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Introduction

This is a report of the activities of the Director Mike Garde and members of Dialogue Ireland Executive Committee. There is an increasing level of activity by these participants, each contributing various skillsets that have given Dialogue Ireland a capability to deliver our services on a new level. One participant, who recently retired, has a very high increased level of involvement. The various skillsets complements and blends into the on-going development of Dialogue Ireland and the fulfilment of its mission.

The highlight of the year for Dialogue Ireland was without doubt the judgement of Justice Hogan in September, in relation to granting protection to Dialogue Ireland’s sources as part of its mission to educate the public in regards to issues of cultism.


The protection of these sources, and their ability to discuss and share information with Dialogue Ireland freely and in confidence without threat of disclosure through litigation, is the heart and soul of this judgement as it applies to Dialogue Ireland. Without the assistance of those people who, sometimes risking retribution and harassment, have trusted Dialogue Ireland over the years to treat them and their information in the strictest confidence – Dialogue Ireland would not be the organ of public information on the topic of cultism that it is today.
Because of its importance we quote from the judgement:

“Since Mr. Garde’s activities fall squarely within the education of public opinion, there is a high constitutional value in ensuring that his right to voice these views in relation to the actions of religious cults is protected. It does not require much imagination to accept that critical information in relation to the actions of those bodies would dry up if Mr. Garde could be compelled to reveal this information, whether in the course of litigation or otherwise. It is obvious from the very text of Article 40.6.1 that the right to educate (and influence) public opinion is at the very heart of the rightful liberty of expression. That rightful liberty would be compromised – perhaps even completely jeopardised – if disclosure of sources and discussions with sources could readily be compelled through litigation.

... There are, moreover, no strong competing arguments to the contrary which would weigh against the public interest in ensuring that Mr. Garde is free from disclosing his sources or the contents of these discussions.”

The cultism issue in Ireland is often confused with the issue of freedom of religion. Comments like ‘one person’s cult is another person’s faith’ are common. The general public find it difficult to identify with the issue of undue influence, and the lack of awareness about different cultist groups is pretty universal until a family member or friend is affected. Unlike a concrete issue like suicide or poverty, it is hard to grasp the significance of the transformation that cultism can entail.

Here we give the background about the difficulty of this information being taken up by the Irish media:

During the past few years Dialogue Ireland’s mission has become increasingly difficult with respect to the flow of information, and particularly information that forms part of investigative journalism. Some media outlets have put their articles behind a pay wall, in effect rendering them practically invisible to the general public. Dialogue Ireland has no commercial interest in the information referred to – our interest is solely in educating the public as part of our mission, and in that vein we endeavour to collect a variety of articles from many sources as a means to assisting public education on issues of cultism. Unlike most commercial outfits, more visits to the Dialogue Ireland website and blog does not result in additional revenue. Rather, the resulting increase in requests for assistance and information is an additional workload which in turn reduces the resources available to Dialogue Ireland. Dialogue Ireland has also been stretched by the sheer volume of work needed as a result of various legal matters throughout the year.

Overall Context

We are in a continued time of economic stress, and the recession impacts on those who try various groups to recoup their losses at the material level. For others, confusions can lead to seeking succour from many groups. The collapse of the Celtic Tiger, the societal change surrounding the role of the Catholic Church, the feeling of disaffection with the political situation, etc., are just some of the many factors that lead to confusion. It is this difficult context and the stresses involved, and the human impact these stresses have, that we must bear in mind as we examine the issues of cultism in Ireland.
Dialogue Ireland and the Internet

We have continued our emphasis on using the Internet, both as a medium of public education but also a means of empowering those who have had negative experiences within cultic environments.

Our website and blog have thousands of articles, documents, commentaries and media clips on the topic of cultism, and represent the very best archive in the field in Ireland.

http://www.dialogueireland.org/

http://www.dialogueireland.wordpress.com/

We are hoping to migrate the content from our website onto our blog, and to make finding key articles on given topics much easier for our visitors. Our website has, in recent years, functioned solely as an archive with the real action taking place on our blog.

The success of the blog has surpassed our wildest expectations. It was always intended to provide a great resource for people to access up-to-date information issues of cultism, but it has also served to provide a place where people can come to share their experiences. On May 13th, 2013, the Dialogue Ireland blog recorded its 1 millionth hit.

We compiled a statistical summary of the blog, and some interesting information about its visitors and users, here:

http://dialogueireland.wordpress.com/2013/05/13/dialogue-ireland-blog-crosses-1-million-views/
Islamism is generally associated with violent forms of radical Islam. In fact, this violent form of Islamism tends to divert attention away from the form which uses peaceful means to further its aims. So there are many Muslims who have achieved quite high positions within Irish society who are working on a twin track. Like our own IRB which organised by conspiratorial means to overthrow the existing order, so the aims of the Muslim Brotherhood are directed to seeing Shariah law enforced here.

