

What are you protesting?

The actions of "Church" of Scientology (CoS) and its various front groups -- not their beliefs. The CoS is a dangerous cult which enjoys special tax benefits (beyond those given to, say, Christians, Muslims, or Buddhists). Unlike a religion, the CoS doesn't make its beliefs available for free. Central tenets of the CoS belief system are covered up and even denied until members have paid tens of thousands of dollars. The CoS forces young children to work for long hours, harms families, kidnaps people, and harasses its critics.

Who are you?

Anonymous is anyone and no one. We have no fixed membership, no organizational structure, and no leaders. The CoS claims that we are really terrorists in the pay of German psychiatrists. In reality, we are mixed group of people, aged from mid-teens to mid-eighties. Some of us are religious; some aren't. We are anyone who cares about the oppression the CoS inflicts on both its members and its critics. We are peaceful demonstrators, who do not advocate or tolerate violence against the CoS. We might even be you.

Why are you wearing masks?

The CoS has a formal policy of harassment and attacks against critics, called "fair game". When Paulette Cooper wrote a book titled *The Scandal of Scientology*, cult members began a systematic attempt to destroy, or even end, her life. This operation, called "Operation Freakout", was very nearly successful. She faced grand jury charges for bomb threats that the CoS sent to themselves; she might have been found guilty, except that an unrelated FBI raid turned up documentation for the plan and the scheme to get her fingerprints on the threat. Cooper's story is, sadly, not unusual. The CoS has attacked countless people, and still does so today. Critics wear masks because we fear for the safety of our families or friends. Members of our worldwide peaceful protests have been assaulted, harassed, and threatened by the CoS. So have bystanders who just walked by a protest.

Why haven't I heard about this?

Media coverage of the CoS has been limited by their huge budget and policy of using threats and lawsuits to squelch criticism. When *Time* magazine ran a story critical of the CoS in the 1990s, they ended up spending several million dollars defending themselves in court. The CoS does not need to win lawsuits; their goal is to harass, intimidate, and cost critics money. They organize campaigns complaining about media who cover them negatively, or even neutrally; critics fear losing their jobs for coming forward. The Office of Special Affairs (OSA) "handles" critics, by stalking and harassing them.

How do they get away with this?

No one believes half the things the CoS does. The idea of an organization requiring members to have abortions is so unthinkable that many people simply don't believe it occurs. That organization is the CoS's "Sea Org", a group of people who sign billion-year contracts to work for the CoS. Deaths are covered up; for instance, the CoS allegedly paid Cyril Wecht tens of thousands of dollars to "discover" that Lisa McPherson's death was "accidental", not due to her being tied to a bed with no food or water for seventeen days.

The CoS has kept people from finding out about their crimes, and thus kept people from doing anything about them.

Scientology harms families?

Children of Scientologists may be taken from their parents to work ten-hour days at CoS operations far away from their parents; this gives the CoS cheap labor, and hostages against leaving the cult. The parents may be told that the children are receiving education; in fact, they are simply put to work. Foreign children in the US are separated from their passports to prevent escape.

The "disconnection" policy of the CoS forces members to cease all contact with friends or family who have criticized the CoS in any way. Members may be denied contact with family outside the cult, for years. Mail and phone calls may be intercepted by cult security staff.

Don't most churches do that?

No. While some churches do have rarely-used practices discouraging contact with particular people, virtually none use force to prevent contact between a member and an outsider. When a person is declared an enemy, Scientologists are not allowed any association with that person. Continuing to talk to someone who has been declared suppressive makes you suppressive, so no one can talk to you without being kicked out.

Since the CoS discourages people from having contacts outside the cult, this means that simply calling your mother to tell her you love her could leave you out on the street, homeless and jobless, with no money. The CoS regularly monitors communications between members and outsiders to keep the threat immediate. This is wildly different from anything most churches do.

What do you want?

We want the CoS to stop assaulting its critics, kidnapping its members, and denying people life-saving medical treatment. We want an end to the blackmail and extortion. Contrary to their claims, we are not here to protest or mock their beliefs; we are here to protest their abusive (and often criminal) actions.

