



European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Cults and Sects
Participant in the Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Union since 2010
NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since
2009
INGO with participatory status at the Council of Europe since 2005
<http://fecris.org>

WORKING SESSION 7

Fundamental freedoms I, including:
Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief

Sects, cults and closed political regimes operate on the same principle, that of totalitarianism in which all powers are united in the same hand: legislative, executive and judicial power, leaving no room for any counter-power.

This system on which sectarian groups are based is far removed from the fundamental values of our democracies for which our citizens have fought so desperately. Moreover, these systems carry anti-democratic visions hostile to freedom and democracy, the project being for them to make their supposedly spiritual power prevail over the temporal. Our democracy is in danger

Our organisation, FECRIS, has been committed for more than 20 years to defend individuals at risk from these misleading systems, and comes to this forum every year to remind you that its fight is based on the European Convention on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, it is regularly attacked in your own grounds.

We come here to deplore and warn you of the mystification to which you are subjected. These cultist groups use to invoke freedom of religion as if they were similar to other minority spiritual groups, abused and violated in their legitimate rights. Paradoxically, they invoke the same democratic principles that govern external life and which they regularly violate internally.

They are wolves in sheep's clothing, carrying beliefs that endanger the founding pillars of democracy, spreading discrimination, closure, fear of others, lies and hatred, and even sometimes believing they have the power of life or death over themselves and on

their followers (OST, Waco, among others).