Contacts with Turkish Muslims connected to the Gulen movement have been discontinued when research revealed this group was allied to an Islamist emphasis of the Turkish Government which is moving away from its secular roots. We are now in a new situation since the Arab Spring. Radical Islamists have been the target of oppressive regimes which have generally been supported by the West to stop those Islamist forces coming to power! Catch 22.

This year we have been following the developments at the Clongriffin Mosque project. Our concerns do not relate to Islam as such, but rather to the forces behind this project that have remained hidden.
The Church of Scientology continues to come under protest from the Anonymous collective, which have continued their monthly protests outside the Scientology Dublin HQ.

Undoubtedly the highlight of 2012 on the issue of Scientology was the 'Dublin Offlines' conference, held on June 30th. It was organised by critics of the Church of Scientology, as well ex-members and family members of those affected. Some of the organisers were ‘Independent Scientologists’ and ‘FreeZone Scientologists’, which are people who still believe in the teachings of Scientology (and continue to practice those beliefs outside of the Scientology organisation) but who wish to warn others about the abuses they experienced when members of the Church of Scientology.

The conference featured speakers from the US, France, Canada, the UK as well as Ireland, and covered almost every aspect of the Church of Scientology from the history of its founder L. Ron Hubbard to its operations around the world. Between speakers and attendees there was centuries of personal experience on hand, expert academic testimony and testimony from family members.

Thanks to technical collaboration of conference participants from Ireland, the UK and Germany, full videos of all the speeches given at the conference are available from the Ex-Scientologists Ireland website, whose link you will find below.

http://xscn.ie/wp/conference-videos/

http://dialogueireland.wordpress.com/2012/06/28/dublin-offlines-speaking-out-against-scientology/

http://dialogueireland.wordpress.com/2012/07/03/organising-a-conference-a-couple-of-tips-in-how-to-neutralise-scientology/
A training programme with its origins in Scientology. It was known as *est*, but now has become a for profit corporation. We continue to get requests for information about them.

DI had high level meetings to discuss the contents of our blog. We met with the public relations personnel from their US organisation in Dublin and Landmark had their Irish PR consultant at the meeting. Discussions are ongoing.

It is noteworthy that Cardinal Brady still retains a connection to Landmark through its Mastery Programme as he features in one of their photographs.

Though they are seeing a decline in numbers they are the most active group in regard to evangelisation both in rural and urban contexts. We understand that they had to payout a significant sum in regard to their High court case against the Coombe Hospital. This might explain why they have put their large HQ up for sale in Newcastle, Co Wicklow.
Sogyal Rimpoche has been subject to accusations of sexual exploitation of his female members, which have been in the public domain for nearly 20 years. There seems to be widespread denial about these facts and a cursory look at their web site indicates that many prominent persons from Irish society are unwilling to take a stand on these issues.

We note that Buddhism has now the kind of protection from examination that Catholicism used to enjoy. We have raised these concerns with a number of those teaching there, without any commitments to take action. Rigpa located near Castletownbere is a Tibetan Buddhist centre, and they have offices around the country. They continue to have great effect in the field of thanatology especially in the hospice movement. We received a number of calls with concerns about their activities. They represent the group most involved on our blog. Former President McAleese who distanced herself from Rigpa in 2009 after DI brought to her attention some of the concerns around this group, now since leaving office she seems to no longer have any concerns around the Lama Sogyal Rimpoche and when approached indicated she was happy for her photographs to be up on their web site.

Known in Ireland as The Dublin Meditation Centre, ex- members have raised serious issues around the abuse of sexuality and control. They attempt to teach Buddhism in secondary schools. They are trying to recruit at universities and have opened a centre on “Monto,” now called Joyce St where Frank Duff worked which will cost about €500,000 according to their web site.
They are teaching non-dualistic philosophy and are running a number of courses, which are offering meditation based on the teaching of TM. They are also initiating people who are active Christians in to Hinduism through very well run courses in nearly every major town in Ireland. They advertise parenting courses and Philosophy with high cost adverts in national newspapers. The result of this is that these newspapers hardly ever allow critical comment on the School. They run Townley Hall near Drogheda.

Tony Quinn continues to be the source of many calls to Dialogue Ireland. There is a lot of activity in regard to challenging Quinn legally but little engagement on our site by former members. We have had since the middle of 2012 the first real ex Quinn people adding great insights on Quinn and his actions. TQ has been the group that has taken up most of our time this year. The High Court judgement mentioned earlier represented a very important milestone in addressing this group, but it also represented a fundamental stalemate in the fight to bring the truth about Quinn to the public. Unfortunately, the media did not seem interested in the judgement which lessened its effect.

