The Alternate Religions & Subcultures Demystification Project

Presents:

“SATANISM: The Acid Test”
Version 01.03

(MAIN DOCUMENT)

ABOUT

This document was sourced, contributed to, compiled and researched by volunteer members of the Alternative Religions Forum.

What Is The Alternative Religions Forum?

The group was formed in March 2013 by a number of individuals and community based organizations concerned about the rise in Satanic Ritual Abuse claims, misinformation, misrepresentation and related hysteria in South African civil society and media.

The aim of this group is to set the record straight through activism and advocacy, and by the provision of factual and educational information about minority or alternative religions, sub-cultures and communities which are frequently accused in SRA propaganda of being “Satanism”, and also to debunk the mythical “Satanism” created and propagated by SRA propaganda, and to expose “Satanic panic” for its malicious and vindictive lies.

Who Is The Alternative Religions Forum?

Initial membership included the South African Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA) and the South African Vampyre Alliance (SAVA) along with individual activists in their respective fields:
What Is This Document?

This is “The Alternate Religions & Subcultures Demystification Project” – a document which is intended to clarify misunderstandings about alternative or non-mainstream religions or sub-cultures which are frequently being conflated with Satanism; and to clarify confusion around Satanism as a religion itself.

Who Is It For?

EVERYONE, including journalists, ministers, airline pilots, school principals, teachers, social workers, Dept of Education MEC’s, store clerks, vicars, bank tellers, CEO’s, cooks, employees, property managers, taxi drivers, priests, racing drivers, Zulu monarchs, academics, train conductors, street sweepers, meter maids, employment agents, postmen, nosy neighbors, Councilors, pastors, shoppers, lawyers, sales assistants, college professors, policemen, antique collectors, pizza deliverers, politicians, couriers, property owners, shrinks, employers, evangelists, union reps, shop stewards, soldiers, managers, buyers, radio DJ’s – and YOU.

Who Is It By?

The information presented was written or collected and compiled by members of the Project representing Pagan religion, Satanist religion and the Vampyre subculture. The material was reviewed by representatives of several South African Pagan bodies, Satanists, and of the local Vampyre subculture. Numerous other entities around the world have also contributed their input and endorsement of the content and presentation of this material in its present form.

Why Does It Matter?

It is a sad and frightening fact that fear and ignorance about the unknown – specifically about the beliefs and practices of other people frequently leads to persecution, prejudice and victimization of minority groups. Around the world there are abundant examples of innocent people who have been wronged, those who have spent years in prison based not on facts but on prejudiced views. Children have been counseled until they “recover” memories of sexual and ritualized torture at the hands of alleged devil worshipers etc. In South Africa there are currently cases pending where parents feuding over custody of their children have claimed their opposing former partners are unfit parents based on their beliefs and religious practices – and the courts demonstrate a tainted and biased view that says in so many words that the LAW thinks Pagans are unfit parents who expose their children to “harmful practices”, that Pagan religion IS a harmful practice, and that being a Pagan parent is grounds to lose custody of your children and that children living in a Pagan home need therapy. There is unjust, not to mention unconstitutional. The only logical solution is to educate with the aim of dislodging prejudice.
Accreditation & Endorsement

The content of each section of this site and/or document which focuses on a specific religion or subculture is validated and signed off by representative bodies or entities within that specific group in order to verify that the content and manner in which the group is represented or portrayed is true and correct.

In this way as a combined project, we give credence to the material that we are either jointly or severally the topic of – something that not even a generally credible, impartial information resource like Wikipedia does.

Further, after completion, external accreditation of specific sections AND of the project as a whole will be sought from entities who have not participated in this project directly, regardless of whether they form part of these communities. A list of bodies giving accreditation or endorsement will be provided at the end of this document.

Validation Of The Current Version:

This document is designed to be updated and so the current version of the document or content of the website may vary or be changed from time to time, as and when new information or newly added alternative religious groups or subcultures is included. Changes will be kept to a minimum, and the intention is only to make such changes whenever a new religious group or subculture is added to the Project, without modifying the content of existing sections on religions or subcultures, in order to ensure consistency.

To verify whether you have the current version, please consult the Alternative Religions Forum website at http://alternatereligionsforum.wordpress.com and go to the “updates” page where changes made to various versions of the document/website will be listed. The latest version of the document will also be made available on the website for download, to ensure that you have the latest copy available.

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When in doubt that something which is presented as being quoted from this document and/or website, or if such is done in a manner in which statements
or materials are presented out of context, please consult the Alternative Religions Forum website or inform the Alternative Religions Forum.

**Disclaimer:**

The Alternative Religious Forum (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”, or “this Project”) is a joint effort by alternative religions and social sub-cultures working together on matters pertaining to legality, civil rights and human rights, and especially matters affecting rights enshrined in the Constitution and Bill of Rights of South Africa – specifically the rights to freedom of religion, freedom of association, dignity, freedom of expression, right to identify without fear of persecution, and the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty – as these apply to every other cultural group, individual under South African law, regardless of any of these factors. Neither this document, nor any resulting websites, nor any other joint projects of the Alternative Religions Forum should be taken to mean that this working relationship is to mean anything more significant than a single-purpose collaboration by participating entities and/or the communities, subcultures, religions or belief systems they identify with or as, on the common goals and perceived issues mentioned in this disclaimer.

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**Addenda:**

ADDENDUM A: The Constitution of South Africa  
ADDENDUM B: The Promotion of Equality Act (Act No 4 of 2000)  
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ADDENDUM D: The South African Press Code  
ADDENDUM E: The South African National Editor’s Forum (SANEF)  
ADDENDUM F: Correspondence: SAPRA and SA Press Ombudsman.
INTRODUCTION

This a public document and information site giving concise and detailed explanations of

a) some of the different religions, subcultures and lifestyles which ignorant people confuse with Satanism (such as Paganism etc) and

b) a detailed explanation and clarification of what Satanism REALLY is as a religion. What is true, and what is false? What are the different types of Satanism?

c) dismantles the media-created phenomenon called “Satanic Ritual Abuse” or SRA propaganda which creates an unrealistic expectation of what Satanism is as a religion and uses it as a sensationalist tool to boost reader-interest and therefore, sales.

Why Are Non-Satanists & Others Working Together To Seemingly Defend Satanism?

The answer to this question is both simple and complex at the same time. The participants, or the groups or religions they represent in this Project are NOT working together in order to defend Satanism. It is their common need for the rights enshrined in the Constitution which they are defending. The relation to Satanist religion in this matter comes in where specific parties are comparing or confusing them and their beliefs WITH Satanism.

We as participants in the ARF Project are working together to defend the right of every individual under South African law to the freedoms of belief, association and expression, because we believe that these rights are under attack, endangered by the spread of malicious misinformation, the seemingly deliberate association of religious belief systems with purported criminality and the expectation that while no religion is illegal in South Africa, those who associate with particular forms of religion or subculture, will automatically result in criminality.

We believe that the paradox in such an assumption that a religious belief will unwaveringly result in criminal behavior is unacceptable within the operational parameters of ANY organ of state in South Africa, and the prosecution of such assumption and propagation of related material against alternative religions and identity groups or subcultures is incompatible with the SA Constitution, the Bill of Rights, Act no 4 of 2000, and the Press Code respectively.

The sustained violation of the rights of any one group despite the legal protections in place to protect the rights of all groups indicates that the rights as designated by these protections are not secure for ANY group, belief or any associated individuals.

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All religions and belief systems as defined in the Constitution and Bill of Rights of South Africa are supposed to have EQUAL protections under the law from persecution, incitement to hate, and from being falsely portrayed as harmful or dangerous from the viewpoint of other religions which may even be viewed as competitive in relation to each other.

We believe that the situation we have in South Africa is essentially a form of “captive market” where organs of State have, through the presence and influence of the personal religious beliefs of State officials, been brought under the influence of the proselytizing views of a fundamentalist minority group within a majority religion in this country, which holds narrow and intolerant views about other religious and sub cultural groups.

We believe this has resulted in an unfortunate situation where misunderstanding and religious discourse, both internally and externally by the release of woefully inaccurate statements and policies which affect the ways in which these organs interact with the public and these minority groups, is causing a great deal of discomfort, unhappiness and dissatisfaction on the part of alternative religious and sub cultural minorities, who believe they have legitimate reasons to fear being persecuted on these apparent misunderstandings and/or the religious intolerance of state bodies (such as the SAPS ORC). To us it is becoming increasingly worrying that these bodies are clearly being managed not by the Constitution nor restrained or defined by the Bill of Rights, but by the personal religious convictions and opinions of their members and/or supervising authorities.

All religions are protected by the law in South Africa, which is secular, and all people in South Africa who abide by the law are allowed to believe what they choose and to practice according to those beliefs within the law.

From our collective point of view, this is not being practiced, and there are numerous instances where since the changes brought about in 1994 and the inception of the new Constitution of 1996, the rights of alternative religious minorities have been repeatedly violated either by direct action, or omission of action, of bodies of the State within the context of this Project.

We assert that publicized perpetual and seemingly deliberate misidentification and conflation of crimes, criminal acts and religious propaganda with the religious beliefs or cultural identities of law abiding citizens BY other religious authorities AND ESPECIALLY BY figures representing the STATE, results in alienation, rejection and persecution in all its forms, or increased likelihood of these for those who identify with or who are perceived to be, adherents of these minority religious or sub cultural identity groups.

We believe that individuals who break the law by doing harm to others should be prosecuted and punished by secular law – SECULAR LAW to fit SECULAR CRIMES – regardless of their religious affiliations, and that those religious identities along with all those who identify with them and do not break the law, should not be victimized by inaccurate, biased or hostile reporting and in broad-spectrum assaults by uneducated State officials which
together encourage needless fear, incitement to hate, and hysteria around these religions.

NO religion should be regarded as UNTOUCHABLE in the media or in the context of the law, least of all while others clearly do not enjoy that status or anything close to it. In this country, newspapers print bold headlines of alleged “Satanist murders” etc every time some kind of crime is connected to an occult religion, real or imagined – but NEVER, for example, is a similar crime committed by a Christian or a Hindu etc described in the press or by the SAPS as a “Christian murder” or a “Hindu crime”. The impression is thus created and fostered that only certain crimes in which the perpetrators are affiliated or perceived to be affiliated to particular religions, are “harmful religious practices”, while others are somehow inexplicably, miraculously, exempted from this.

The issue of solving crimes and the interests of pursuing justice for victims will not be served by persecuting religions or religious beliefs, spreading false information about religions especially from the point of view of any other specific religion, undermining the constitutional rights of people to hold whatever faith or beliefs they choose, or by proselytizing Christianity and allowing those who do, to continue trampling on the rights of others with the apparent consent and tacit support of the State and underpinning entities such as the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, SA Human Rights Commission, Press Ombudsman etc.

Why is there a need for this information?

1) The problem:

a) Currently there is a perceived rise in cases of so-called “Satanic Panic” or “Satanic Ritual Abuse” being alleged and sensationalized as propaganda in the media and even by representatives and officials of the South African government in the form of the MEC for Education and representatives of the SAPS and its ORC unit.

b) Broad generalizations are made in the form of accusations of “Satanism” being applied to violent crimes NOT related to Satanism, and against other minority religions, sub-cultures, and in extreme cases, against anything which is not perceived to be Christian or part of or in line with the Christian religion and its dogma.

c) South Africa is a uniquely multi-cultural country, where traditional ethnic beliefs are commonly mistaken for “devil-worship”, “witchcraft” or “Satanism”, and where allegations and even mere suspicion can lead to the death of innocent elderly people living in rural areas. Allegations and suspicion are therefore sufficient in practice to result in the murder of someone by members of their own community and family, and a huge role in this tragedy is played by the dominant religions in this
country, in that unfortunately, many religions as part of the Abrahamic tradition have drawn upon their theology of spiritual evil and eschatology as a means of providing support for misunderstanding, stereotypes, and even violence and persecution.

d) Less deadly forms of persecution are found in pre-existing Colonial laws which are intended to suppress ethnic religion (referred to as “witchcraft” in the missionary sense) today still cause a legislative hangover for alternate religions such as Satanism and Paganism respectively, and which largely result in the view that these religions are somehow threatening and a danger to society at large – while South Africa’s new Constitution of 1996 enshrines religious freedom and lays the foundations for a secular state founded on mutual tolerance and equality. This appears to be actively undermined by Abrahamic religious zealots who constantly work to reassert their influence in South African law-making and social justice which has been lost since 1996.

e) The largest Abrahamic religion in South Africa is evangelical Christianity, and fundamentalist adherents of this group openly conduct hostile media misinformation campaigns against minority groups, and groups directly affected by rights in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, including but not limited to: the right of freedom of religion, the right to self identification, culture, freedom of association, LGBTI civil and human rights enshrined in the Constitution, and indulge in the portrayal of these groups through various forms of propaganda, as a danger to society and specifically (and most irrationally) to their own rights to practice their own religion.

f) A major problem for alternative religions today is the direct involvement of evangelical Christian protagonists spreading misinformation and influence over government and government departments – the SAPS is a prime and worrisome example as it acts and makes its own policies in direct contradiction to the SA Constitution and Bill of Rights while other organs of State look on without taking any form of action to address either the unconstitutionality of these or addressing the very real fears and concerns of non-Christian citizens.

2) Broad issues which this Project intends to address:

a) The broad acceptance of unqualified “experts” inciting hostility from partisan religious opposition to those groups targeted. The tendency of individuals in mainstream Abrahamic religions, specifically evangelical Christianity, to nominate themselves as “experts” and “authorities” on “the occult” and “Satanism” et al, with the sole purpose of identifying, persecuting or defaming any aspects of society or the behavior of individuals – even individuals outside their scope or groupings, without having any or all of the facts about those individuals, and/or the things they are accusing them of.

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b) The vast majority of these individuals have no experience with, nor have ever been involved in or trained by anyone within the groups they oppose, but attempt to qualify themselves solely by formal or informal entities within the context of their own religious views. This raises the question of the validity in a secular and legal sense of whether the material used to provide such partisan training within a closed group is accurate, impartial or even remotely based on experience, fact or if it is needlessly biased or tainted by misunderstanding, assumption or upon the dogmatic viewpoint of the hostile group using such training to cause harm to perceived opposing ideologies or religions and their members.

c) This most frequently results in self-proclaimed “witch-hunters” accusing people they don’t know of things they don’t understand or know anything about at all – and which just as frequently results in innocent people being sidelined, marginalized, defamed and persecuted by their communities, in the workplace, and often, even worse. This socially reckless, irresponsible and uncontrolled criminal practice which is technically protected by loopholes in freedom of expression laws specifically designed to protect Christian religion from answering on hate-crime charges, frequently does lead to displacement or death, especially in rural areas.

d) The tendency of these self-proclaimed and unqualified “experts” on “the occult” and “Satanism” to go on self-appointed “crusades” to “warn people” about “dangerous occult practices” in a way which violates the Constitutional rights of other religions and those who follow them – specifically where they are taken out of the context of an internal dogmatic circumstance (such as a private sermon or presentation) and disseminated using public mass-media, including providing these frauds with public platforms to indulge their craft in which other religions and their tenets, faiths, followers, and their practices are wholly misrepresented, slandered and defamed under the guise of truth and fact and under the banner of their own specific partisan religious views – and taken as factual by somnambulant audiences because of their supposed “qualifications” as “experts” in “the occult” and “Satanism” – and also because of the general public ignorance of these topics. What exacerbates this still further is when government bends its will to serve these frauds and charlatans in aiding them to spread their message of ignorant fear and hysteria, and betrays its mandate to protect ALL members of the public under the guidelines of the Constitution by giving prejudiced support for one specific religion over the rest who are being unfairly maligned.

