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Who Is Info-Cult

Founded in 1980, Info-Cult is a non-profit charitable organization that helps people concerned or interested about cults, new religious movements and related phenomena

Our services include :

an information and assistance phone line, consultation, research, conferences, documentation centre and an internet site

News from Info-Cult

No 14, November 2009

Info-Cult responds...

During the nearly 30 years in which Info-Cult has operated, much needed information has been made available on a daily basis to callers who, otherwise, had nowhere else to turn.

In assisting individuals, professionals, community groups and others, Info-Cult responds with personal attention to each caller's concerns and needs. There are numerous reasons why people contact us and each inquiry generally requires a fair amount of time as the responses to their questions are not as simple as callers may have anticipated or hoped for.

For example, many callers often start by asking if the group they're calling about is a cult or a religion or wanting to know if it's dangerous. To begin with, Info-Cult does not possess a list of "cults" nor do we plan on having one. Further, there is no agreed upon definition of what is a cult. In the last number of years the term has become so pejorative that stating that a group is a cult can lead people to assume they may be dealing with something on par

with the Order of the Solar Temple or Jonestown. On the other hand, indicating that a group is not a cult can lead one to assume a certain group is benign when it may not be. Since no two groups, like no two people are exactly the same we believe it is important to deal with each group and each situation individually. In this manner, we can respond to individual questions and concerns by providing the relevant information or suggestions.

To give you an idea, some of the types of inquiries we receive include requests:

- For information to evaluate a group before joining or regarding a friend or relative is already involved;
- On how to get a reimbursement from a group;
- On whether they should rent their space to a specific group;
- On how to stop a group from calling, mailing them or coming to their door;
- For help in a possible custody case where the other partner is a member of a group.

In all cases, it is important for Info-Cult to provide objective information so that the caller is able to make an informed choice on how to proceed.

Over the years Info-Cult has established contact with a number of groups and in some situations we may intervene directly to seek a resolution. In all situations, we ideally suggest that people try the easiest course of action first rather than resorting to approaches which may result in more problems.

Info-Cult responds... (continued)

Other inquiries we receive which tend to be much more complex are inquiries from:

- Families who are trying to re-establish contact with a loved one involved in a group;
- Former members who have been harmed by their group experience and need help to deal with the experience and move on with their life;
- Former members who were born or raised (SGAs, Second Generation Adults) in a group and face a range of challenges integrating into mainstream society.

The above examples are a selection of the calls Info-Cult receives. Though there may be a perception that the issue of “cults” has gone away it is an ongoing concern for those seeking our help.

And for them, Info-Cult is here.

Education

Conference: Au Coeur des droits, 5e colloque de Plaidoyer victime, October 29, 2009, Montreal

Mike Kropveld Executive Director of Info-Cult organized and moderated a panel “*Victimes de dérives sectaires*” at the *5e colloque de Plaidoyer-Victime*. Participants at the workshop came from various government agencies and community groups. Information about the conference can be found at:

http://www.aqpv.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=326

ICSA Conference: International Cultic Studies Association’s Annual International Conference, July 1-3, 2010, New York

As for the past international conferences Info-Cult will again be collaborating in organizing the 2010 Conference. Further information about the conference will be forthcoming shortly and when available can be found on the **Upcoming TV and Radio Programs / Conferences / Other Events** page of our website www.infocult.org

Info-Cult Web Site

For your information: Our website is updated on an ongoing basis.

As an example a recent program on Radio-Canada, Second Regard “Entre sectes et religions” had an interview with Info-Cult’s Executive Director. That broadcast as well as other **Programs Already Broadcast** can be accessed from the following page of our website: <http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ic-events.html>

News from Info-Cult Online

Starting from bulletin #6, January 2006 **News from Info-Cult** can be found on our website at: <http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ic-news.html>

News from Info-Cult is published on an irregular basis.



Info-Cult is a non-profit charitable organization and as such relies on the generosity of individual donors for an important part of its funding. If you would like to support Info-Cult you can make a donation through CanadaHelps:



or by check to Info-Cult, 5655 Park Ave. #208, Montreal, QC H2V 4H2