We can talk about the four year period from 2008 to 2012 as one which focused on the mix of oil and Educo. It was marked by legal threats and cases and the abuse of oil shareholders. Also many were more interested in obtaining money than they were in bringing out the truth about Quinn. All that DI assisted walked away and settled and as a result we have to return to our primary mission in assisting those who still get involved. It is clear from our protests at the Helix and then again at Bewley’s hotel that the oil company INE is in a very sad state. The judgement by Justice Bannister was very important in showing the cultist manipulation in the
company. Subsequent developments also show that even the ex Educo folks are not able to break from the conditioning even though they have left Quinn. By the end of the year the B Shareholders had not got their entitlement. The settlements further disadvantaged them as far as their rights were concerned.

Unification Church
http://dialogueireland.wordpress.com/category/unification-church/

Otherwise known as the Moonies or nowadays as the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace. They are still attempting to influence the course of events. They have managed to involve themselves in Ecumenical contacts and certain Catholic Centres like the Lantern Centre run by the Christian Brothers, who have been quite naïve in their response to this. They currently are recruiting outside the GPO.

Tabor Institute Tallaght
http://dialogueireland.wordpress.com/category/tabor-institute/

This group is an excellent example of the success of our internet strategy. A person concerned about Tabor contacted us back in May 2010. We began a dialogue process which led to us posting an article on this group. This led in September of that year to an article in the Sunday Times. This in turn led to a number of former students receiving support by using our site. The general feeling is that the group has been neutralised. In 2011 they attempted to threaten us legally unsuccessfully demanding damages and a retraction of our articles about them. In 2011 the post about them had the most visits in that year.
During 2010 we assisted those trying to raise awareness concerning Mike Meegan and Icross. Meegan had misrepresented his qualifications? We were immediately threatened with a claim when we reposted some articles. Later the Irish Mail took him to court and we have all the articles on our site.


Meegan by a skilful ruse was able to gouge money from the Irish Mail when he was able to make a killing on a legal technicality reported in the post above.

Victory Outreach

http://dialogueireland.wordpress.com/category/victory-outreach/

Dialogue Ireland has been receiving reports from victims, health professionals and former members which raise questions about the nature of this ministry. We have also been approached by those working in the courts who are concerned not all is what it appears. They are concerned with people who show up in court from this group. This group which is centred around providing assistance to drug addicts. It should not be confused with Victory Church.

Catholic Developments

The Catholic Church saw the Eucharistic Conference as part of its renewal strategy.

The person that I felt needed to be at the centre of events in regard to cultism, Cardinal Brady seems to have stemmed the tide calling for his resignation and it appears that the Catholic Church has decided that it will keep him in office at all costs. Soon after the events of June he began to make very strong absolutist claims on the issue of abortion, but seems to miss the irony that his words are relativised by his actions.

This was what the Director wrote for an interview for the Sunday Independent:

– It could have been but a I have been of the opinion already since last year that unless Cardinal Brady not just apologised but resigned for his role in the sex abuse scandal this exercise would be doomed. Most people are aware of his role in regard to children, less well known is how he has allowed elder abuse fester and has closed his ears to the cries of the victims of Christina Gallagher of the House of Prayer in Achill. As a Doctor of Canon Law he has allowed this abuse to continue by allowing a Marian scam to continue by not discipling a priest from his Archdiocese who flagrantly endorses this project by entering the Archdiocese of Tuam. The very clear canonical disciplines he claims to have followed in regard to children he seems totally unwilling to follow in regard to the House of Prayer.

Priests who express minority views at the edge of Catholic doctrine are silenced and sent to monasteries, whereas, clear theological and moral failure is ignored or condoned.

One sensed that Cardinal Brady who had had a very revealing documentary about him aired by the BBC just ignored these facts:

http://dialogueireland.wordpress.com/2012/05/02/the-shame-of-the-catholic-church-bbc/

To get a sense of the context DI is working in this analysis of the current situation of the Catholic Church in Ireland by Archbishop Martin gives a back drop to our response to the cult situation in Ireland.

http://americamagazine.org/issue/post-catholic-ireland
Dialogue Ireland continues to receive calls from people about this group. Terrible issues of control and fear of losing contact with family members. There is a parish in Clontarf. This group is about to implode as older members have introduced a dress code and younger people are totally ostracised. The Church in Spain claims to be the true Church. TV3 had a documentary which interspersed commentary on three groups in its programme.

