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**17 February 2010**

## **Caine Prize 2010 judging panel announced**

The judges of this year's Caine Prize for African Writing were announced today. The panel will be chaired by *The Economist's* Literary Editor Fiammetta Rocco, and joining her are Granta deputy editor Ellah Allfrey, Professor Jon Cook of the University of East Anglia, award-winning novelist Hisham Matar and Georgetown University professor Samantha Pinto.

This year 115 qualifying stories have been submitted to the judges from 13 African countries. The judges will meet in April to decide on the shortlisted stories, which will be announced shortly thereafter. The winning story will be announced at a dinner at the Bodleian Library in Oxford on Monday 5 July.

Last year the Caine Prize, described as Africa's leading literary award, was won by Nigerian writer EC Osondu. Chair of judges Nana Yaa Mensah said at the time "a tour de force describing, from a child's point of view, the dislocating experience of being a displaced person. It is powerfully written with not an ounce of fat on it – and deeply moving."

### **Notes for editors**

The Caine Prize, awarded annually for African creative writing, is named after the late Sir Michael Caine, former Chairman of Booker plc and Chairman of the Booker Prize management committee for nearly 25 years. The Prize is awarded for a short story by an African writer published in English (indicative length 3,000 to 10,000 words). An "African writer" is normally taken to mean someone who was born in Africa, or who is a national of an African country, or whose parents are African, and whose work has reflected that cultural background.

The African winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Wole Soyinka, Nadine Gordimer and J M Coetzee, are Patrons of The Caine Prize, as is Chinua Achebe, winner of the Man Booker International Prize. Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne is President of the Council and Jonathan Taylor is the Chairman.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Katy Taylor-Gooby  
Raitt Orr & Associates  
Tel: 0207 630 9778 / Mob: 07974 912512  
[Katy@raittorr.co.uk](mailto:Katy@raittorr.co.uk)