As a refreshing alternative to Evangelical misrepresentation of the Western esoteric tradition, see Philip Johnson and Gus diZerega, “Beyond the Burning Times: A Pagan and Christian in Dialogue” (Lion, 2008), edited by John W. Morehead.
e) Because of the perpetual misidentification of religions, subcultures and lifestyles which are misunderstood by the general public (ignorance) at the hands of those who perpetuate these misunderstandings and who do so in line with their personal and institutional agendas to advance their own religion(s) by oppressing or persecuting other groups by using them as scapegoats and targets for hostile action.

f) Some groups are identified as being “Satanic” while nothing could be farther from the truth. In truth these allegations are false, but because the general public (and often those making the allegations) does not know anything about the label they are applying to a group, action or crime in order to discern for themselves. This is because they don’t know anything about:

- the group they are targeting,
- the differences between it and Satanism,
- and the differences between groups within Satanism itself – other than what they are taught about these BY their OWN religious grouping through its own obviously biased viewpoint – OR this institutionalized and general ignorance suits their own personal or institutional dislike for ideologies, subcultures, religions or other groupings which they feel are opposition or see as threatening to their own.

g) In most cases, crimes committed by individuals have absolutely nothing to do with the religion of the individual – if it were true, news headlines would read something like: “Christian goes on the rampage”, “Woman killed by raging Christian” etc. Since statistics seem to indicate that the majority of South Africans identify as Christian, then statistically speaking, most crimes should be committed by Christians. Instead, crimes committed by non-Satanists and in non-religious contexts are being linked by the media in sensationalist articles and headlines on an almost daily basis and increasingly so.

h) In the Western world it is most typically those within Christianity who actively persecute, oppress and wage political, socio-economic and “spiritual warfare” against perceived threats to their self-appointed and assumed dominance of society, or simply those they do not approve of. This is easily seen when one looks at who the opponents of progressive legislation around the world are. Although this is true, often Muslim protagonists also indulge in similar activities, also often against the same groups.

i) “Spiritual Warfare Ministries” and their staff are Christian evangelists who literally make war on targeted religious groups and subcultures which they themselves determine according to their own personal dislikes and prejudices, very often using ambiguous religious texts as a pretext to do so in their argument. In essence, their very existence and protection under constitutional laws protecting freedom of religion is paradoxical and stands in contradiction to the SA Constitution because
they permit adherents of one religion in various tiers of political influence and power in South African society to openly attack the religious beliefs, cultures, identities and dignity of others with apparent immunity.

j) Satanism as a religion is VERY widely misunderstood by the general public, who are broadly ignorant of the various differences between the factions within Satanism as a religion in as much as a Muslim might be ignorant of the differences between different denominations of Christianity. There are no less than 5 known distinctly different groupings within the global umbrella of Satanism, and each of them is vastly different from the next in terms of belief, tradition, ritual and practice.

k) Satanists as a whole are tarred and feathered as a “threat” and a “danger” by other mainstream religious entities in the same all-encompassing way that all Christians are portrayed as being opposed to the human rights of those they are taught and encouraged to hate. These are stereotypes, and like most stereotypes, these are both absolutely false. The problem is that there is not much opportunity for these stereotypes to be debunked, or the flaws in the arguments used against them to be exposed.

l) Often other religions or groups are portrayed as being “Satanic” or conflated with Satanism out of ignorance about both these – OR because those who do so, act out of the belief that though their victims may not identify as Satanists, their beliefs or practices or lifestyles indicate to them that they are somehow “trapped in a form of Satanism” and “are simply ‘lost’ or deluding themselves”. Thus the misidentification, and any potential actions against their victims, is “justified” in the context of their grouping.

m) The bulk of the action brought against groups which are portrayed as “dangerous threats” and mis-identified as “Satanism” is propaganda and misinformation. Propaganda and misinformation are well known tactics used in all forms of warfare, thus it can be argued that certain groups within Christianity are literally waging a war of attrition against those it chooses to suppress, persecute and ultimately destroy.

n) While there may be elements within any religion which may encourage or partake in violent cult-like behavior (for example human sacrifice, or persecution of perceived “child witches” or forced “exorcisms” as recently resulted in the death of a child in Humansdorp at the hands of a pastor and his congregation), it is simply not accurate or reasonable to place the blame for such acts on the entire religion and all those who identify with it as is being done with Satanism.
3) Projected Solutions:

Like any vicious circle, such as the process by which fire originates and continues, SRA hysteria can be described as a system of events based on a process which has to be broken in order to prevent this process from continuing. If we take the example of the fire triangle, a diagram used to describe what is necessary for a fire to burn – and how to extinguish a fire, this clarifies that this problem has to be dealt with in various direct ways.

In the fire triangle, the process of combustion is described. In order for a fire to burn, it must have

1) heat,
2) oxygen and
3) fuel.

[Diagram of the fire triangle]

A fairly generic example of a fire triangle

In order to extinguish the fire, one or more of these must be removed from the triangle (or circle), to break the cycle.

This principle can be applied to the situation of "SRA" hysteria:
In order for there to be a Satanic Ritual Abuse hysteria, there must be:

1) **IGNORANCE** of occult religions, absence or distortion of facts or educational material, or an institutionalized refusal to accept facts, clarifications or educational material by occult religions about occult religions.
2) **FEAR** that adherents of occult religions commit crimes incorrectly attributed to occult religions or followers as part of their religious observances.
3) **BLAME** – the scapegoating and placing of blame for perceived problems on occultists by hostile groups, biased & false reporting, fear and lack of knowledge (ignorance).

In order to break the cycle, one or more of these points need to be removed from the cycle. This is HOW to break the cycle of abuse, however, in order to remove any of these from the cycle of abuse, one needs to focus on each of them, and tackle each one proactively and head-on and devise **WAYS** to achieve this.

1) If you remove ignorance by means of education, then people will not believe or accept misinformation as “fact”.
2) People will be able to more correctly assess crimes or allegations.
3) Ideally, scapegoating will not take place, but blame for crimes will be laid at the feet of those who actually commit them.

Broadly speaking, this Project is one solution, and by laying the groundwork for future goals and actions to address inequities visited upon alternative
religious minority groups and subcultures, it is hoped that its dissemination will, over time, achieve all three points above.

This Project aims to draw together representative community leaders, representative bodies and individuals who are viewed within their respective communities as true experts or authorities in their fields on the true nature, identity and practices of their religion and/or subculture in order to:

a) Clarify what Satanism IS as a religion, and to clarify the differences between what Satanism IS and what the critics SAY “Satanism is…”

b) Clarify what other religions and subcultures ARE, and as opposed to what the critics SAY “They are…”

c) Clarify the differences between Satanism and other religions and subcultures.

d) This Project intends to achieve these aims without causing offense to any of the religions or subcultures addressed within the parameters of this Project.

e) The resulting material of this Project, namely this document (and successive updated versions) is to be made available globally in both printed form, digital form, and also as a publicly accessible website.

f) This group will continue to exist in order to facilitate ongoing dialog between various representatives of participating groups on matters which affect the well-being of all involved.

g) Interaction With Mainstream Religious Bodies:

- The engagement with mainstream Abrahamic religious bodies with alternative religions and sub-cultures is a vital part of the solution in return – rather than refusal to communicate, or to communicate with hostility as has been the present case. The route to follow is to increasingly encourage interaction between both groupings, particularly those who are less fundamentalist or extreme or fanatical or puritanical in their approach.

- It has not just been the alternative religions and subcultures who have noticed the negative effects of stereotyping and misinformation on their groups. In 2004 an international gathering of Evangelicals met in Thailand, and as part of this gathering a group considered Evangelical responses to new and minority religions. In their analysis they cautioned against inaccurate and stereotypical portrayals of religion, including the Western esoteric tradition, and raised concerns about satanic panics. Their research can be found in the free document available for download at:
4. Identification of a root cause of the problem we face?

The root cause of the intolerance, fear and mistrust of alternative religious or subculture groups lies with Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA) propaganda, otherwise referred to as “Satanic panic”.

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SATANIC RITUAL ABUSE (SRA) PROPAGANDA

SRA is essentially an excuse used to blame a person’s religion for the crimes he has committed instead of the person taking responsibility for his own actions.

The original basis for Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA) is hysteria. Historically, (or some would say hysterically) it originated in the USA in the 1980’s as a term to describe the fears of primarily evangelical Christians that people (particularly children) were being abused and harmed by religious occult practices, blamed on Satanists and Satanism as a religion, both viewed from an extremist Christian vantage point, resulting in a spreading panic which featured a growing cascade of propaganda and fear-mongering, accusations and persecution based upon fear and ignorance.

Fears of a conspiracy theory abounded, and still do, even despite efforts by numerous international entities to debunk and dispel such theories. Even the FBI disproved the original SRA and conspiracy theories in 1992, and despite this, SRA material (even debunked SRA material) continues to circulate around the world and does harm through its influence with those inclined to believe it and with whom it resonates and suits their current purposes.

Academically speaking, SRA propaganda is founded on, plays on, and panders to the fears of a religious majority, and promotes the narrow and conservative views of a religious majority about a religious or sub-cultural minority group, using information or convenient events or facts and cherry-picking these in a disassembly-and-reassembly method to create deliberate misinformation propaganda which then is used to slander, persecute and incite mistrust, fear and hatred of those minority groups, religions or alternative identities.

Minorities are portrayed as being “evil” or in a manner which fits the Judeo-Christian or Islamic image of “Satanism” as the literal anti-thesis of good Christians and/or Muslims, and not as stand-alone modern religious movements which have no traceable roots dating back to antiquity. Further, any attempts by occultists or members of the target groups to clarify, demystify or correct misinformation are ignored, over-ridden, dismissed and depicted as “attempts to hide the truth”, and to mislead those who believe the SRA lie.
SRA propaganda is founded upon fear and mistrust of the identity of “the other”. It is a religionIST invention, a depiction by a fearful minority within the broader majority of those not part of their own group, as being a threat to the overall group, its ideologies, and perceived position of influence or power within the general society in which it is located.

SRA propaganda is stereotyping and sweeping generalization. A large amount of SRA propaganda claims to be aimed at preventing crimes and warning people against dangers they may encounter, but in practice, SRA propaganda is misdirected or unfocused. It does NOT target only the criminal element it claims to focus on, but acts in a broad, sweeping sense, associating a whole range of unrelated religions, beliefs, practices and lifestyles with the perceived dangers or criminal acts.

SRA propaganda when it becomes involved in law, works to criminalize any diversity in thought, opinion, lifestyle, or belief system.

SRA propaganda by its very nature is the expression of the fears of a radical religious movement. It is a raised voice which promotes separation and prejudice and excludes tolerance, reason and the possibility of belief, trust and respect for other views and those who disagree.

Its foundation is the opinion that only members of its own identity group or religious camp are or can be trustworthy, good or moral people, and that by implication, nobody who is not part of that group can be good or moral, and that all outsiders, or those who represent opposing views, consequently represent “evil”, “evil-doers” and immorality or even amorality.

SRA propaganda is therefore a major force in the oppression of alternative belief systems, lifestyles and identity groups around the world, and a huge obstacle to equality, human rights and freedoms in our time.

What is SRA and what does it do?

**CLARIFICATION:** SRA propaganda and persecution is an attempt by adherents of one belief system to transfer the guilt, complicity, culpability and responsibility from a perceived adherent of another belief system, along with any blame for the acts of that individual, onto his or her belief system or cultural identity, and also to all other adherents of that belief system or identity as a stereotype.

It is therefore an effort to strip the individual (based upon the particular religion, belief system or identity he or she affiliates with, in the case of such not being the same as those making the comparison) of the capacity to understand the consequences of his/her own actions, to bear the responsibility for their actions, and of the ability to make choices. SRA propaganda and persecution is, in simplified terms, the demonization of those who do not follow the herd by those who cling to it as an identity.
“Satanic ritual abuse (SRA, sometimes known as ritual abuse, ritualistic abuse, organized abuse, sadistic ritual abuse and other variants) was a moral panic that originated in the United States in the 1980s, spreading throughout the country and eventually to many parts of the world, before subsiding in the late 1990s. Allegations of SRA involved reports of physical and sexual abuse of individuals in the context of occult or Satanic rituals. At its most extreme definition, SRA involved a worldwide conspiracy involving the wealthy and powerful of the world elite in which children were abducted or bred for sacrifices, pornography and prostitution.

Nearly every aspect of SRA was controversial, including its definition, the source of the allegations and proof thereof, testimonials of alleged victims, and court cases involving the allegations and criminal investigations. The panic affected lawyers’, therapists’, and social workers’ handling of allegations of child sexual abuse. Allegations initially brought together widely dissimilar groups, including religious fundamentalists, police investigators, child advocates, therapists and clients in psychotherapy. The movement gradually secularized, dropping or deprecating the "satanic" aspects of the allegations in favor of names that were less overtly religious such as "sadistic" or simply "ritual abuse" and becoming more associated with dissociative identity disorder and government conspiracy theories.

The panic was influenced to a large extent by testimony of children and adults that was obtained using therapeutic and interrogation techniques now considered discredited. Initial publicity generated was by the now-discredited autobiography Michelle Remembers (1980), and sustained and popularized throughout the decade by the McMartin preschool trial. Testimonials, symptom lists, rumors and techniques to investigate or uncover memories of SRA were disseminated through professional, popular and religious conferences, as well as through the attention of talk shows, sustaining and spreading the moral panic further throughout the United States and beyond. In some cases allegations resulted in criminal trials with varying results; after seven years in court, the McMartin trial resulted in no convictions for any of the accused, while other cases resulted in lengthy sentences. Scholarly interest in the topic slowly built, eventually resulting in the conclusion that the phenomenon was a moral panic.

Official investigations produced no evidence of widespread conspiracies or of the slaughter of thousands; only a small number of verified crimes have even remote similarities to tales of SRA. In the latter half of the 1990s interest in SRA declined and skepticism became the default position, with only a minority of believers giving any credence to the existence of SRA.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism
“Pseudo-satanism
Satanic ritual abuse is also used to describe the actions of “pseudo-
satanists” who sexually abuse children and use the trappings of satanic
rituals and claims of magical powers to coerce and terrify victims, but
do not actually believe in the rituals.[45][94][95] A survey of more than
12,000 SRA allegations, which found no substantiating evidence for an
intergenerational conspiracy, did document several examples of abuse
by pseudo-satanists.[96]

Criminal and delusional Satanism
A third variation of ritual abuse involves non-religious ritual abuse in
which the rituals were delusional or obsessive.[78] There are incidents
of extreme sadistic crimes that are committed by individuals, loosely
organized families and possibly in some organized cults, some of
which may be connected to Satanism, though this is more likely to be
related to sex trafficking; though SRA may happen in families,
extended families and regional groups, it is not believed to occur in
large, organized groups.[97]

Acting out
Investigators considered graffiti such as the pentagram to be evidence
of a Satanic cult. Ambiguous crimes in which actual or erroneously
believed symbols of Satanism appear have also been claimed as part
of the SRA phenomenon, though in most cases the crimes cannot be
linked to a specific belief system; minor crimes such as vandalism,
trespassing and graffiti were often found to be the actions of teenagers
who were acting out.[79][80][81]

“The evidence for SRA was primarily in the form of testimonies from
children who made allegations of SRA, and adults who claim to
remember abuse during childhood.[94][101] that may have been
forgotten and recovered during therapy.[14][86][102][103][104][105] With both children and adults, no
corroborating evidence has been found for anything except pseudosatanism in which the satanic and ritual aspects were
secondary to and used as a cover for sexual abuse.[102] Despite this
lack of objective evidence, and aided by the competing definitions of
what SRA actually was, proponents claimed SRA was a real
phenomenon throughout the peak and during the decline of the moral
panic.[103][106] Despite allegations appearing in the United States,
Holland, Sweden, New Zealand and Australia, no material evidence
has been found to corroborate allegations of organized cult-based
abuse that practices human sacrifice and cannibalism.” – From
Wikipedia:  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanic_ritual_abuse#Cult-
based_abuse
Very importantly, the following demonstrates EXACTLY how SRA develops into a runaway scare that can ruin lives and scar people innocent of any crime:

“Origins of the rumors

Information about SRA claims spread through conferences presented to religious groups, churches and professionals such as police forces and therapists as well as parents. These conferences and presentations served to organize agencies and foster communication between groups, maintaining and spreading disproven or exaggerated stories as fact.[146] Members of local police forces organized into loose networks focused on cult crimes, some of whom billed themselves as "experts" and were paid to speak at conferences throughout the United States. Religious revivalists also took advantage of the rumors and preached about the dangers of Satanism to youth and presented themselves at paid engagements as secular experts.[147] At the height of the panic, the highly emotional accusations and circumstances of SRA allegations made it difficult to investigate the claims, with the accused being assumed as guilty and skeptics becoming co-accused during trials, and trials moving forward based solely on the testimony of very young children without corroborating evidence.[148] No forensic or corroborating evidence has ever been found for religiously-based cannibalistic or murderous SRA, despite extensive investigations.[27][85][120][149] The concern and reaction expressed by various groups regarding the seriousness or threat of SRA has been considered out of proportion to the actual threat by satanically-motivated crimes, and the rare crime that exists that may be labeled "satanic" does not justify the existence of a conspiracy or network of religiously-motivated child abusers.[150][151]

And additionally, mental illness, post traumatic stress and drug abuse have been linked to allegations which have given rise to SRA in the past:

“SRA has been linked to dissociative identity disorder (DID, formerly referred to as multiple personality disorder or MPD).[21][160] with many DID patients also alleging cult abuse.[161][162] Many DID patients report memories that they allege are forms of ritual abuse though most are undocumented.[163] The first person to write a first-person narrative about SRA was Michelle Smith, co-author of Michelle; Smith was diagnosed with DID by her therapist and later husband Lawrence Pazder.[164]

A survey investigating 12,000 cases of alleged SRA found that most were diagnosed with DID as well as post-traumatic stress disorder.[111] The level of dissociation in a sample of women alleging SRA was found to be higher than a comparable sample of non-SRA peers, approaching the levels shown by patients diagnosed with
DID.[165] A sample of patients diagnosed with DID and reporting childhood SRA also present other symptoms including "dissociative states with satanic overtones, severe post-traumatic stress disorder, survivor guilt, bizarre self abuse, unusual fears, sexualization of sadistic impulses, indoctrinated beliefs, and substance abuse".  
– From Wikipedia:  

How Did SRA Originate?

Let's begin by examining a timeline of the SRA panic, from 1980 to 2010:

"Timeline of the Ritual Abuse Panic"

1980  Michelle Remembers, a supposedly true account of a young girl's torture at the hands of a secret coven of Satanists in Victoria, BC, is published. Michelle Smith "recovered" her memories while in therapy and under hypnosis by a therapist whom she later married.

1982  "Mary Ann Barbour (a woman with a history of mental problems) believed her two young step-granddaughters were being sexually abused... eventually the children accused their father, Alvin McCuan and the girls were placed in the Barbour's care. In 1982, the girls also accused McCuan's character witness Scott Kniffen, his wife Brenda, and their mother. Relentlessly grilling her two charges, Mary Ann Barbour reported that they had been used in prostitution and pornography, tortured, made to watch snuff films, and forced to allow animals to eat pet food out of their vaginas. The McCuans and the Kniffens, were each sentenced to over 240 years' imprisonment in 1984."

1983  Dr. Roland Summit publishes an article about Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome, which convinces many therapists and prosecutors that if a child denies that anything happened to him or her, they are hiding the truth.

August  
"An alcoholic woman (later diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic) named Judy Johnson calls the Los Angeles police and accuses Ray Buckey – a 25-year-old worker at the McMartin preschool in Manhattan Beach, California – of sodomizing her two-year-old pre-verbal son."

December  
Michael Jackson's Thriller music video features dancing zombies and graveyard scenes. Children in at least two investigations referred to this video.
1984
March
"208 counts of child abuse involving 40 children are laid against Ray Buckey, the owners of the McMartin school (Ray's mother, Peggy Buckey, and his grandmother, Virginia McMartin), and four teachers." The case draws national attention.

