www.ocrpl.org/sidebar-about-us/>



Shofar Institute is a Stellenbosch-based organization that exists to train leaders for ministry who are both biblically informed and practically skilled to give prophetic guidance to the Church in our current day and age. Together with Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life and East Mountain, they hosted a successful Advocacy workshop in 2014: <http://shofarinstitute.org/>



The **Southern Mission Society's (a partner organization of East Mountain)** goal is to see the church equipped to flourish and make a significant difference in building the Kingdom of God on this continent. This we believe will affect a moral order for Southern African societies, that will help shape the direction of the educational and health systems, engage constructively with the economic, political and social life on the basis of a well articulated Christian worldview. <http://samission.org.za/> and <http://www.eastmountain.tv/>