The Magnificat Meal Movement (MMM)

Though this movement is virtually non existent in Ireland it has left a lot of people wounded and disaffected from the Catholic Church. Also there are a number of families who have lost members to this group in Australia. Debra faced tax charges in Australia and during the year we found out that she had been involved in a tax settlement. The likely engineer of that settlement Claire Murphy was kicked out of the MMM earlier in the year. She has herself settled with Debra which means the fraud she participated in can’t be legally challenged unless documentary evidence can be produced. We have a source who has this information but this person is very busy as much as they would love to bring this fruition. Our best hope would be a documentary which would bring this story back into the public domain.

The House of Prayer

The Director helped a number of ex members and family members of current members. Here it is case of an older generation who are not computer savvy who therefore can’t believe what the younger generation is telling them. They are persuaded that newspapers like the Sunday World are lying about Christina even when Jim Gallagher has shown the documentary proof of her wrong doing. He published a book called “Immaculate Deception, which made a confusing story clear. The
Catholic Church can’t control what is happening in the House of Prayer, but the scandal of the continued presence of Fr Gerard McGinnity there is bringing the Church into disrepute. TV3 had a documentary that featured Mike Garde which interspersed commentary on three groups in its programme.


2012 was relatively quiet from our perspective but another house became known. It should be called House of Profit.


The Director gave a presentation on The House of Prayer at an International Conference in France in October.

The Legionaries of Christ
http://dialogueireland.wordpress.com/category/legionaries-of-christ/

How this order has not been closed down defies logic. The leadership needs to be investigated for protecting the founder and covering up his crimes. Those with a genuine vocation should be offered new life as secular clergy or go through the normal processes for joining another religious order. Their presence in Ireland has lost any rationale if it ever had one.

The Faith/Prosperity Movement, Abundant Life Dublin and Galway
http://dialogueireland.wordpress.com/category/faith-movement-abundant-life/

In 2011 this grouping raised serious issues about finance and the abuse of members. Since late 2011 Victory in Dublin has taken over this Church. We are providing support to ex members, and non-believing spouses, and family members. Victory Dublin is involved with a number of legal cases, but progress has been slow in 2012.
Again we were approached by a concerned relative and we were able to raise the profile of this group by using our internet strategy. This site was very active during the year.

We received a number of calls and requests for help from people who reported similar processes from what we can in general call New Age participants. Whereas they were emotionally available and could be part of a family and the give and take that involves, now they find the person is withdrawn on another planet so to speak. They are also atomised believing they are no longer an incarnate being, but rather a separate Gnostic spiritual individual with no connectedness to their wife, husband, daughter or son. To use an illustration. They were like honey from a honey comb deeply interrelated to those around them in their family or community. They still retained their individuality, but that was not a problem at that point. Now they are like individual marbles which are in a box and the box is dropped and the individual marbles go all over the place. They have no deep rooted connectivity and seem to be victims of a kind of DOS attack.
Conferences and visits

FECRIS
http://www.fecris.org/

FECRIS is a Europe wide body which monitors Sects, and NRMs. DI has been an associate member of this body for ten years. This year’s Conference was held in Perpignan, but attempts to locate the possible end time of the world to a nearby site in Bugurach were not based on any evidence. December 21 according the Mayan Calandar was to be played out there. The mayor of the town indicated that the only aliens present in the village the two bus loads of visitors brought there to view the preparation of these events. Mike Garde gave a presentation on the House of Prayer.


DI was asked to prepare a proposal to host a Conference in May 2013 in Dublin, but the Board unilaterally withdrew this invitation within about two weeks. DI at the end of 2012 was considering its position in relation to its involvement with this organisation.

Schools/ Colleges/ Groups/ Lectures 2012

Lucan Community College, Terenure College, Kinsale Community College, Marian College, Carnew Community College, Theological Society Trinity College Dublin and Cross and Passion College, Kilcullen.
Finances

Dialogue Ireland has found that our main means of support is by charitable donation by Standing Order. Due to the recession even some of these have ceased or have been reduced. We invite the public to assist us in whatever way they can and are grateful for those that do support us.

Mike Garde
Director
May 10, 2013

Disclaimer & Notices

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained within this report is accurate, Dialogue Ireland cannot accept any liability for errors and/or omissions and presents the material in this report for informational purposes only was part of its mission.

The following free software products have greatly assisted Dialogue Ireland’s work, and we note them here by as a means of acknowledging their contributions: Wordpress, Notepad++, WampServer, HTTrack, Mozilla Thunderbird, Mozilla Firefox Web Browser (including the addons FireShot, Resurrect Pages, Flashget, FireBug, RefControl and Update Scanner), PDF Creator, Gnu Image Manipulation Program, Opera Web Browser, Skype, Irfanview, Liberkey, phpbb3, PDF-XChange Viewer, WinSCP, Ghostscript, GSView, pdfsam, Wavosaur, mp3DirectCut, Coojah, Format Factory and OpenOffice.

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