Spring
"Twenty-four citizens of the town of Jordan, near Minneapolis were rounded up and charged as co-conspirators in a Satanic sex ring that held intergenerational orgies, produced child pornography using their own children, and committed human sacrifice. Their children were placed in custody and rigorously prompted to "disclose" abuse. Charges against all but three of the accused were dropped by the end of the year."

July
In West Point, New York, "an investigation of the Army's day care program began after a girl returned home bleeding in her vaginal area. During the next year, allegations grew to include several children, animal sacrifices, pornography and rituals involving people wearing masks." Prosecutors concluded there was insufficient evidence to press charges but believed some abuse had occurred.

August
Preschool children in a Miami daycare accused Frank Fuster and his 17-year-old wife of abusing them. "Allegations included pornography, the drinking of urine, eating of feces," etc. Clinton attorney-General Janet Reno was involved in this case. Frank Fuster is still in prison.

A couple running a daycare in Niles, Michigan are charged with sexual abuse and animal torture.

September
Gerald Amirault is arrested in Boston for multiple child molestation at his mother's daycare.

October
Bernard Baran arrested in Pittsfield, MA, and charged with molesting children in the daycare where he works.

The McMartin daycare case makes national headlines. Police in Los Angeles County investigate abuse allegations in 63 other day care centers.

Fall
Two children in Richmond, Virginia accuse family members of killing a child and cannibalizing it during a satanic rite.
1985
January
Cheryl LeFave and Violet Amirault are charged with multiple child molestation in Boston

According to Nathan and Snedeker's Satan's Silence, "In early 1985, the state attorney general's office issued a report placing the blame for the (Jordan, Minnesota investigation) ... on the relentless, unending interviewing of children." Veterans of this case including Bob and Lois Bentz, formed an organization, Victims of Child Abuse Laws (VOCAL), that seeks to curb state intrusion into family life.

January
Bernard Baran is convicted of multiple child abuse.

Teachers at the Jubilation Day Care Center in Fort Bragg, California are accused of molesting young children and cutting them with long jeweled knives to suck their blood. Authorities decline to press charges because of lack of evidence.

Daycare operator Sandra Craig is accused of assaulting children with a screwdriver and a stick, animal torture and taking nude photographs. She is sentenced to ten years in prison.

February
A daycare centre in New Braintree, Mass has its license revoked while social workers investigate charges of child torture and nude photography. A magistrate rules that the accusations are baseless. No charges laid.

April
James Rodriguez and five others are charged with sexual abuse of two young brothers in California. Accusations include infanticide. Their lawyer advises them to plead guilty to avoid a long prison sentence. They go to prison.

June
Two day care workers in El Paso are arrested for abusing nine children. One is sentenced to life plus 311 years in prison. Her conviction was later overturned.

Gina Miller, a mother of three, pregnant with her fourth child, is accused of being a "sex ring" participant in Kern County, California. The prosecutors offered her immunity and custody of her children if she would testify against her co-defendants. "Adamantly proclaiming her innocence, Miller refused the deal and in the spring of 1985, she was tried, convicted and sentenced to 405 years in prison."
September
In Carson City, children tell investigators of the murders of adults, animal killings, drinking blood and other rituals in an unlicensed day care. The owner of the babysitting service and her nephew were charged.

1986
April
James Watt, 31, goes on trial charged with multiple counts of child abuse as a private daycare. 18 children testified to various acts of abuse. Defense lawyers said that children initially denied abuse but told “bizarre” stories after repeated interviews. Watt is sentenced to 165 years (sentence later reduced, but he is still in prison today.)

September
Daycare workers in Carson City are accused of abusing 14 children. “Children told of the murders of adults, animal killings, drinking blood and other rituals.”

“Five men, including Nathaniel Grady, a 47 year-old Methodist minister, were convicted of sexually abusing children in day care centers throughout the Bronx. There were no notes or videotapes recording the hours of interviews with the boy. 26 character witnesses testified at his trial, including a bishop, a judge, and the Yonkers police commissioner. Nonetheless, he was convicted on January 20, 1986, and sentenced to 45 years in prison.” (PBS Frontline: “Innocence Lost”)

November
The McMartin-Buckey defendants appear on 60 Minutes

Marilynn Malcom, of Vancouver, Washington, is convicted of mass abuse of children at the Rainbow Christian Daycare. As with many cases of this sort, the prosecutor didn’t tell the jury about some of the far out allegations, such as children being blown up, and presented the more straightforward abuse allegations.

1987
September
Journalist Debbie Nathan publishes "The Making of a Modern Witch Trial," in The Village Voice about a daycare case in El Paso, Texas. Nathan is the first prominent journalist to raise the national alarm about the injustices resulting from the daycare witch hunts.

"Seven families of children enrolled in the Country Walk babysitting service in Miami reached a $5 million out-of-court settlement." "In Maplewood, N.J. parents of children allegedly abused at Wee Care Day Care Center have filed 1.4 billion in lawsuits against the school and the defendant, Margaret Kelly Michaels."
November
Geraldo Rivera's special, "Satanic Cults and Children," airs on television

December
Frances Ballard, a 57-year-old grandmother, is convicted of molesting children at the day care where she worked. Investigators accused her of being part of a satanic cult. Ballard is so naive about sexual terminology that the lawyers have to explain to her what she is accused of doing.

1988
January
Journalists Tom Charlier and Shirley Downing write a series of articles for the Memphis Commercial-Appeal, documenting over 100 ritual abuse cases across the country.

April
Kelly Michaels, a preschool teacher, is convicted of 115 counts of sexual abuse and uttering terrorist threats.

October
Geraldo Rivera's special, "Devil Worship: Exploring Satan's Underground", airs on television

Paul Ingram of Washington is accused by his two daughters of satanic ritual abuse. Devoutly religious, he believes he must have been influenced by Satan and repressed the memories of what he'd done. He pleads guilty, then retracts his confession when he begins to doubt the truth of the accusations.

350,000 reports of child sexual abuse are made in 1988, compared to 6,000 in 1976 (source: Time Magazine)

1989
Debbie Nathan's article: "False Evidence: How Bad Science Fueled the Hysteria Over Child Abuse," appears in LA Weekly

James Toward takes a plea deal and goes to prison, in exchange for promises by prosecutors that they will not also charge his wife with sexually abusing young children.

1990
January
After three years of testimony and nine weeks of deliberation (the longest and most expensive criminal trial in US history, costing California taxpayers 15 million dollars) the jury in the McMartin case acquits Peggy Buckey and her son Ray. The prosecution decides to retry Ray Buckey.
District Attorney Alan Rubenstein, conducting an independent investigation of ritual abuse allegations against the staff of Breezy Point Day Care in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, concludes that "none of this ever happened," and drops all charges. "This wasn't a question of maybe it happened and we just can't prove," he said. "This was conjured up by the hysteria of the parents who bought into this. It never happened."

Ritual abuse convictions in California and Texas are overturned on appeal.

August
The second McMartin trial ends with a hung jury

1991
Bobby Fijnje, a 14-year-old boy falsely accused of sexually abusing Sunday School children in Florida, is acquitted of all charges. The primary moving force behind his prosecution was Janet Reno.

February
Tennessee state appeals court overturned the 1987 child sex-abuse conviction of Frances Ballard on the grounds of prosecutorial misconduct.

1992
March
60 Minutes segment on false abuse allegations against Bill and Kathy Swan

March
The False Memory Syndrome Foundation is formed to help families who have been torn about by therapy-induced incest accusations.

April
Police patrol the streets of Martensville, Saskatchewan, Canada, with assault rifles because of rumors that Satanists are coming to attack the town.

April
Bob Kelly convicted on 99 of 100 counts of child abuse in the North Carolina "Little Rascals" Daycare case. He is sentenced to 12 consecutive life sentences.

Frances and Daniel Keller, operators of Fran's Day Care Center, convicted of aggravated sexual assault of a 3-year-old girl. The Kellers were sentenced to 48 years in prison and are still in prison today.

Three children made allegations of abuse that included references to being buried alive with animals, painting pictures with bones dipped in blood, being shot and resurrected, digging up a body in a cemetery and
nailing it together, having giant germs implanted in their bodies, and making pornographic movies at gunpoint. (Watch YouTube video about this case)

1993
March
New Jersey Supreme Court overturns Kelly Michaels conviction, rules the way the children were questioned has tainted the evidence in the case.

May
48 Hours program about Kelly Michaels case

May-June
Lawrence Wright New Yorker article about Paul Ingram case.

July
PBS Frontline program by journalist Ofra Bikel about Little Rascals case in Edenton, North Carolina

August
Robert Halsey is convicted of molesting children on his bus route, sent to prison for life.

October
20/20 show on suggestibility of children in accepting and believing stories

November
Time magazine story on "Lies of the Mind"

November
Dale Akiki is acquitted in California of charges he molested children at a Sunday School

November
Nancy Smith and Joseph Allen are arrested and charged with molesting children who attend the Head Start school in Lorain, Ohio

1994
April
60 Minutes looks at false/recovered memories

May
A jury awards damages to Gary Ramona, who sued his daughter's therapists, accusing them of implanting false memories of sexual abuse in her when she went to them for counseling for her eating disorder.

June
San Diego grand jury reports on prosecutorial error in Dale Akiki case

June
Redbook article on ritual abuse cases

August
Nancy Smith and Joseph Allen are convicted of multiple child abuse and sentenced to lengthy prison terms

1995
PBS Frontline "Divided Memories" program, showing how families are torn apart over false memories invented in therapy

May
"Indictment," a movie about the McMartin case which is sympathetic to the defendants, airs on HBO.

Debbie Nathan and Michael Snedeker's book, Satan's Silence, is published.

December
Geraldo Rivera apologizes for promoting the satanic ritual abuse and recovered memory panics.

1996
Drs. Stephen Ceci and Maggie Bruck publish Jeopardy in the Courtroom, presenting their findings on the suggestibility of children as witnesses.

McCuan and Kniffen convictions are overturned. The Kniffen's two sons, now grown, tell a judge that when they were children they were coerced by a prosecutor to accuse their parents. The justice system that supposedly "saved" them from their parents then sent them to over a dozen foster homes.

Methodist minister Nathaniel Grady and four other men imprisoned in 1984 for abusing children in day care centers in the Bronx, are released from prison after successful appeals.

George Franklin, convicted on the basis of his daughter Eileen's recovered memories of witnessing him murder an eight year old girl, is released on appeal after serving six years in prison.

1997
January
Advocates for the victims of the ritual abuse witch hunts, including some of those released from prison, gather at Salem, Massachusetts, on the 300th anniversary of the day the Governor of Massachusetts apologized for the Salem Witch Trials.

May
Prosecutors drop charges against Robert Kelly and Dawn Wilson in the Little Rascals case.

A long-buried tape recording of a child's interview with social worker Velda Murillo, in which Murillo pressures the little girl to accuse her relatives of molesting her, is turned over to the defense team for Jeff Modahl, in Bakersfield, California. The tape establishes what the defense said all along -- that children had been coerced into making accusations.

November
Dr Bennett Braun, once considered a foremost authority on satanic ritual abuse, is sued by a former patient, who believed that she was a satanic high priestess and regularly ate human flesh. He also surrenders his medical license for a period of two years.

1998
James Rodriguez finishes his sentence for child abuse but is kept in custody as a dangerous sexual offender.

March
A federal court frees Grant Snowden (another Janet Reno case) after 12 years in prison. The court finds that the children's testimony is not trustworthy because of the leading and suggestive questioning they were subjected to.

December
Marilynn Malcom’s appeal from her 1986 conviction is denied. The Washington appeals court judges rule that too much time had elapsed since her conviction for her to introduce new legal arguments.

1999
James Toward is scheduled for release, but Florida authorities hold him indefinitely as a serious sexual offender. (He remains in prison to this day).
Californian Jeff Modahl is freed after spending 15 years in prison.

2000
September
In Ohio, a judge rules that Jenny Wilcox and Robert Aldridge cannot sue for wrongful imprisonment for the 11 years they spent behind bars on multiple assault charges before their conviction was overturned in 1996.

November
Harvard Law School sponsors a conference on the “The Day Care Child Sex Abuse Phenomenon.”

2001

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
March
Parents of a woman who had accused them of physical and sexual abuse sued her therapists. The jury awarded them over five million dollars.

2003
Canadian Richard Klassen wins civil lawsuit for malicious prosecution against therapist, police officer and prosecutor who accused him and others of ritually abusing three foster children.

2004
The two boys whose accusations sent James Rodriguez and five others to prison recant their testimony, saying they were forced to make false accusations by their aunt.

2005
October
Kyle Zirpolo, one of the children in the infamous McMartin Preschool case, comes forward (as an adult) and says that his testimony was a lie. Zirpolo told journalist Debbie Nathan in the Los Angeles Times that he was pressured to make false accusations of ritual abuse.

2006
May
Massachusetts Appeals court dismisses Robert Halsey's appeal from his conviction.

June
Bernard Baran released from prison after judge overturns his conviction. Prosecutor vows to re-try the case.

2009
June
Nancy Smith and Joseph Allen's convictions are overturned.

This timeline adapted timelines by Bob Chattelle's timeline at www.freebaran.org and Dr. Phillip Jenkins. Thanks also to the OCRT website, Debbie Nathan, Edward Humes, and Shirley Downing and Tom Charlier, who wrote a ground-breaking series in the Memphis Commercial Appeal.” – From Imaginary Crimes: http://members.shaw.ca/imaginarycrimes/timeline.htm

“The originators of the Satanic Panic

The Satanic Panic emerged from within Christianity and served a particularly Christian agenda. It started with the stories of so-called occult survivors who claimed to have been high-ranking satanic priests or priestesses or they claim to have been powerful and influential Witches (usually also meaning Satanist to them). Conveniently, these “occult survivors” always find Christ in the end and they have quite
fantastical testimonials to share. Quite a few of them confess to witnessing and even participating in horrendous crimes like human sacrifice, mutilation, torture and infanticide and yet no arrests were ever made or bodies uncovered. Most of these sources turned out to be frauds, attention seekers and in a few cases there may have been real mental health issues.

These accounts can never fool the serious Occultist, Witch, Pagan or Satanist as the accounts told by “survivors” frequently do not match up with actual beliefs or practices. These “survivors” quickly reveal that they know nothing about contemporary religions or occult practices. Quite a few of them are still taken seriously by a few fundamentalist Christians and unfortunately a few of these works were taken seriously in law enforcement seminars during the height of the Satanic Panic.

Unfortunately, our SAPS while under the influence of former occult unit members and their religious agenda’s may still take these and similar accounts seriously.” – From Satanic Panic Sources and Resources by Francisco Fumarola: [http://www.penton.co.za/satanic-panic-sources-and-resources/](http://www.penton.co.za/satanic-panic-sources-and-resources/)

### SRA Discredited By The FBI

**“The 1992 Report by the FBI**

The 1992 “Lanning Report” or the “Investigator’s Guide to Allegations of Ritual Child Abuse”. Special agent Kenneth Lanning of the Behavioral Sciences Unit compiled this document after he had been examining cases of Satanic Ritual Abuse since the early 1980’s. The report largely deals with child abuse and especially with Satanic Ritual Abuse. However, it also goes a long way in debunking the rampant satanic panic hysteria of the 1980’s. Lanning claims that at first he was willing to believe the various claims of ritual abuse and that he later became skeptical as he found that evidence was lacking.

Lanning explores various reasons for why “survivors” would potentially lie or misconstrue their experiences. The report downplays the “satanic” or “occult” connection to crimes or to ritual abuse. Lanning seems critical of the usage of “occult” and “satanic” labels applied to crimes. He raises the question of why we do not label other crimes based simply on the religious beliefs of its perpetrators. He also indicates that so-called “occult” or “satanic” connections may be arbitrary. One part of the document deals with advice for law enforcement – Lanning firstly advises that law enforcement officers should minimize the satanic/occult aspect. He warns against seeing Satanism everywhere and making connections where there is none. “Often the eye sees what the mind perceives,” (Lanning, 1992). Lanning advises that Police officers should also keep their own religious convictions separated from the investigation. He advises that
those who believe they are entering into battle with the forces of evil should rather not get involved in such investigations.

I can see how our own SAPS ignored such common sense in the past with the occult crimes unit under Kobus Jonker. The Lanning report is a complicated document and I can only touch upon it briefly. The document contributed to a growing skepticism concerning SRA and today few academics or researchers take Satanic Ritual Abuse too seriously. The phenomenon can either be seen as akin to a “moral panic” or as containing folkloric elements similar to the blood libel.

You can read the whole document at the Religious Tolerance website (conveniently divided into smaller segments).

http://www.religioustolerance.org/ra_rep03.htm

You can also read it at the Internet Sacred Texts Archive

http://www.sacred-texts.com/pag/lanning.htm – From Satanic Panic Sources and Resources by Francisco Fumarola:
http://www.penton.co.za/satanic-panic-sources-and-resources/

According to Professor Ronald Hutton, a researcher of witch hunts and witch trials of the early modern period,

“At the core of witch hunts is the human desire for explanations. Something bad happens and we want to know why... and we want to know who to blame. Couple that with the ancient belief in malefic magic and when crops fail, cows go dry, or children die, people go looking for witches. The practice is far from gone – there are hundreds of witch killings in Africa and Asia every year.