We want the cult to stop receiving special tax breaks. We want an end to the brainwashing, to the secrecy about the belief system, and to the practice of charging huge amounts of money for snake oil. We want members to be free to come and go without losing their families.

How can I help?

Learn more about the CoS. Educate yourself -- don't just take our word for it! Then educate your friends. Or, if you have the free time, pick up a sign and join us. Please note that this is a **peaceful** protest. Violence or threats against CoS members or property will not be tolerated.

The back side of this pamphlet offers more resources and some basic advice on finding out more on your own. We urge you to do your own research.

Some Resources

This is a small starting list of sources we believe to be reliable and trustworthy. See the research guidelines on the next fold, too.

www.xenu.net

www.exscientologykids.net

www.whyweprotest.org

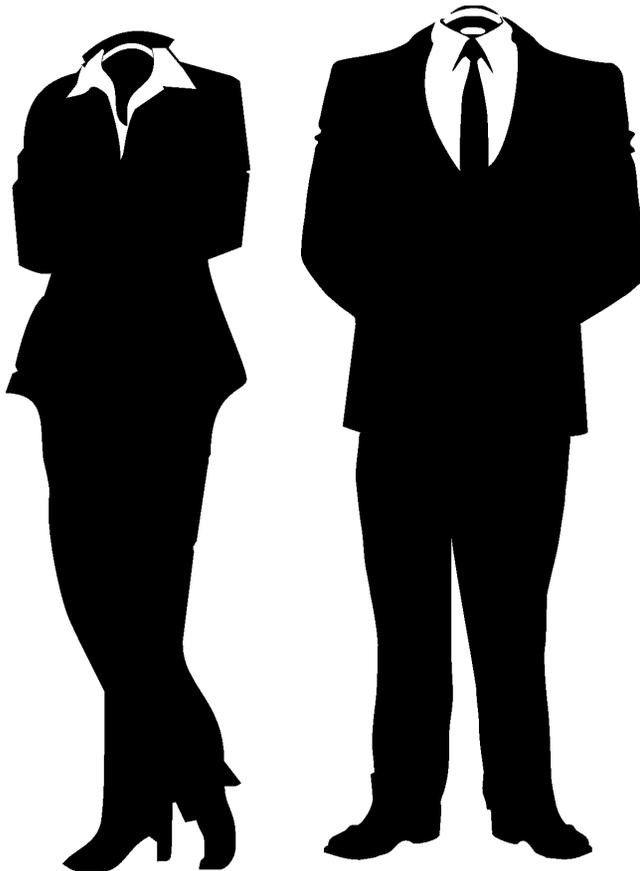
www.enturbation.org

www.lermanet.com

www.youfoundthecard.com

www.whyaretheydead.net

Is one of our faces yours?



Research Guidelines

Check your sources! The CoS runs a number of sites aimed at attacking their critics; for instance, they run a site called "Religious Freedom Watch" which paints critics of the CoS as anti-religious extremists. Curiously, only critics of the CoS merit this designation; critics of Christianity, Islam, or Judaism (or any other religion) don't count. The CoS has suborned or destroyed some resources, too. The Cult Awareness Network was bankrupted by the legal costs of the CoS's frivolous lawsuits, then purchased by the CoS in bankruptcy court. It is now used as a cover. Be aware that the CoS has a number of front groups, such as "Applied Scholastics", "Citizen's Commission on Human Rights", "Narconon", and "Crimonon". Any group claiming to use L. Ron Hubbard's "technology" is very likely ultimately owned by the same organization as the CoS.

Check your work. Question assumptions. Think for yourself. We believe that, if you do this, you will come to the same conclusions we have. Even if you don't, we would rather you convince yourself than trust us, or anyone else, blindly. Unlike the CoS, we see no need to squelch or prohibit competing views.

Thank you for your time.

If you do not plan to keep this pamphlet, please give it to someone else, or toss it in a recycling bin. Please don't litter.

operation: reconnect

you have questions:

who are we?

what are we doing?

why should you care?

THE ANSWERS ARE REVEALED!