Professor Hutton pointed out that in the time of the great witch hunts, there were very few witch executions in the Celtic countries (Scotland was notorious for witch killings, but they were all in the English-influenced border regions, not in the Highlands). When bad things happened, the Scots, Irish and Welsh blamed it on the faeries, not on the neighbors they didn’t like.” – From Patheos.com:

To obtain a balanced point of view, it is necessary to also consult a Satanist viewpoint, since SRA and “Satanic panic” mislabeling most certainly affects them in ways most people never think about.
SRA hysteria from a Satanist point of view:

“Sources from within Satanism

The following letters by South African Satanists appeared in Beeld and in Volksblad during the time of the media storm surrounding the Van Eck murder. They defend their position and their right to exist. Why should a hated criminal fringe usually with a strong background in Christianity serve to stigmatize all Occultists or Satanists? We certainly don’t afford Christians that some honor. The hated fringe usually takes their ideas of Satanism and Occultism from the Christian view of it.

We don’t label crimes as Christian crimes. A mother may murder her child and believe that God wanted her to do it and yet we will be quick to realize that she did not act on behalf of all Christians or display behavior common to all Christians. Most serious Satanists and most Occultists remain law-abiding citizens. Yet, in our case any crime that could even remotely be linked to “Satanism” or “Occultism” can be used to stigmatize us all.

http://www.beeld.com/MyBeeld/Briewe/Ek-is-n-trotse-satanis-hier-is-die-waarheid-20110424 .

To learn more about Satanism, the best place to start is with the Satanic Bible (written by Anton LaVey in 1969). It soon becomes apparent that actual Satanism has nothing whatsoever to do with the Christian mythical version of it. The Satanic Bible condemns and speaks out against the very crimes that Christians attribute to Satanists.

Here is advice for the youth from the Church of Satan. Note the ideal of respecting children and animals as a pure form of life.

http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/Youthletter.html
http://www.churchofsatan.com/
http://www.modernchurchofsatan.com

Diane Vera’s Theistic Satanism main page http://theisticsatanism.com/”
– From Satanic Panic Sources and Resources by Francisco Fumarola: http://www.penton.co.za/satanic-panic-sources-and-resources/

“This website was created in 2006 to oppose a brief mini-resurgence, during the previous few years, of the "Satanic Ritual Abuse" (SRA) scare of the 1980's and early 1990's. Fortunately, the scare seems to have died down since then, at least in mainstream law-enforcement
circles here in the U.S.A. But, in many other countries around the world, full-scale Satanic panics are now happening along with other, more classic kinds of witch hunts. Even here in the U.S.A., the issue continues to be worth watching, because the religious and political trends which feed Satanic panic have continued to grow.” – Diane Vera: http://theisticsatanism.com/asp/

An Objective Interpretation Of SRA & SRA Propaganda:

SRA as a modern term which originated in the 1980’s during what can only be called a Christian fundamentalist moral panic centered around accusations of child abuse, kidnapping and animal and human sacrifice against Satanists. This rapidly expanded to encompass accusations of abuse which led to legal ramifications and had profound consequences in terms of changes in how minority religions were defamed and slandered in the press and media, and in terms of influence in how law enforcement agencies first became indoctrinated with SRA propaganda which affected the way they viewed and treated these.

It was a conspiracy theory run amok, since it proposed that Satanists were committing crimes in secret, and that were Satanists in control of everything necessary to cover up these crimes, such as in government, law enforcement etc. It launched a modern-day witch hunt which lasted a number of years, reaching all the way round the world, but becoming much more prominent in English-speaking and Christian influenced countries. Before too long, common sense finally emerged, when people realized that there was literally no evidence to justify continued belief in this conspiracy theory. In the meantime, this SRA panic had ruined lives, with some deaths and some unjustly accused and convicted on crimes that really never even happened.

Satanic Ritual Abuse is the name given to the purportedly abusive acts of Satanists in keeping with their alleged religious rituals, beliefs and practices. The term and its underlying ideology and worldview portrays Satanism as a dangerous counterculture which exists in an underground and secretive fashion, and exists in order to perpetrate abusive and horrendous acts upon non-Satanists. SRA worldview typically conflates and sees no distinctions between the various different forms of actual Satanism, and/or other independent religions such as Luciferianism, Paganism, Witchcraft, and even traditional African spiritual or religious beliefs. It also treats alternative subcultures such as Goth, Emo, Vampi(y)re, Punk and others in exactly the same way, regarding them as being “influenced by Satanism” or directly forming part of Satanism.

It is the blaming of a crime on the religion of the person who committed the crime, or on the music he was listening to, or the clothes she was wearing, and on other frivolous fallacy.

**CLARIFICATION:** In the view of many Christians, “Satanic Ritual Abuse” propaganda defines who they identify as Satanists, embodies what
Satanists believe, and what Satanists do, and in fact defines what they believe Satanism is.

**CLARIFICATION:** It is from the effects of SRA propaganda that today we have people coupling concepts like “harmful religious practices” with Satanism and other religions and subcultural identities which have nothing at all to do with kidnapping, murder, human sacrifice or any other practices more harmful in nature than those of their own.

SRA propaganda influence in law enforcement encourages police to examine crimes through a religious perspective, and when they should be focusing on the aspects of the actual crime that can be proved in a court of law, they are sidetracked with investigating the purported non-Christian religious affiliations of the perpetrator of the crime, most typically resulting in the religion being treated as being synonymous with criminal activity.

SRA is a catch-phrase these days, as it flares up periodically, particularly in areas where there are an abundance of religious fundamentalists, and those who perceive a need to place blame on others they don’t like very much.

In South Africa during Apartheid, Christian churches would place blame for the country’s ills on the black population group and on the ideology of communism, and the ANC and other resistance organizations.

In modern times, where singling out minority groups such as the gay community as scapegoats results in too much resistance in the form of legal challenges, the challenge of finding another, more ideal scapegoat – one that nobody would possibly defend, or one which would not dare to fight back – has led to the increasing trend of blaming bad luck on “witches” and “Satanists”, and in creating a false and threatening image of them.

SRA appears in written, video & audio media, news, propaganda, religious dogma and even in legislative material which claims to reflect “facts” about religious or subcultural minority groups, while being full of inconsistencies, erroneous assumptions, and blatant lies and misrepresentation. This, in our view, forms the biggest single obstacle to religious tolerance and equality in the field of human rights today.

**A Continuing Cycle Of Misinformation, Abuse & Self-fulfilling Prophecy**

SRA material originates in a religious grouping, in the West typically Christianity, and maintains that non-Christian religions or subcultures which seem to contradict various interpretations of Christian doctrine are “evil” and amount to Devil worship, witchcraft and Satanism.

Propaganda material is created, promoted and propagated by groups and individuals hostile to religious minorities for various personal reasons. This material panders to fears of maligned religious minorities or subcultures by
creating a false negative, harmful and threatening image of religious minorities, alternative religions and subcultures in general perception.

This is achieved by the spreading of books or media items which portray religious minorities as threatening entities, and most often in the light of being “Satanic” without any serious proof or evidence to substantiate this. No or little fact-checking is done, and frequently, when facts are used or interpreted in SRA literature, it is manipulated through the lens of ignorance and prejudice to become associated by any means necessary with the false aspect of SRA myth-building.

**CLARIFICATION:** Frequently, those who claim to be “occult experts” are little more than religious zealots and “witch hunters” who do not recognize that their version of “Satanism” bears no resemblance to actual forms of the religion, or that the numerous other religions they conflate with their mythical “Satanism” are totally unique and independent of each other. They are more like religious activists than “occult experts” of any kind.

In most cases these entities will go so far as to deliberately invent connections between unrelated religious beliefs or personalities, and even blatantly lie in order to associate beliefs, identities, rituals and practices with perceived equivalents within the framework of their own religious dogma which is used to describe these as being “evil”, “Satanic” or of the Christian “Devil” – thereby creating a completely inaccurate and hostile presentation which suits their personal views and agenda.

Typically these sources and promoters of SRA do not have any personal experience in occultism or Satanism or even Paganism, and many have no academic training or qualifications in any field deemed appropriate to be taken seriously as “experts” in religious or cultural studies whatsoever – but their claims are accepted in religious and even some secular circles virtually without question, and their “expertise” is frequently based upon their say-so alone, or because what they claim happens to fit with what is already generally believed about those same groups, mostly resulting from generations of previous SRA material in various forms.

This material and the resulting false images it creates of these groups is adopted as reflecting the factual truth about these groups, by journalists, law enforcement and various organs of state, and then reinforced further in the reporting, news media, religious circles, and popular culture, and ultimately in unjust investigations and persecution.

People associated with any of the targeted religions or social subcultures encounter increasing mistrust, prejudice and hostility towards their faiths or identity groups based upon the false images and associations created and perpetuated by media and accepted by the general public as factual. Often they will fear for their livelihoods, if not their lives, and in many cases, will opt to hide their religious beliefs or sub-cultural associations from general view. This in turn creates the opportunity for hostile factions to claim that these
groups “have something to hide”, again indicating why SRA is a “self-fulfilling prophecy”.

**NOTE:** SRA media reporting becomes a “self-fulfilling prophecy” because some people who believe that the mythical “Satanism” created by SRA promoters is “real Satanism” and identify with it, sometimes fall foul of the law and appear to give credence to the SRA claims about Satanism. These are referred to as “tabloid prophecy fulfillers” or “legend trippers”.

Additionally, sources working to gain credibility for their claims about “Satanism” in schools or in general society refer to the amount of news reports in the media about so-called “Satanism” as evidence that they are correct – while the credibility of these articles, the facts or methodology in the case of criminal investigations is never called into question – except by occult groups who are dismissed or ignored.

The actual truth of the matter is, the massive body of SRA media reporting is NOT evidence of occult criminal activity – it is evidence of SRA propaganda, misinformation and incitement to fear, hate and prejudice against innocent people based upon the religious prejudices of a mainstream majority religious viewpoint. It forms a damning body of evidence of human rights violations and violations of the South African Constitution.

**SRA As A Modern Witch Hunt**

Broadly speaking, Satanic Ritual Abuse, SRA or “Satanic Panic” is nothing less than a form of witch hunt fueled by hysteria and fear and agitated by the constant application of misinformation by mainstream religious and even government department authority figures coupled with sensationalist reporting by mass media.

In the vast majority of cases in which those committing crimes in which accusations and allegations of “Satanism” are made, these turn out to be false or mistaken or based on nothing more than hysteria. Relatively few such cases in South Africa have ever been proven to involve actual Satanism. In fact, most cases labeled by the SAPS and the media as “Satanic” can be attributed to so-called ‘muti’ crimes – and those have nothing at all to do with Satanism as a religion, and in fact the traditional African beliefs it IS connected to stand apart as a religious identity of its own.

In South Africa, and most particularly in rural areas, people are wrongfully accused of “Satanism” and “witchcraft” by their neighbors, friends and relatives - and these accusations often lead to the persecution and deaths of these individuals who have never been Satanists nor practiced Witchcraft – and who do NOT identify themselves as witches.

As a major point which often goes missing in most reports covering such crimes – EVEN IF these people were in fact witches or Satanists, they had not committed any crime provable in a court of law.
The South African Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA) has been campaigning against so-called witch-hunts for several years, even engaging with a government department and Minister for support, although the effect of this campaign in the rural areas is hard to gauge at this point. What is conveniently omitted from Media reports, is the fact that there are several refugee centers in Limpopo province which cater for those who flee their homes in fear of their lives after being persecuted on accusations of "witchcraft".

“The 30 days of advocacy against witch-hunts campaign was launched in March 2008 under the banner of Touchstone Advocacy, in response to ongoing accusations of witchcraft and brutal witch-hunts in South Africa. In March 2011 the South African ‘Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities’ publicly announced its support for this advocacy.

The Witch-hunt is a centuries old tool of prejudice against society, in particular women. It is arguably a form of genocide that is bound neither by ethnicity nor time and which continues to demand its victims across the world.

Witchcraft accusations, hangings, stoning, burnings, beatings, hackings, banishing and forced relocations are common types of brutality and violence women in particular, are still subjected to in rural communities of South Africa. All too often, with epidemic frequency, the disempowered (old women, children and men) are subjected to false accusations, brutal and abusive treatment at the hands of rural courts, superstitious and angry mobs who wish to purge their community of the perceived “evil” amongst them.

Violence against women is at “crisis levels” throughout South Africa.” – SAPRA: [http://www.paganrightsalliance.org/advocacy/](http://www.paganrightsalliance.org/advocacy/)

As SAPRA points out time and again, “Belief is NOT evidence! Accusation is NOT proof!”

Further, according to the South African Constitution, Witchcraft and Satanism are not illegal in and of themselves, nor is identifying oneself as such. It is the commission of crimes which is the problem and which should be perceived as the problem, without criminalizing a religion or depicting the religion as being inherently threatening.

Therefore when people are accused of being witches or Satanists, those making the accusations are accusing people of identifying with religious or sub-cultural identities which are not illegal or in breach of any laws – and are in fact making themselves guilty of violating or impinging on the dignity of their victims, and even placing the lives of their victims in danger.

To take this a step further, even should an individual or individuals commit a crime, this should not be used to mean that the crime they commit is directly linked to whatever religion they identify with. Nor should it be used as an
excuse to derogate a religion which is not involved at all, solely because the particulars of the crime bear a striking resemblance to the STEREOTYPE of what the general public perceive as “Satanism”. This is a common practice with religiously biased journalism, as well as unprofessional journalism – where individuals are too lazy (or too biased) to bother to research the topics they write about.

4. Ignorance Of Targeted Religions, Sub-cultures and Identity Groups

It is apparent that those making or perpetuating accusations of “Satanic harm” against individuals or groups have or display both ignorance or a lack of knowledge about the groups they mislabel as “occult” or “Satanic” AND/OR ignorance or a lack of knowledge about the true natures of occultism and Satanism – and further, often willfully reject attempts by occultists to correct their errors or assumptions, or further deny that they are in error, and even take this so far as to assert that attempted clarification is attempted deception.

A Few Definitions

Cult:

This word is often misused and misunderstood as a disparaging remark, or discriminatory label.

“noun
1. a particular system of religious worship, especially with reference to its rites and ceremonies.
2. an instance of great veneration of a person, ideal, or thing, especially as manifested by a body of admirers: the physical fitness cult.
3. the object of such devotion.
4. a group or sect bound together by veneration of the same thing, person, ideal, etc.
5. Sociology. a group having a sacred ideology and a set of rites centering around their sacred symbols.” – From Dictionary.com: http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/cult

“The word cult in current popular usage is a pejorative term for a new religious movement or other group whose beliefs or practices are considered abnormal or bizarre by the larger society.[1]

Usage of the word has been controversial. One reason being that the word "cult" (as used in the pejorative sense) is considered a subjective term, used as an ad hominem attack against groups with simply differing doctrines or practices, and without a clear or consistent definition.[2]
The word originally denoted a system of ritual practices. The word was first used in the early 17th century denoting homage paid to a divinity and borrowed via the French culte from Latin cultus "worship", from the adjective cultus "inhabited, cultivated, worshipped", derived from the verb colere "care, cultivate."[3]

In the 1930s cults became the object of sociological study in the context of the study of religious behavior.[4] They have been criticized by mainstream Christians for their unorthodox beliefs. In the 1970s the anticult movement arose, partly motivated by acts of violence and other crimes committed by members of some cults. Some of the claims of the anti-cult movement have been disputed by other scholars, leading to further controversies.

Discrimination against cult members has been an ongoing issue in some nations, as well as concerns about doomsday cults and destructive cults. Governments have undertaken various policies towards cults, ranging from tolerance to hostility, and this has also been a source of controversy.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cult

Occult/"The Occult"

This word is often misused and misunderstood even by those using it, implying that those being labeled as being part of occult groups, or “the occult” as these are often referred to, are all inherently Satanic, evil, or dangerous to others and present some form of threat.

“adjective
1. of or pertaining to magic, astrology, or any system claiming use or knowledge of secret or supernatural powers or agencies.
2. beyond the range of ordinary knowledge or understanding; mysterious.
3. secret; disclosed or communicated only to the initiated.
4. hidden from view.
5. a. not apparent on mere inspection but discoverable by experimentation.
   b. of a nature not understood, as physical qualities.
   c. dealing with such qualities; experimental: occult science.” From Dictionary.com: http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/occult?s=t

As can be seen by this and many similar definitions, this is not the case. In fact, the word can also be applied to any mainstream religions as well, as these are also systems “claiming use or knowledge of secret or supernatural powers or agencies” with varying ranges of
accuracy in terms of the other points mentioned in the dictionary definition.

“The occult (from the Latin word occultus “clandestine, hidden, secret”) is "knowledge of the hidden".[1] In common English usage, occult refers to "knowledge of the paranormal", as opposed to "knowledge of the measurable".[2][3] usually referred to as science. The term is sometimes taken to mean knowledge that "is meant only for certain people" or that "must be kept hidden", but for most practicing occultists it is simply the study of a deeper spiritual reality that extends beyond pure reason and the physical sciences.[4] The terms esoteric and arcane have very similar meanings, and the three terms are interchangeable.[5][6]

It also describes a number of magical organizations or orders, the teachings and practices taught by them, and to a large body of current and historical literature and spiritual philosophy related to this subject.”

“Occultism is the study of occult practices, including (but not limited to) magic, alchemy, extra-sensory perception, astrology, spiritualism, and divination. Interpretation of occultism and its concepts can be found in the belief structures of religions such as Gnosticism, Hermeticism, Theosophy, Wicca, Thelema, Satanism, and neopaganism.[7]”– From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occult

Please note the last sentence above, that states “Interpretation of occultism and its concepts can be found in the belief structures of religions…” This further clarifies that while these religions (including Satanism) have developed their own interpretations of occultism, each of them has their own unique interpretation or view of occultism or “the occult” – and therefore this indicates that to simply label all occult groups as “Satanists” is both grossly unfair and inaccurate.

Further, it is also known that various magical or occult traditions, orders, New Religious Movements or other groupings, while they may identify themselves as a spirituality, belief system or religion – DO NOT form an intrinsic part of another religion, nor do they identify as being such.

Assumption is simply made that because a group or groups are identified under the umbrella term of “occult”, they are a) all alike, and b) all to be taken as negative or in a sense of “evil”, threatening or dangerous.

Therefore, there will be some groupings which are identified as being part of “the occult” which will not belong to any mainstream Eastern or

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Western or Abrahamic religion, nor a part of Satanism, nor of any Pagan religion, but which will be wholly separate and independent. Thus, for proponents of mainstream religion to argue that occultism is “all” ‘devil worship’, ‘Satanism’, or akin to Paganism is entirely inaccurate and based either upon ignorance, ulterior motive, or malicious intent.

Different mainstream religions seem to have both differing and also similar views on groups identified specifically as occultic in order to differentiate between them and the mainstream religions in question.

Hindu views on Occultism:

“Occult concepts have existed in the Vedic stream too. The Atharva Veda, representing an independent tradition markedly different from the other three Vedas, is a rich source parallel to the Vedic traditions of the Rig, Sam, and Yajur Vedas, containing detailed descriptions of various kinds of magical rituals for different results ranging from punishing enemies, to acquisition of wealth, health, long life, or a good harvest.” – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occult](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occult)

Jewish views on Occultism:

“In Rabbinic Judaism, an entire body of literature collectively known as Kabbalah has been dedicated to the content eventually defined by some as occult science. The Kabbalah includes the tracts named Sefer Yetzirah, the Zohar, Pardes Rimmonim, and Eitz Chaim.” – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occult](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occult)

Islamic views on Occultism:

“Any discussion of Muslim magic poses a double set of problems. On the one hand, like its counterpart in predominantly Christian cultures, magic is forbidden by orthodox leaders and legal opinions. On the other hand, translating various Arabic terms as ‘magic’ causes another set of problems with no clear answers.

As with any question regarding the behavior of Muslims in relation to authorized practices, theological decisions begin by consulting the Qur’an.” “Though it presents a generally contemptuous attitude towards magic (Muhammad was accused by his detractors of being a magician),[95] the Qur’an distinguishes between apparent magic (miracles sanctioned by Allah) and real magic. The first is that used by Solomon, who being a prophet of Allah, is assumed to have used miraculous powers with Allah's blessing.[96] Muslims also believe that Allah made an army of Djinn obedient to him. The second form is the
magic that was taught by the "evil ones", or al-shayatin. Al-shayatin has two meanings; the first is similar to the Christian Satan. The second meaning, which is the one used here, refers to a *djin* of superior power.[97] The al-shayatin taught knowledge of evil and "pretended to force the laws of nature and the will of Allah . . ."[98] According to this belief, those who follow this path turn themselves from Allah and cannot reach heaven."

“However, not all Islamic groups accept this explanation of benevolent magic. The *Salafis* particularly view this as shirk, denying the unity of Allah. Consequently, the Salafis renounce appellations to intermediaries such as saints, angels, and djinn, and renounce magic, fortune-telling, and divination.[110] This particular brand of magic has also been condemned as forbidden by a *fatwa* issued by Al-Azhar University.[111]” – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_(paranormal)#In_Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_(paranormal)#In_Islam)

Further, in Islamic theocracies, such as the UAE, people accused of practicing “witchcraft”, divining and other magical arts are tried in religious courts and frequently executed.

Christian views on Occultism:

“Christian authorities have generally regarded occultism as heretical whenever they met this: from early Christian times, in the form of *gnosticism*, to late *Renaissance* times, in the form of various occult philosophies.[18] Though there is a Christian occult tradition that goes back at least to Renaissance times, when *Marsilio Ficino* developed a Christian *Hermeticism* and *Pico della Mirandola* developed a Christian form of *Kabbalism*, mainstream institutional Christianity has always resisted occult influences, which are:

- **Monistic** in contrast to Christian **dualistic** beliefs of a separation between **body** and **spirit**;
- Not **monotheistic**, frequently asserting a gradation of human souls between mortals and God; and
- Sometimes not even **theistic** in character.

Furthermore, there are heterodox branches of *esoteric Christianity* that practice **divination**, blessings, or appealing to angels for certain intervention, which they view as perfectly righteous, often supportable by gospel (for instance, claiming that the old commandment against divination was superseded by Christ's birth, and noting that the *Magi* used *astrology* to locate **Bethlehem**). *Rosicrucianism*, one of the most celebrated of Christianity's mystical offshoots, has lent aspects of its

Occultism and occult-related material is therefore being misrepresented by Christian ministers, SAPS ORC officials and policies, modern missionaries and other figures with influence or with audiences, as “Satanism” across the board and “threatening” out of hand.

Whether this is deliberate in terms of misinforming the public to achieve a desired effect, or if it is out of ignorance would definitely vary from individual to individual, most likely depending on motive.

Now that we have examined SRA and its effects, let us look at the groups and individuals who create, promote and act upon SRA propaganda – Christian Warfare Ministries and individual self proclaimed “occult experts”.

**The Warfare Ministry – A Christian Extremist Phenomenon**

**Introduction:**

**CLARIFICATION:** It is not the intention of this Project or its members to attack or undermine the worth or right to belief of Christian religion or its adherents, but to defend against efforts and attacks made against non-Christian religions and alternative lifestyles and cultures by elements within Christian groups. Therefore, while references in the following section on SRA propaganda to proselytizing, evangelism, and self proclaimed “occult experts” should be seen as pertaining to the EXTREMIST elements within Christianity, and not references to broad Christianity itself.

Within Christianity there are a multitude of churches and denominations. As in any religion or identity group, among them are different views on how their religion should relate to other religions and to their adherents, with views ranging from tolerance to apathy to the other extreme of outright fundamentalism and hostility toward outsiders.

To illustrate this point, we refer to examples where more liberal, moderate and more conservative and more extremist voices from the same religious identity give directly opposite views on the exact same issues.

In countries like Uganda, Nigeria and Rwanda for example there are rising hostile voices against minority groups based upon religious intolerance. In Uganda there has been an ongoing battle around the human rights of the LGBT community, with Christian churches and leaders pushing determinedly for the imprisonment and execution of gay and transgender people in the name of Christianity. The same tendency has been noted in other African countries, directly tied to a rise in Christian fundamentalist extremism. In Nigeria also, there is a warfare ministry established around the persecution of
so-called “child witches” where congregants are encouraged to “spot witches” and hunt them, with hundreds of children being killed on these ridiculous and simultaneously tragic trumped-up charges by relatives and neighbors. Even in South Africa, various intolerant political parties with an unmistakably Christian extremist and puritanical leaning have worked for years to undermine democracy and the rights to equality and freedoms enshrined in the new South African Constitution of 1996.

In both cases, there are tolerant and liberal voices from the same religion, Christianity, which decry such vile acts in the name of what is their religion also. These voices represent the “voice of reason” within the religion, but sometimes it becomes drowned out by the drama and hysteria encouraged by perceived leaders who prefer to garner more support by choosing hysteria over common sense, irrational fear and loathing over tolerance and good neighborliness.

Thus, while there are tolerant and liberal Christians and Christian groups, there are also extremist views within Christianity, and within the fundamentalist faction of Christianity, there are even more extreme extremists, those who advocate the death penalty for those they choose to identify as being “deviants, perverts” or “those “living sinful lifestyles”. Examples of these would include groups of people they uniformly target on the basis of any sexual orientation, gender identity or religion which deviates from the fundamentalist Christian view.

It is in the last-mentioned group where we find the phenomenon known as the Warfare Ministry, often also referred to by them as a “spiritual warfare ministry”, although as one can see by the very real and physical effects these groups and their activism have on others, aside from breaking down their dignity and the public image of the religions to which they adhere, there is very little which is *spiritual* about their warfare – it is planned, co-ordinated and often has very real and physical effects on those whom they target, often quite blatantly, as their *enemies*.

### ‘Warfare Ministries’ Waging Campaigns Of Misinformation

In South Africa, there are Christian evangelical groups which typically follow a fanatical, fundamentalist and extremist form of Christianity – and in this section we will look at a few of the most dangerous examples in terms of harm being incited by deliberate misinformation being provided in the form of training given to law enforcement, legal and law-making professionals with the approval of the State and even utilizing State funding.

These groups operate on the premise that anyone who is not a Christian, or more specifically, someone who is not a part of their particular extremist branch of Christianity and who doesn't share their views, is in some way involved in one of many claimed forms of “Satanism” or devil worship. Thus, a
Hindu may be viewed as being an unwitting Satanist or devil worshiper, as much as a professing Christian who embraces and tolerates a gay man in church is considered to be not as much a “genuine Christian” as they presumably consider themselves to be.

Warfare ministries actively work to convert or “deliver” people of other religions, and especially followers of those perceived as “occultic” – and also to hamper, impair, persecute and disadvantage these religious movements or group’s chances of receiving fair and just treatment at the hands of Christians, businesses and governmental authorities, by bringing individual representatives and authority figures into their influence, or by encouraging people to boycott, or protest, or bring some other form of pressure to bear.

“Religious bias, prejudice and propaganda against the Occult

In the SAPS memorandum under objection, newly appointed detectives of regional occult crime units are encouraged to consult with “trained individuals in their respective provinces… with the investigation of an alleged harmful occult-related crime”.

It must be noted that former occult unit detectives, many of whom now independently pursue careers in Christian ministry and in particular, ministry against the Occult, Witchcraft, Satanism, and "Spiritual-warfare" ministries targeted specifically at Witches and Satanists, will be consulted by detectives assigned to regional occult crime units.

This Alliance is of the opinion that consultations with such persons will introduce highly subjective religious bias and prejudicial reasoning into investigations which should remain rationally objective.

In closing, SAPRA would suggest that the intended specialized units be renamed to exclude the term "Occult", and that the scope of said units be limited to rationally objective investigations into 1) accusations of witchcraft and witch-hunts, and 2) human mutilations and muti murders where the terms "Witchcraft" and "Witch" are not implicated in such criminal activities.” – From the SAPRA formal objection to the SAPS reformation of the ORC unit.

As a disturbing example, there are several such “ministries” which make publicly available large tracts of SRA MISINFORMATION about targeted subcultures or religions which portray them as being “harmful lifestyles” or “harmful religious practices" or “harmful belief systems".

**CLARIFICATION:** Non-Christian religions are targeted as being “harmful" because they offer alternatives to Christian religion, and since Christianity proselytizes and operates on the notion that it is the ONLY “true" religion and that all non-believers will face “certain destruction” within the parameters of Christian doctrine.
NOTE: Several of these “warfare ministries” also have training agreements with government departments (i.e. the SA Police, the Department of Justice etc), to instruct them about “the dangers of Satanism and the occult” which results in government officials being trained in dealing with so-called “occult related crime” by people who present lies, misinformation and propaganda about other religions.

QUESTION: On what grounds should any reasonable person think these training agreements or arrangements between biased religious entities and the State would not result in biased and prejudiced authority figures in lawmaking, justice and law enforcement bodies of the State?

Considering this, it is no wonder that Pagans, occultists or Satanists – or those who are perceived as such by these people do not stand a very good chance of being treated the same as perceived Christians in South Africa when they are open about their beliefs, when they attempt to be taken seriously by courts of law or other organs of civil society, or whenever they attempt to take a legal stand against unfair discrimination and lies being spread about their beliefs or religions.

It is only logical to accept that authority figures trained by these “warfare ministries” and bluffed into accepting this willful deception, misinformation and misrepresentation as literal truth and fact in the name of their own religion, will perpetuate the skewed and prejudiced views of these “ministries” according to their design.

What Is A “Warfare Ministry”? 

Since there is no real secular dictionary definition for a Christian “warfare ministry”, and each group going by the name “warfare ministry” tends to define this for themselves within the same broad, set parameters of “deliverance” from various perceived social “evils” – and since their own definitions tend to muddy the waters by obscuring the deliberate misinformation and incitement to hate they indulge in by portraying themselves and their actions as “heroic” within the context of their faith, the Project decided to define the term.

The following is a definition of “Warfare Ministry” by the Alternate Religion Forum:

“A warfare ministry is an extremist, even fanatical and fundamentalist evangelical Christian organization heavily involved in so-called “deliverance work” which entails targeting members of other religions, or other religions and subcultures as a whole, for conversion to Christianity, or destruction.

Adherents of warfare ministries believe that they are locked in a battle against spiritual forces of darkness which are often represented by perceived “evils” in the world around them, which are influenced or
caused by Satan as an entity in the biblical sense. Many Warfare ministries promote the notion that any religion beyond the bounds of Christianity is in some way Satanic and ultimately leads to “harmful religious practices”. These ministries assert that the solution to these perceived “problems” (i.e. “salvation”) can only be achieved through acceptance of Jesus Christ in the proselytizing sense.

The overriding goal of these groups therefore is to convert people of other religions or beliefs into members or supporters of their own by removing them from their own group through coercion or persuasion – and the subversion and eventual destruction of the other religious group.

The difference between “ordinary” unfocused evangelism and a warfare ministry is therefore the direct and focused attack on the religious freedoms of particular groups which are targeted by them for conversion or destruction.

Warfare ministries actively engage with state, public and civil authority figures in order to win their support, and also generally present themselves as “experts” in Satanism and “the occult”, while presenting little actual knowledge of these. Material presented by them as “definitive” of the occult or Satanism is fraught with errors, omissions, conflations, misconceptions, and often – blatant lies.

These ministries ACTIVELY work against any groups which they perceive to be of an occult nature, association or involvement, producing and/or distributing libelous material or propaganda against them, which incites authorities and other ordinary people (including family members, associates or employers) to oppose, threaten and harass them, or to be unfairly biased or prejudiced against them, or even to persecute people for their beliefs.

Warfare ministries essentially push for a general awareness, if not in ordinary society, then into legislation, the notion that the ills of the world, and especially as motivation for crimes – real and imagined, can and should be blamed on “the Devil” or Satan seemingly at every available opportunity, and on the existence of alternative religions which they view as “Satanism” or “devil worship” either directly or indirectly, being allowed to practice freely. Their chief activities therefore are to obstruct and harass the existence and further growth of alternative religions under the guise of fighting “crime” and saving “victims of the occult” while adding to their own numbers in terms of converts.

Linking other religions to criminal acts by claiming that a religion is “a belief system which leads to crime” is nothing less a thin excuse to abdicate the responsibility of the individual, saying: “The Devil made me do it”.

SAPRA has provided two examples of such “warfare ministries”, detailed below:
Example 1: ASERAC

ASERAC is a warfare or deliverance ministry run by F.H. Havenga, who is one of several former members of the SAPS occult unit who have continued to act as “occult experts” and consultants after leaving the ORC.

He describes himself in an advertisement for one of his courses on “harmful religious practices” in 2006:

“FH Havinga has qualifications in the fields of Theology, Psychology and also in the Paramedical field. He is the first and only specialized reservist in South Africa for the Occult Related Crime Unit of the SAPS and also acts as a Therapist for Occult Related Crimes. He has been a speaker at numerous functions ranging from speaking at schools to training of professionals, appeared on numerous TV programs and radio stations. Because of his specialized knowledge in the field of the Occult and Dangerous Cults he has been asked to write a number of articles for national and international magazines and newspapers. Havinga has been helping people wanting to break away from Satanism, Occult Practices and Dangerous Cults for the past sixteen years he is also the Vice-chair of Alpha Critical Incident Management Centre in Kempton Park. Which is a community centre helping people in the community that has been exposed to extreme forms of trauma ranging from Child & Sexual Abuse, Hijackings to Ritualistic Abuse. Havinga is currently acting as a Practicing Pastoral Therapist in his own practice in Kempton Park. He believes that each person should fulfill his God given purpose on earth and change his generation in his lifetime.” – From http://www.trumpetcall.co.za/newsletter_archive.php?mail=144

CLARIFICATION: It is important to note and to understand that “qualifications in Theology (or CHRISTIAN theology), Psychology or Paramedical” fields DO NOT qualify someone as an “expert” in OCCULT religions.

CONCERN: Despite this obvious oversight, these individuals continue to be regarded as “experts” in occult religions – in PREFERENCE to authorities on occult religion from WITHIN these religions themselves!

A Dissection & Analysis Of ASERAC - material provided by the SA Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA):

“This comes from the ASERAC facebook group:

“Our name is an acronym for the core of our mission and call. Thus ASERAC ™ is core for CARING for victims of Severe Abuse:

C - COUNSELING & CONSULTING

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
A - AWARENESS & ADVOCATING

R - RESTORING & RESEARCHING

E - EMPOWERING & ENROLLING

S - SURVIVORS of

A - ABUSE

Our aim is to render a consulting, educating and counseling service to the survivors, significant others and organizations in order to raise awareness in our communities of the reality of extreme forms of abuse in our midst. Our advocacy role will be aimed at restoring the victims of severe abuse, empowering them and enrolling them into the community in order for them to be able to reinvest their experience and skills to help others.

OUR STRATEGY:

We firmly believe in maintaining a balanced and true holistic view and approach in helping victims of extreme abuse. It is our conviction that man must be viewed and helped on a social, psycho-emotional, physical and spiritual level in order for him to truly experience a free and fulfilling life. Thus our strategy is aimed at helping victims of extreme abuse on all these levels via a well established multidisciplinary network of help providers and following an integrative Biblically systemic approach.

TYPES OF TRAUMA & ABUSE VICTIMS WE HELP:

- Religious motivate trauma & abuse:
  E.g. Traumatic Christian practices, Satanic practices, Witchcraft practices, Dangerous Cults, Occult practices, African Traditional practices, Ritual abuse...

- Psycho-emotional trauma & abuse
  E.g. Emotional abuse, mind control practices, ideological indoctrination, general psychological and emotional problems...

- Socio-cultural trauma & abuse
  E.g. Relationship abuse, cultural abuse, social/cultural isolation, cross-cultural adaptations...

- Physical trauma & abuse
  E.g. High-jacking, robberies, hostage traumas, physical abuse, sexual abuse, drug/substance abuse...  – From ASERAC
This article, originally written in 1972 by Kraig J. Rice, makes the assertion that “witchcraft is seen to be a cult or resurgence of paganism”. In the context of the article, witchcraft refers to the Pagan religion of Witchcraft as practiced by adherents both in South Africa and numerous other countries such as the USA and UK.

‘Witchcraft Exposed’ makes numerous libelous claims against adherents of Paganism and the Pagan religion of Witchcraft; most notably:

“Sacrifices of blood are said to have been demanded of the witch as the price of admission to the coven. With the blood of the sacrifice, or sometimes with the witch’s own blood, a contract might be written to bind the witch faithfully to the society [coven].”

Although presented as historical ‘facts’ on witchcraft, the above statement is wholly false and the practice of blood sacrifice or blood contracts is not found in Modern Witchcraft or Pagan practices.

“Students of witchcraft point out that when Satan emerges from Hell to consort with witches on earth he often assumes the form of a black cat.”

Modern adherents of Witchcraft do not believe in nor worship the Christian deity known as ‘Satan’; therefore this statement is not only false, but seeks to attribute malevolent intentions to adherents of Witchcraft.

“Many covens may have a large get-together known as the witches’ Sabbath. This may be any day of the week, but it is usually Friday. This is a time when communal sex orgies take place. It is officiated over by one known as the Grand-master. This is also the time for the witches to adore the devil while on their knees, address their prayers to him, give thanks to him as the giver of food and necessities of life, and dedicate their children to him.”

Witchcraft adherents, while they do form covens for the purpose of congregational worship, gather eight times per a year for religious
worship at Sabbats and on each full moon for Esbats. Such congreational celebrations are marked with ritual liturgy, offerings to specific deities and symbol ritual acts; none of which include “sex orgies”. Such religious celebrations are officiated by either (or both) a High Priest or High Priestess, not a “Grand-master”. Witches, adherents of Witchcraft, do not worship the Christian deity of ‘Satan’ or participate in “sex orgies” as part of their religious practices.

“Usually the Black Mass is held every time the witches hold their Sabbath, which is usually every Friday evening.”

“It must be remembered that the Black Mass is performed every witches’ Sabbath.”

The notion of “Black Mass” is not in any way believed in, or practiced, by Witches.

“Basically, witches are people mentally afflicted with the obsession that they have the power to harm others by thinking them harm.”

This statement not only discriminates against Witchcraft adherents, but those who suffer from mental health issues too. For the former, it wrongfully labels all Witchcraft adherents as ‘ill’ for their religious beliefs; and for the latter, it assumes that sufferers of mental health problems are superstitious individuals seeking to harm others. And this is all with the false notion that adherents of Witchcraft seek solely to inflict harm on another, a libelous statement considering that one of the moral tenements of Witchcraft is “An it harm none, Do what thy will”.

“Man always fears those things he does not understand. This is the philosophy of the spell-casting witch. She uses a person’s own fears against him.”

While elements of magic do form a part of Witchcraft practices, they are performed in accordance with strict ethical guidelines against harming another- they in no way work with a person’s fear. This article also exclusively singles out women as ‘witches’, thus wrongfully demonizing the female gender. It should be noted that within the Witchcraft religion, both sexes are referred to as Witches.

“Witches and warlocks are demon-filled people sold out to doing Satan’s will. They do his bidding and many time they clash against devout Christians doing God’s will. When this happens they can send demons to torment Christians and thwart their work.”

Once again, Witchcraft adherents do not worship or believe in the Christian deity named ‘Satan’, nor do they believe in the existence of ‘demons’; thus the statement that witches are “demon-filled” and “doing Satan’s will” is false and promotes prejudice against innocent Witches.
“In 1981 the Witches International Coven Council (Wicca) listed several goals at their convention in Mexico. This list was intercepted and confiscated by law-enforcement officials. Among their objectives are:

1. To bring about personal debts, causing discord and disharmony within families.
2. To remove or educate the “new age youth” by:
   a) infiltrating boys’ and girls’ clubs and big sister and big brother programs
   b) infiltrating schools, having prayers removed, having teachers teach about drugs, sex, freedoms
   c) instigating and promoting rebellion against parents and authority
3. To have laws changed to benefit our ways, such as
   a) removing children from the home environment and placing them in our foster homes
   b) mandatory placement of children in our day-care centers
   c) open the drug and pornography market to everyone”

This supposed event is fictional and was never an actual event, therefore no such list exists. This fictional list is based on fears regarding Witchcraft practices and beliefs and its inclusion seeks only to promote prejudice and discriminate against Witchcraft adherents.

In summary, the article ‘Witchcraft Exposed’ contains no factual information on actual Witchcraft practices or beliefs, instead offering the reader libelous material on Witchcraft for the sole purpose of instilling prejudice against Witchcraft and Witches in the reader.

‘SABBATS/FESTIVALS of PAGANISM, WITCHCRAFT & SATANISM’

This supposed calendar of religious holidays makes no distinction between Satanism and Paganism. Not only are these two religions very different from each other, neither of them promotes harming another or engaging in violent or criminal activity. For that reason, this article’s claims of human sacrifice, kidnapping and rape are without basis and discriminate against Pagans and Satanists alike.

‘A few Satanic, Witchcraft, and Occult Symbols’

‘Witchcraft/Paganism/WICCA’
“This section of the site provides an opportunity for survivors of Witchcraft practices to share their victories and testimonies with others. May it bring hope and insight to all who read it.”


EVENTS/COURSES PROMOTING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PAGANS, SATANISTS AND OCCULTISTS

From the website of Christian counseling organization ASERAC, www.aserac.co.za

‘Judicial services training in Occult/Harmful Religious Practices’

‘Law enforcement training in Occult/Harmful Religious Practices’

‘Emergency Services training in Occult-Harmful Religious Practices’

‘Dept. of education training in Occult/Harmful Religious Practices’

‘Social services training in Occult/Harmful Religious Practices’

‘Primary health care training in Occult/Harmful Religious Practices’

‘NGO’s training in Occult/Harmful Religious Practices’

Introduction to the Occult and Dangerous Cults

Level 1 - Helping Victims of Occult related Trauma or Abuse

Level 2 - Helping Victims of Occult related Trauma or Abuse

Level 3 - Helping Victims of Occult related Trauma or Abuse

Occult Related Intercession

Overview Occult Related counseling

Managing a safe house for victims of Occult trauma/abuse

Teaching Basic Bible principle to survivors of Occult / Cult trauma

Life skill coach training for survivors of Occult / Cult Abuse
Occult Involvement Prevention Talk

‘Occult practices prevention’

‘Occult/Cult Trauma Debriefing’

‘Occult/Cult Trauma Defusing/ Scene Stabilization’

“Alleged Warning Signs of Satanic Involvement

Also listed on FH Havenga’s Aserac website, and widely quoted in the media is the list of supposed ‘warning signs’ of occult or Satanic involvement.

This list is irresponsible in its inclusion of what could be interpreted as (or actually are) medical conditions, indicators of psychological disorders or typical teenage behavior.

First on the list is: “An obsession with seemingly innocent ‘games’, e.g. Ouija board, glassy-glassy, crystal gazing etc.” Obsession can be defined as having an unhealthy preoccupation with something, and is applied in instances where the focus of an obsession impairs the functioning of day-to-day life.

It should also be stated that divination forms do not form a mandated part of religious Satanic practices. If an individual had reached a point where they could not make normal daily decisions without the use of divination, they would need a psychiatrist and not a minister- it would not be a ‘sign’ of involvement with supposed devious ‘Satanic practices’.

Next on the list is: “Intense interest in studying or dabbling in mysticism, ESP and spirit channeling.”

Much as before, an interest in studying or casually learning about occult practices that are not a mandated part of Satanic religious practices or beliefs does not constitute involvement in alleged sinister
‘Satanism’; which is only casually practiced by rebellious teenagers experimenting with the very myths alleged ‘occult experts’ perpetuate.

Furthermore, ‘mysticism’ can cover any world religion, including Christianity and one could go so far to say that Charismatic Christian churches where participants ‘speak in tongues’ and are taken over by the Holy Spirit, are a form of spirit channeling. ESP is considered a paranormal psychic phenomenon, and the study of ESP is not mandated in any Satanic religious practices or beliefs.

“Intense interest in heavy metal music,” is listed as the third ‘symptom’ of Satanic involvement.

This is base satanic panic fodder and one’s personal musical preferences are no indication of religious beliefs. It also begs the question of what happens in the instance of Christian metal?

Fourth on the list is: “Possession of specific Satanic-related items, which may include knives, small pots, cauldrons, special salts or herbs, animal parts, bones, black candles, amulets, talismans and charms.”

The problem with this statement is that the objects listed are not specific to Satanism. In normal Satanic religious rituals a dagger, sword or knife is used to trace sigils in the air or ground for invocations. However, a ritual knife- commonly called an athame- is also used in many Pagan traditions for similar purposes. Again, while the ‘small pots’ listed in the article is vague, the use of small fire-proof containers is evident in Satanic religious practices and Pagan religious practices alike. There is no evidence to suggest that cauldrons form a mandated part of Satanic religious practices either, however they are a ritual tool in many Pagan traditions.

Equally vague in this alleged ‘symptom’ are the special salts or herbs, animal parts, and bones. In my personal opinion I believe this is an instance where Traditional African Medicine (Muti) has been confused with Satanic practices.”

NOTE: A big problem with general broad and unfocused allegations such as these is the detail that ordinary house-hold items any number of which can be found in ANY average household, are being connected unrealistically to “Satanism” or “occult practice”. In the USA some hopefuls have even tried to connect a box of “Count Chocula” breakfast cereal to an alleged occult crime!

“In both normal Satanic and Pagan religious practices candles do form a part of ritual, however black candles are not used exclusively. Furthermore, to quote Theistic Satanist James L. Nicholson III:

“The color black, is typically associated with strength, protection and the dark energy of the Black Flame, but not evil. Using black
candles is one way to bring more power into your workings, but it is not the only powerful color you can use.”

It should also be noted that amulets, talismans and charms can be found in numerous world religions, including Christianity; one only has to look at Catholicism to see this. There is also no description of what these trinkets should look like if they are to be ‘Satanic’, leaving virtually any small trinket open to being labeled a ‘Satanic’ charm, amulet or talisman.” – From Bronwyn Katzke via the SAPRA.

Havenga also presented (it is uncertain if he still does) courses on the “dangers of Satanism” and an advertisement for such a course in 2006 is still visible here: [http://www.trumpetcall.co.za/newsletter_archive.php?mail=144](http://www.trumpetcall.co.za/newsletter_archive.php?mail=144)

**NOTE:** The course facilitator is listed as “Dewald Grobler of SAPS co-working with FH Havenga”. Thus the SAPS is still being connected to external warfare ministry activities which harm the equality and image of alternative religions in South African society.

**Example 2: AUKSANO** (from material provided by the SA Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA).

“Auksano (Johan de Beer, former Captain in the SAPS, was the Coordinator of the Occult related crime units (SAPS) in the Free State.

He founded Auksano in 1997 in order to assist the victims of “destructive subcultures.” “To provide long-term Christian therapy and support to victims of *DESTRUCTIVE SUBCULTURES* as well as their families and to act preventatively via the transfer of knowledge to the local as well as public community.*(Such as Goths, Emo’s, Self mutilators, Witchcraft, Substance abuse, Satanism and Cults.)* From the Auksano Facebook group: [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=559500414071679&id=162437287139595](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=559500414071679&id=162437287139595)

AUKSANO even has expressions of fashion and lifestyle such as Goth and Emo listed as “destructive subcultures”. This should give a sobering idea of how wide these people will cast their nets to try to spot “Satanists” – and how far-fetched their claims will be about what constitutes “harmful religious practices”.

In the AUKSANO newsletter, a variant of David Bilsiger’s fraudulent “Occult Calendar” appears, which is filled with assumptions, lies and misrepresentations about Pagan religions, Witchcraft and Satanism, claims are made of kidnapping, human sacrifice and sex orgies in the name of Satan.

View the AUKSANO newsletter:

**TIP:** The calendar, which also appears on many other websites of warfare ministries, is discussed at length in the section on Paganism.
According to informed sources, AUksano visits schools to lecture learners about the “dangers” of “Satanism” and “the occult” and to provide them with free SRA propaganda.

**Example 3: Overcomers Through Christ (OTC)** (from material provided by the SA Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA).

In the past year, this warfare ministry made headline news because of its involvement with a couple of murders and spurious SRA claims which also led to some very concerning if not slightly entertaining SRA reporting in the media.

A spate of murders of its alleged members around the country last year (2012) in apparently unrelated incidents which even the press around the issue reported as showing plausible motive for ‘mundane’ crimes such as missing mobile phones etc, quickly turned into propaganda for the group leader to claim that “Satanists Are Hunting Us!”

No mention of any subsequent findings regarding claims that a ridiculous-sounding amount of home-made bombs had REALLY been found in the group’s parking lot after all, or that the murders were in any way finally connected to “Satanists” stalking the OTC, has been made since.

“Ria [OTC leader, Ria Grunewald] then goes on to claim that OTC is not a deliverance ministry: “I don’t convert Satan worshipers to Christianity and I do not do deliverance either.” And while she refers specifically to herself in the quote, in a News24 article, Cops probe occult-linked killings (20 October 2012), she refers to “my (Ria’s) teachings” in relation to the OTC. So Ria is either just very forgetful or flat-out lying.

**If OTC is not a deliverance ministry, then why would they offer deliverance courses?**

“Anyone who is a Born-Again, Spirit-filled Believer (a Disciple of Jesus) – can minister to someone, lead them to Christ, heal them or set them free from the bondage of evil spirits. In fact, Jesus commissioned us to do this! (Matt 28:18 Mark 16:17-18)

**Our Deliverance Course** is a practical, comprehensive teaching that will equip you to minister deliverance to those who are bound by the enemy.

We learn how to deal with evil spirits in an uncompromising, Biblical way and yet, at the same time, we are gentle and caring with those who are captive to the enemy’s devices.”

Overcomers through Christ is a deliverance ministry and what’s more, not only does Ria deny this fact, she also denies that one of OTC’s purposes was to convert alleged ‘Satanists’ to Christianity. In an IOL
This material indicates a clear prejudice. It says that people who identify as witches are “demon possessed” and “serve Satan” and that anyone who is part of an occult group is for all intents and purposes part of “Satanism”. While it may well be an internal belief within a sect of Christianity which believes that anyone “not a Christian” is a “Satanist” even if they don’t admit to it – this is NOT a belief which is provable within a secular court of law – and to identify as a witch, a Pagan, a Vampyre or even a Satanist is not illegal in South Africa – and yet material such as this, laden with false statements, propaganda and libel are being used to “train” legal personnel and law enforcement on how to view people who identify as Pagans and Witches!

**CLARIFICATION:** It should be OBVIOUS that any government department which agrees to engage any such “ministry” for the training of its staff, is showing support to bigots and frauds – and further, using tax payer’s money towards the religious indoctrination of public servants and of members of the general public exposed to it.

The key phrase here is not “helping people to overcome” things… it is this: “Occult/Harmful Religious Practices” – the cornerstone of SRA.

**Example 4: The Occult Related Crimes Unit - The SA Police Service’s Very Own Warfare Ministry**

"And as for police harassment of Pagans, it does happen in the present. Try being a Pagan in a conservative Christian town and hold a group ritual in your backyard – the neighbors call the cops, and then for the next 30 minutes you have to try convince them that no, you're not about to start sacrificing cats." – Bronwyn Katzke

According to the facts known to the public, the SAPS occult unit was founded in 1982 with Kobus Jonker as its first commander. It was supposed to have disbanded in 2001 when its methods and material resulted in objections that the ORC violated the Bill of Rights and the Constitution from religious minorities whose beliefs were (and still are) targeted by their operations, but instead of disbanding, the unit was simply kept from the eyes of the public, operating underground until it was exposed by a leaked SAPS memo in 2012.

**NOTE:** It is the view of this Project that the SAPS ORC unit is NOT a legitimate police unit operating in the best interests of all law abiding citizens in South Africa. We assert that the unit and its members, its mandate and even its existence violate the Constitutional rights of non-Christian South Africans.
The SAPS ORC unit is essentially a Police-based evangelical Christian warfare ministry operating with the power to employ secular state resources and power to disrupt and destroy the lives and reputations of people based upon accusations or suspicion alone – and the perpetuation of SRA propaganda as indisputable fact.

While other civilian warfare ministries have no power to intimidate, harass or physically threaten people on the basis of their religious beliefs or affiliations, the SAPS ORC has this power – and by co-operating with these warfare ministries and by involving personalities directly complicit in the manufacture of SRA lies and propaganda in the core activities of the ORC, places this power at their service.

While civilian warfare ministries are largely ignored by Pagans and Satanists and occultists, as these typically have little effect on their lives, it is this sort of official and authoritarian aspect of the state-institutionalized warfare ministry which inspires fearfulness and can be very intimidating.

Like the ORC did in the past, before it went underground, the SAPS will also likely send agents to visit schools to “witness” their personal religious journeys and to propagate SRA lies to young impressionable minds.

Originally established in the early 1990’s, it was publicly and formally claimed to have been disbanded in 2001. Below, a news article from 1999, discussing problems with the methodology and approach of the unit which was supposed to have resulted in its “disbanding”:

"Devil busters to go bust? 19 Mar 1999 00:00 - Staff Reporter Mail & Guardian reporter

The future of the South African Police Service’s (SAPS) occult-related crime unit hangs in the balance.

Its supporters say senior police officers at national headquarters are blocking attempts by the unit to investigate satanic-related crimes and want to disband it.

This is despite mounting concerns that there will be an increase in ritual murders as the millennium approaches. In the past seven years, the number of murders linked to satanic cults averaged about four a year.

Last year the number of satanic murders was 10. In the first three months of this year, the number of murders recorded by the unit was five.

But the top brass believes that the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of religion, does not allow police officers to warn the public about the dangers of Satanism.
The detective service, of which the occult-related crime unit forms part, denied there were plans to close it down.

Its representative, Senior Superintendent Faizel Abdul-Kader, said: “There were discussions and debates regarding the standing of a unit like [the] occult-related crimes unit. But at no stage was any decision taken to close down the unit.”

He said the detective service was currently being restructured to become more efficient.

One person who is very concerned about the future of the unit is a Cape Town mother whose 20-year-old son went missing last August. He was last seen in the company of two women who are believed to be “high priestesses” of a satanic cult.

The mother, who did not want to be named, received a letter from a senior commissioner which read: “Authorisation granted to assist in the investigation into the disappearance of your son has been withdrawn owing to financial constraints.”

The commissioner also sent letters to high school principals and station commanders around the country citing “financial constraints” as the reason why the head of the occult-related crime unit, Senior Superintendent Kobus Jonker, could not respond to requests to address students and community policing forums on the dangers of Satanism.

Two branches of the Dutch Reformed Church in the Western Cape had their requests for Jonker to address a seminar on Satanism turned down by the commissioner.

An internal SAPS document written last October expresses concern about the role of policing religious activities. It says: “Due to constitutional restraints, this task [crime prevention] will in future be left to the various churches and the police will not be able to continue this as a police function.”

The letters have opened old wounds between regular policing units and the occult-related crimes unit.

“There are fellow officers who are doing their best to close the unit down. They see us as just ghost-busters,” said a former member of the unit, who declined to be named.

The unit was formed in 1992 with 54 police officers. There are currently 26 police officers around the country in the unit.
The former officers said there had been systematic and sustained efforts to close the unit down by frustrating its attempts to investigate occult-related crimes and by not taking the officers seriously.

Colonel Willie Rabald, who headed the Bloemfontein occult-related crime unit in 1993, said senior officers hampered his investigations until eventually “they forbade me to investigate crimes related to Satanism”. He says he was transferred to seven different police stations in four years until senior officers “forced” him to resign in 1997.” Mail & Guardian:


This unit was exposed as being “reformed” again in 2012, to exactly the same parameters, and featuring prominent former members as “consultants” and training officials, including Kobus Jonker, whose books and papers are now employed as doctrine within the new unit and also spread internally through the SAPS via SAPS internal publications – despite the range of inaccuracies in these.

Between 2001 and 2012, the SAPS deceived the public by pretending it had disbanded the ORC unit, while only its current commander, Attie Lamprecht made occasional inflammatory public statements on its behalf, being presented as merely “Dr Lamprecht, a police expert on ‘occult crime’, as though he were only one man and not a unit.

Despite the apparent news blackout surrounding the activities of the unit, the occasional mention of this unit’s continued existence somehow did not trigger any alarms and the public generally appears to have remained oblivious to its continued existence up until 2012.

NOTE: In late April 2013, the unit was finally admitted to not having disbanded at all, seeing as it had already been exposed by the action of private citizens with a conscience and a sense of moral outrage – and carrying on the charade was futile.

What does the present SAPS administrator of the Occult Related Crimes unit tell the public and the press about “Satanism” in South Africa? Back in 2005 and more frequently in 2008 (YEARS after the supposed disbandment of the ORC unit AND before the reported reformation of the unit) the present head of the unit, Attie Lamprecht, was already making careless and ill-advised statements to the press.

In 2005, the article ‘Satanist' held for murders” appeared in News24 platforms.

"Attie Lamprecht, director of the police anti-occult unit, and Kobus Jonker, a private occult specialist, said the Middelburg police unit against serious violent crime had questioned Nolte."
http://www.news24.com/World/News/Satanist-held-for-murders-20050626

Here we even see Lamprecht and Jonker (now a private consultant) working together.


In the 2008 article "Parents: tell-tale signs to be wary of" ALSO on September 25 2008 By the same journalist, Jacques Breytenbach - From Independent Online (http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/parents-tell-tale-signs-to-be-wary-of-1.417774#.UXz5qaLTxbo) Lamprecht together with evangelist Aldo Krige and David Balt of the Department of Education, provide a typical SRA propaganda "list of warning signs" for parents that their child may be involved with Satanism at their school, conflating typical teenage behavior such as "a rebellion against authority, compulsive lying and becoming emotionally detached from the parent" as the supposed list.

According to Balt, described as "president of the National Professional Teachers' Organization of South Africa (Naptosa)", "...the Department of Education was not doing enough about the matter."

Perhaps it is not too far fetched to question whether all their pressure is currently paying off dividends in the current SRA hysteria in South African schools, as well as in the Department itself – as evidenced by the hysterical and misdirected comments by the MEC for Education publicized this year, and also those in Parliament by another Minister.

Analysis Of Lamprecht’s Statements:

In the "Sedition" article, the journalist first points out that there are different forms of Satanism, and makes references to the Church of Satan – but the lengthy quotes from Lamprecht and an evangelical drug rehabilitation "expert" speaking out of his field of expertise, tends to off-set this suggestion, making up the bulk of the article, and turning it from an objective piece into a Christian evangelizing soap-box.

"In the United Kingdom, there are what we call Satanic Purists. This has predominantly to do with self-worship. But Satanism in South Africa is characteristically against Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is against all that is good."

This statement as a whole is inaccurate.

CLARIFICATION: There is not a single group among Satanists worldwide which identifies itself as "Satanic Purists". However, virtually every Satanist...
There is one group among Satanists which originated in the UK and which considers itself to be "the only true Satanism", and that group does not worship the self, but is a Theistic Satanist group, the Order of Nine Angles.

Secondly, it would seem that "Satanism" in South Africa as identified by Lamprecht here, is "tabloid prophecy fulfilling" or media-created "mythical or pseudo-Satanism", where people who are ignorant of Satanist religion or philosophy, identify with the SRA propaganda message of "what Satanism is" and jump into it with enthusiasm, call themselves "Satanists" because that is what they believe is expected of Satanists, and then get up to all sorts of mischief which simply allows people like Lamprecht and Kobus Jonker to claim that "Satanism is x, y, and z" while neither they nor these people have a correct understanding of Satanist religion.

"Satanism in South Africa is characteristically against Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is against all that is good"

Lamprecht is generalizing, saying that a typical characteristic of South African Satanism is that it is "against Jesus Christ", when Lamprecht first of all CANNOT know the feelings of ALL those who identify with Satanism in South Africa.

Father, he is making an assumption based upon prejudice, that because people may oppose Christianity, they naturally oppose "all that is good" and therefore must be "evil". Who is to say that Christianity is inherently "good"? How can it be perceived as such by all people, particularly those to whom these symbols represent oppression and hostility brought against them by people like Lamprecht?

Not everyone may view Christ and Christianity in the same light as Christians or Lamprecht, and according to the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, they are well within their legal rights to do so, and Lamprecht, Jonker and the SAPS seem to have lost sight of this fact.

Further, Lamprecht seems to be moralizing, evangelizing and conflating his religious values with his job as a police administrator where he should be focusing on crime and not promoting false statements about how dangerous he thinks other people's religions are simply because they are not the same brand as his own.

"Satanism among our country's youth is multi-layered, where violent music, together with drugs and various other factors, combine, making the child prone to committing a crime," he said.

This is a sweeping and general statement. Every aspect of modern society is multi-layered. Much of what he has said here could be applied to youth in any religious environment, although he makes use of SRA propaganda tools – the
old faithful of SRA: "violent music, drugs and crime", which are being conflated with a religious belief system he clearly demonstrate that he knows little about.

"According to Lamprecht, most of the country's Satanists are between the ages of 14 and 22. He did, however, emphasize that Satanists come from both poor and rich families."

Does Lamprecht have statistics to prove his statement? Is it an estimate based on the demographics of how many alleged crimes the SAPS/ORC has investigated since the 1980's, or how many alleged Satanists were arrested?

Does it refer to the figures provided by warfare ministries practicing "conversion" and indoctrination of children suspected by their religious parents of being Satanists because they like wearing black clothing? Does this mean that "most Satanists", even the ones he doesn't know about, fall into this age group?

NOTE: The complete lack of presentation of ANY substantiation and factual evidence by SAPS representatives and "occult experts" when making sweeping statements which negatively impact the dignity and civil rights of alternative religious groups and sub-cultures – and the failure by both them AND the Press to understand a need to provide such information, is simply astonishing.

"Lamprecht said the major change in modern-day Satanism is that it has become electronic."

What is the relevance of this statement? Everything has “become electronic” in the past two decades - even Christianity. There are a multitude of Christian-focused groups on social media websites like Facebook, whereas there are far fewer in the same media catering for Satanists. Even Christian churches these days gather in front of giant screens in their churches to participate in country-wide (or world-wide) worship etc. Why is “going electronic" being portrayed as being sinister? Why is Christianity – even Christianity which openly incites hatred against others – not being accused of being threatening or dangerous because it has “become electronic”?

"Satanists are making use of blogs, MXit and SMS's to send threatening and intimidating messages to their peers. The Satanism of today has taken up the form of psychological abuse."

Lamprecht implies that Christians would "never" do such things, and that sending intimidating and threatening messages is somehow inexplicably limited to Satanists (or people accused of being Satanists). Anyone can send threatening messages, just as anyone can create a website, or a blog – or call themselves an "occult expert".

Of course, Satanists in his limited view would "never" use electronic media to communicate, debate, discuss ideas and interact like anyone else in any other
religion, ethnic group or culture would do. No, it has to be portrayed as being used in a negative sense in order to reinforce the propaganda-created notion that anyone who dissents from the norm or from conservative values is threatening and intimidating, and ultimately, "evil".

"As a religion it also rebels against conformity. This leads youngsters to become rebellious against school rules, and ultimately, against the laws of the country." "Lamprecht said although Satanism is not a crime, it is a belief system that leads to crime."

So what's the difference?

He is stating – as if it were somehow a PROVABLE fact, that there is no difference between belonging to Satanism as a religion, and belonging to the mafia (or any other criminal organization) – where it is expected of a person who is a Satanist to be a criminal, and that therefore, being a criminal is inevitable and inseparable from that association.

He is also portraying Satanists as a THREAT to the stability and governability of the country! This is both hate speech and incitement to hate (in terms of Act No 4 of 2000, Promulgation of the Promotion of Equality Act).


“Lamprecht said his unit was not interested in the beliefs as such, but only in those practices related to crime."If there is not a crime involved, there is religious freedom."

Combined with Lamprecht’s other statements that ‘Satanism as a religion leads to criminality’ tends to present the view that

“Satanism = crime”

- and therefore in accordance with this view, Satanism should not be shown any respect in terms of religious freedom by the law.

The Daily News article from August 21, 2008 states that Lamprecht believes this because:

"He said he knew he was treading on dangerous ground when he said Satanism was probably in all schools, but this prevalence had resulted from the free access many children have to the internet and other sources of information."

His other utterances referred to in the above article reviewing the radio show reveal the view that he blames freedom of access to information for people (especially children) for criminal acts, which he clearly conflates with Satanism.
NOTE: Therefore in his view, access to knowledge and information encourages people to experiment or to become involved in “Satanism” or “the occult”. In light of this revelation, lies the probable explanation for a complete lack of any supporting evidence for nearly all of the claims made by the occult unit over the span (or perhaps ‘spam’) of the unit’s existence.

His other statements

"If you do not spend time with your children, someone or something else will," and "...this was only to be expected as more and more children – and adults as well - had access to the media giving information on such issues." and "...when children started to explore these issues, it could affect their behavior" and ""They start to reject everything that is moral, coming from their school and their parents."

perpetuate the age-old SRA propaganda superstition that listening to music, reading facts about alternate religious beliefs and not conforming with conservative views amounts to “rebellious” behavior and criminality – and essentially reflects that he may be far less a policeman than an inquisitor pushing forward propaganda for a renewed “Satanic Panic” hysteria.

NOTE: Attie Lamprecht – an officer in command of a police unit focusing on policing religion, proselytizes conservative Christianity and repeatedly violates laws protecting the legal rights of law-abiding citizens to dignity and from persecution by repeatedly attacking their right to exist from the viewpoint of his own religion as expressed in his statements given in his official capacity as a police official.

The rest of his statements in the article are prejudicial towards other religions and made clearly out of a biased religious perspective – his own, and by means of this, he attacks the validity and right to exist unhindered by legal harassment of religions and belief systems he disapproves of.

"They (Satanists) think they are on a higher level, in a relationship with some kind of supernatural deity"

Statements as the above are clearly biased, and clearly made from a critical personal disagreement with other religious beliefs and NOT on the grounds of anything relevant to criminal justice. In fact, when one views this statement objectively, the appropriate response would be to challenge it with an antithesis: As opposed to say, Christians who attest that they have a relationship with a supernatural deity, such as God or Jesus Christ?

We trust that this will clarify the hypocrisy and paradox of such statements, and highlight the insult aimed at religious Satanists who actually DO view Satan or Lucifer as a deity or supernatural entity.

Lamprecht – superintendent or academic Dr or not, is abusing his appointed position as a public servant as a vantage point to promote his own religious intolerance or biases towards these. This is not only unacceptable,
unprofessional and unethical – it is also ILLEGAL in terms of the Constitution and the above-mentioned Act.

He stated in 2008:

“We have a group of detectives who are in the process of exposing more and more detectives to the investigation of harmful religious practices”.

The irony in this is, that this occurred as far back as 2008, whereas now, shortly after the expose’ of the SAPS ORC unit being officially “reformed” after numerous years of existing covertly and illegally and in contradiction to the Constitution of South Africa, there is so much SRA hysteria in the media, and the Department of Education about alleged “Satanism” in South African schools.

In a few years time, or whenever Dr Lamprecht leaves the service of the SAPS, he will probably go into private practice as yet another typical example of a self-proclaimed occult “expert”, and will probably later turn up in the Project’s appropriate sub-section of this document.

**CLARIFICATION:** This blog about Lamprecht's utterances on SAFM radio ([http://religiouschildabuse.blogspot.com/2008/08/there-is-probably-not-school-in-south.html](http://religiouschildabuse.blogspot.com/2008/08/there-is-probably-not-school-in-south.html)) indicates that he has been in charge of a covert ORC police unit focusing on “occult/religious crimes” as “harmful religious practices” since long before the leaked reformation memo that we saw last year.

Is this evidence which proves the SAPS NEVER intended to obey the ruling disbanding of the ORC on the grounds of its prejudiced and discriminatory and statistically unjustifiable existence?

In a nutshell, these statements by Lamprecht reveal a deep-seated suspicion, mistrust and intolerance for Satanist and Pagan religion, and indeed for any occult religion. How can one expect fair treatment and objectivity from someone who espouses unfair and prejudiced views? Surely this is tantamount to appointing a racist to be the head of an anti-racism commission while expecting there not to be irregularities?

**CLARIFICATION:** Statements made to the media, and material put out by the heads of the SAPS occult units, past and present, provide damning evidence that the investigation of so-called “occult-related crime” and the existence of a specialized task force with the mandate to evangelize and proselytize Christianity – that the ORC unit is a Christian warfare ministry given the powers of the State to act as though it were an office of the Inquisition – to persecute non-Christian religions and intimidate and offend the dignity of law-abiding citizens of this country based on the specific characteristic of their religious beliefs.
Further, one of the ultimate insults to the dignity of Pagans, Satanists and occultists alike, is the abuse of tax payer’s money – contributed to BY Pagans, Satanists and occultists – to be employed against them.

The ORC Deception Finally Revealed:

In an article by Gateway News (a Christian news portal) on 25 April 2013, it is none other than Attie Lamprecht who admits to the press that the SAPS had NEVER actually shut down the ORC task force as it had been supposedly instructed to do, but that it had simply gone underground to avoid having its activities exposed by the media or public criticism:

“The South African Police Services special unit tasked with combating crime linked to occult activities was never disbanded. It merely went underground because the glare of publicity sometimes hindered investigations.

This was disclosed to Gateway News by the Commander of SAPS Occult Crime Unit, Dr Attie Lamprecht, who said there are at least 20 Occult Unit investigators in SA who have been specially trained to investigate occult-related crimes.

Reports that the unit was being re-established 15 years after it was disbanded surfaced last year when it was reported that former Occult Unit Commander Dr Kobus Jonker had trained three SAPS investigators in the Eastern Cape as part of a national drive by the SAPS to crack down on muti murders and other occult-related crimes. Jonker led the unit from when it was established in 1981 until he retired in 2001 after suffering a heart attack.

The supposed disbanding of the unit was believed to be as a result of complaints that its activities infringed on the constitutional right to religious freedom which even accommodate Satanism as a legitimate religion.

Indeed, the South African Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA) and Satanists were quick off the mark in voicing their objections to alleged religious prejudice after reports emerged in September about Jonker training officers to investigate occult-related crimes.”

http://gatewaynews.co.za/2013/04/25/saps-occult-unit-was-never-disbanded-just-went-underground/

There is so much wrong with this article, factually and from the obvious bias it was written from. For starters, it is ‘Pagans’, not ‘Paganists’. Then there is still the fact that the ORCU was founded in 1992- not 1981. However, the most upsetting part is the final confirmation – after 14 years of LIES, that the occult unit NEVER shut down, but was simply protected as an underground task force.
This article from Gateway and the SAPS deception is dissected in this article by Bronwyn Katzke, Editor of Penton Pagan Magazine: http://www.penton.co.za/living-the-lie/

So in effect, when it was announced in the media by the SAPS that the occult task force was being shut down in 2001, it was nothing less than a LIE. The apparent fact is that it NEVER disbanded, but still continued to violate the civil rights of South Africans based upon their religion anyway. Was this with the blessing of the Minister of Police? Was it done with the blessing of Parliament? Perhaps it was, when there is NO sign that the South African government will take any action on this deception and lack of transparency which is unacceptable in any democracy.

**CLARIFICATION:** The reasons given why the unit was supposed to be shut down were as valid in 1999 to 2001 as they are today – the unit simply carried on business as usual, and the SAPS and its superiors simply covered up any wrongdoing on their part.

These evangelical Christian police officials are abusing their positions to evangelize the SAPS, to promote their religious paranoia within the national police service, and upwards to their superiors, and outwards to a gullible public using improvable conspiracy theories, smoke and mirrors, and flimsy facts twisted to suit their agenda in order to play on the irrational and deep-rooted fears of the ignorant. Additionally, they make vague generalized statements without substantiating ANY of their claims – and once again, the Press does not appear to realize the meaning of the term “hearsay”. Even a police official has to provide evidence and is not a judge, jury and executioner just because he is a police official.

These people appear to be working very hard to promote belief in Satan and HIS power over humanity in order to justify a critical NEED for them to be (portrayed very dramatically) as a last line of defense for "Christian civilization" in a secular nation, where other religions cling tenuously to having almost the same "equal" rights as they.

**CLARIFICATION:** In standing united against the combined organized force of media, religious and law enforcement, this effort is not an attack on the religious beliefs or rights of those SAPS officers in the ORC to believe whatever they will. There is a major difference between just stating one's beliefs, offering to educate others in them voluntarily (evangelism), and actively undermining and destroying the beliefs and the rights of others to believe them (what a warfare/deliverance ministry does).
The Flawed Premise Of “Occult-Related Crime” Investigation In South Africa

Let’s look at a few scenarios:

Scenario 1:

Part 1:
A man goes to a local African supernatural practitioner, and complains of illness. The practitioner tells him his ancestors are angry with him, and (unethically) tells him to go and kill a child and bring parts of the body to him in order to make muti (medicine) from it in order to set things right with them. The man does so. The boy’s body is found in a field with parts missing. It is examined by police, who consult with “occult experts”, who then make statements to the effect that the boy was killed by “Satanists” or “witches”. While the crime is portrayed as a “muti murder”, the crime is also conflated with mythical or pseudo-“Satanism” by both the police and the media.

Part 2:
The man and the practitioner are later arrested and put on trial for the crime, and described as “Satanists” and “devil worshipers” and “witches” by the media, who once again, perpetuate the mis-association of Satanism and Witchcraft with the crime – which has nothing to do with Western religion at all.

Scenario 2:

Several infants disappear from hospitals in a town. Body parts of the missing children are found scattered in the bush, with parts missing. The police canvas the area, looking for information on where to find local Satanists, Pagans, and traditional African spiritual practitioners.

The problem with this is the assumption that any of the groups mentioned might be responsible for what is obviously not a crime relating to modern Western occultism, but to the ethnic practice of “muti” ritual magic. There is no differentiation or separation between Satanism as a religion, Paganism as a religion – and the ritual practice known as “muti”.

Scenario 3:

A young woman is raped and murdered with a knife from the victim’s own kitchen. She is found wearing a Pagan pentagram pendant necklace, with the knife lying beside her body. The knife has a black handle. The police mis-identify the knife as a “sacrificial knife” and the pendant as a “Satanic symbol”, compare the date of the murder to one of the many so-called “occult calendars” circulated by so-called “occult experts”, find the closest convenient “Satanic ‘unholy day’” – and make comments to the effect that the victim was “involved in Satanism” or a “victim of Satanism”. The press picks up on the story and turns the issue into a circus focusing on the dangers of occultism.
and Satanism and publishes lists of “warning signs” that people/children may be “dabbling with the occult”.

It never occurs to them that Paganism and Satanism are not even the same things. Most Christians have no idea what the differences are between the Pagan pentagram and the Sigil of Baphomet or downward-pointing pentagram are, or will even care that there is a difference. Many extremist Christians will simply conclude that because the pendant looked how they would imagine a “Satanic symbol” to be, or even just because it was not a Christian cross the victim was wearing, that the symbol was somehow “Satanic” in nature.

The case becomes a media witch-hunt, in which violence and death are portrayed as the ultimate outcome of “dabbling in the occult”, in a sense presenting itself as a case of victim-blaming.

Scenario 4:

A bunch of school kids get drunk together, playing glassy-glassy on an ouja board, perhaps burning a bible over a fire. None of them belong to any Satanist group or has a clue about Satanist religion or practice, but have garnered what they know about Satanism from watching horror movies (or reading the material put out by “occult experts” detailing what they think “Satanism” is). One sets another on fire, later admitting to a policeman that this was intended to be a sacrifice to Satan. Police call the crime "Satanism".

Their thought process stops at the apparent and claimed motive for the killing – a sacrifice to Satan – so therefore it must be “Satanism”. The concept of LEGEND TRIPPING (or even abject stupidity) never even occurs to them.

What is Legend Tripping?

Legend Tripping is when impressionable people ignorant of what real Satanism or occult beliefs are about, and who start out by having no experience or contact with actual occult or Satanist practitioners, are exposed to the inaccurate and prejudiced views of people claiming to be "occult experts" or even "occult survivors" who, among the myriad of claims, warn that Satanists believe in Satan, wear black clothes, hair and make-up, are anti-social, commit human sacrifice, abductions, burn bibles, carve pentagrams into park benches etc, etc – and for personal reasons, perhaps in a phase of misdirected teenage rebellion, decide that this image or stereotype, suits them. They adopt this false portrayal of Satanist of occult religion and live up to it, thinking that what they are doing is Satanism. When they are caught committing crimes, they confess, they did it because they are “Satanists” – and so the vicious circle goes round and round, and as it perpetuates itself, growing more tragic and vicious as it goes.

The press and the cops run to the nearest church or to their occult unit for advice, and then state that "Satanists killed or raped or left a public park in a mess, covered in dead chickens", believing their own lies because of the pentagrams in the suspect's diary, or the black paint in the kid's bedroom, or
because they confessed to being "Satanists". This is life imitating propaganda, propaganda confirming paranoia, hysteria fabricating conspiracy.

Who should people consult on matters relating to the occult? If you need information on a stomach ulcer, would you consult a dentist? How can an evangelical Christian who has never been an occultist be considered an expert in occult religion, when at best, all they could hope to have is an armchair understanding of the subject. If people want to know about occult religion and occult religious practices, then they should consult actual knowledgeable occult sources. Otherwise they will NOT get plausible or authentic answers.

The Phenomenon Of The Self-Proclaimed “Occult Expert”

A key figure in the creation and promotion of SRA propaganda is the self-proclaimed “occult expert”, usually someone who is currently a Christian evangelist who claims to have insider knowledge of “Satanism”, “the occult” or “witchcraft” either as someone who was involved in occult religion or, far more commonly, a Christian who never was involved in occult religion and who makes a career in “ministering” to anyone who will give them time to speak, about the “dangers” of Satanism, Paganism – and religious freedom, because it allows people to believe what they choose to.

Many Pagans have often suggested that they find a Pagan expert on Christianity in the same vein as those Christian "experts" in Pagan religion. American Pagan activist, Christopher Blackwell agreed, but pointed out somewhat satirically, yet ironically provided an accurate summary of the modern Christian self-proclaimed "occult expert".

"Yes but remember the rule of thumb, you can't possibly be an expert in any religion that you have actually practiced. They are going to have to wait around until they find some Pagans that claim to be experts in Christianity. To be a real expert on Christianity, they must have never actually practiced it or grown up with it.

I might qualify, but first I need to read a few books crib some information, go on tour as a speaker who has expertise on Christianity, write my own book pointing that I have been calling myself an expert on Christianity, then increase my speaking fees and go on talk shows and all. Remember the last thing I would want to happen is to have anything that I say about Christianity to actually be factual, because my audience is going to own a good fantasy. So I am going to have to throw in some sex orgies, humans sacrifice, not too mention how it [the Christian conspiracy] is so powerful that the very lack of evidence is proof of everything I say." – Christopher Blackwell

Left to their own devices, these people do not pose much of a threat to others, seeing as there (still) is freedom of expression and speech in South Africa,
however these people do not simply sit idle; they actively seek audiences to make themselves heard, they seek markets for their books or articles, they seek interviews on live TV actuality programs to promote their propaganda and to advertise their flawed material and apparent ignorance about the topics they present themselves as “experts” on. Along with their rise to fame, they increase the hysteria that destroys the lives of people they view as enemies of their religion.

“The Satanic Panic emerged from within Christianity and served a particularly Christian agenda. It started with the stories of so-called occult survivors who claimed to have been high-ranking satanic priests or priestesses or they claim to have been powerful and influential Witches (usually also meaning Satanist to them).

Conveniently, these “occult survivors” always find Christ in the end and they have quite fantastical testimonials to share. Quite a few of them confess to witnessing and even participating in horrendous crimes like human sacrifice, mutilation, torture and infanticide and yet no arrests were ever made or bodies uncovered. Most of these sources turned out to be frauds, attention seekers and in a few cases there may have been real mental health issues.

These accounts can never fool the serious Occultist, Witch, Pagan or Satanist as the accounts told by “survivors” frequently do not match up with actual beliefs or practices. These “survivors” quickly reveal that they know nothing about contemporary religions or occult practices. Quite a few of them are still taken seriously by a few fundamentalist Christians and unfortunately a few of these works were taken seriously in law enforcement seminars during the height of the Satanic Panic.

Unfortunately, our SAPS while under the influence of former occult unit members and their religious agenda’s may still take these and similar accounts seriously.” – From Satanic Panic Sources and Resources by Francisco Fumarola: [http://www.penton.co.za/satanic-panic-sources-and-resources/](http://www.penton.co.za/satanic-panic-sources-and-resources/)

Prime examples of this sort of “expert” famous around the world include Don Rimer, Dawn Perlmutter and Bill Schnoebellen. Local equivalents include Kobus Jonker, who is known even in the UK and USA for his alleged expertise in the “unique form of Satanism” allegedly found only in South Africa!

A little further reading on American-based “occult experts”:

**Don Rimer:**

Rimer, since deceased, was often consulted by US law enforcement agencies in training their members to deal with so-called “occult related crime”. Rimer was himself a former police officer, and used this fact and his contacts to great effect in spreading a great deal of SRA propaganda. He targeted a
broad spectrum of occult religious groups, disseminating a lot of misinformation about their beliefs and practices, up to and including Satanists, Witches, Pagans, Goths, Emo’s and even the US-based portion of the Vampire Community.

One of Rimer’s booklets on the occult, purportedly used in seminars he presented to law enforcement and to the public, is visible here. Here is an Evangelical analysis of Rimer’s work by John W. Morehead, prior to Rimer’s passing.

“Don Rimer was a critic of the VC for many years, and presented seminars and “training” sessions to law enforcement officers in the USA on “occult crimes”, also focusing on the VC. Much of his information and many of his claims were founded on cherry-picked facts and on misrepresentation. He added to the “Satanic Ritual Abuse” or SRA “Satanic Panic” of the late 1980’s and 1990’s. Though he died in 2012, much of his material is still in circulation and still inaccurate, continues to perpetuate his legacy of flawed research and tainted “expertise” which continues to show dividends.

Don Rimer: Occult Expert or Merchant of Fear? “Don Rimer is a retired police officer, who now presents seminars through the Oklahoma Gang Investigators Unit. His views on “ritual crime and the occult” can be found in a document on the OGIU website titled “Ritual Crime and the Occult (the New Youth Subculture)” from 2009. This document casts quite a wide net of concern, and in so doing, I detected several problematic areas, troubling in that it comes from a self-described expert, and someone providing guidance to law enforcement and thereby impacting lives in significant fashion.

Problematic terminology and definitions
Rimer uses the term “occult” not only in a pejorative manner for various expressions of Western esotericism, but also as a blanket term for a diverse group of unrelated religions, spiritualities, and identity subcultures.

Imagined connections
Rimer makes inappropriate connections between various elements to alleged “ritual crime.” Of course there are crimes, sometimes very grisly, but isolated cases of crime are not necessarily connected appropriately, nor do they flow out of, the groups he describes as dangerous.

Unfamiliarity with scholarship
Rimer is unfamiliar with the good body of academic materials on this subject matter, as well as the related to topic of satanic panics. In fact, in comments made to me he seems to hold academics at a distance and privileges his lay approach at “expertise.” He doesn’t have to be a scholar, but he should be familiar with the academic material related to the subjects he’s instructing others on.

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
Counter-cult influences

Rimer also appears to be influenced by Protestant evangelical counter-cult approaches to the subjects he lectures on, which tends to lump diverse phenomena together with a primary concern that whatever religion or spirituality that is non-Christian is somehow connected to the demonic." – John W. Morehead” – From the SA VCC Advocacy page: http://vampyreculturecenter.wordpress.com/misconceptions/the-vc-human-rights/advocacy-information-links-resources/

Dawn Perlmutter:

Dawn Perlmutter is by no means a credible scientific researcher on the subject of Satanism, or vampirism, or an expert on occult religions. Her field of expertise is art and philosophy, and certainly not criminology OR anthropology. In fact, it is questionable if Perlmutter even has any law enforcement knowledge at all!

Yet she is viewed by Christian church groups, warfare ministries, journalists and even in law enforcement as an expert on the religions or subcultures of other people which she has never personally experienced, interacted with, nor participated in.

“At first glance, Perlmutter looks plausibly like a real expert with respectable scientific academic credentials. Her website lists several "Internet publications" which are academic papers that have been published in what appears, at first glance, to be a scholarly journal of anthropology. So, the casual reader might conclude that she’s an anthropologist who has done genuine, full-fledged peer-reviewed scientific studies of all the subcultures she denounces.

However, at the time Dawn Perlmutter wrote the first of the academic papers listed on her website (1999), she was an assistant professor of art and philosophy - not anthropology or any other social science, nor criminology, nor even religious studies - at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. (As far as I can tell, she no longer works fulltime in academia.)” - http://theisticsatanism.com/asp/people/Perlmutter/

“Book by pseudoscientific anti-Satanist scaremonger published by major scientific textbook publisher! - by Diane Vera

Recently, I was shocked to find out that CRC Press, a major publisher of scientific textbooks and of such venerable reference books as The Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, is also the publisher of Investigating Religious Terrorism and Ritualistic Crimes by Dawn Perlmutter, who is definitely not a scientist of any kind.

Do you remember the long-discredited "Satanic and occult crime experts" who used to run around giving police-training seminars back in the 1980’s? Well, there’s now at least one new "expert" on “ritual violence," Dawn Perlmutter, who has evidently managed to convince
quite a few people to take her seriously. Here are some of the places where she has given or will be giving seminars:

14th Robert Carell Trauma Symposium: EMS in a Crazy World, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, New Jersey, Saturday, October 28, 2000; included a session on “Recognizing Occult Violence” taught by Dawn Perlmutter

Attorney General Jim Petro Offers Ohio Law Enforcement Insight Into Unusual Crimes: Nationally Renowned Expert In Investigation Of Ritual Crimes, Religious Extremism Instructing Course on the website of the Ohio Attorney General's office; the course, taught by Dawn Perlmutter, began October 25, 2005

Investigating Religious Terrorism and Ritualistic Crime - seminar taught by Dawn Perlmutter at the University College of St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA, December 5-7, 2005

Utah Division of the International Association for Identification: Trainings (see Fall 2005)

Oklahoma Division of the International Association for Identification: 2006 Training Conference: "Saints, Sinners, & Cops"

And here are some news stories about her, including accounts of some of her TV appearances - and accounts of some of the criminal investigations she's been consulted on by police.

I've written a collection of critiques of her online publications. For those critiques, and for more information about her, please see Dawn Perlmutter and her Institute for the Research of Organized and Ritual Violence. Also, for some further information on her academic background and philosophical stance, please see René Girard, "sacred violence," Christianity, and "anthropology": Dawn Perlmutter's philosophical background, as best I can figure it out.

If you are a skeptic or an opponent of pseudoscience, I hope you will share my outrage that a book by a pseudoscientific anti-Satanist scaremonger is being given credibility by being published by CRC."

From Theistic Satanist.com:
http://theisticsatanism.com/asp/human/PerlmutterH.html

Diane Vera also wrote a series of articles about Perlmutter and her writings about Satanism and so-called “ritual abuses” - “Dawn Perlmutter's claims about various "dark" subcultures (Goth, Vampire, Fetish, BDSM, Body Art)”: http://theisticsatanism.com/asp/people/Perlmutter/dark.html

Perlmutter wrote a book in which she focused partly on the Vampi(y)re Community in the USA, for which she was also criticized by participants in the
community. Among the more tactful criticisms of this work can be found on the informational website of Suscitatio Enterprises LLC:

“For example, in examining the published materials on the Vampire Community and on real vampirism, one can find pages filled with anecdote, personal observations, and quotes gathered from roleplayers' [gaming] websites being used to describe and analyze the Community. Sources like roleplaying websites, which are not representative of the Community, and whose authors are not members of the Community, are being used as the basis of various writers' analyses of real vampires. Likewise, this holds true for many others including but not limited to the energy worker, otherkin, and therian community.

If any other minority group or subculture received this type of treatment in print, their work might be fact-checked by an editor, reviewed by a peer group, or even reviewed and collaborated on by the group which is the subject of the writing. This is becoming more and more common in anthropology; the subjects of your ethnography might collaborate with you, help you understand obscure parts of their culture, and have a voice in your interpretation of their way of life. They may even ask for a copy of the book when it goes to press! However, the Vampire Community and others seem to be groups which can be written about with no fear of fact-checking, where whatever you say goes, because no one is there to contradict you or hold you to any standard of accuracy!

The result of this is a small but growing body of published materials on the Vampire Community which paint it in an unrealistic, dramatic, and very negative light.

Examples of this are Katherine Ramsland's "Piercing the Darkness," and Dawn Perlmutter's "Investigating Religious Terrorism and Ritualistic Crimes." These works, if unchallenged, will represent source material that future researchers might have to go on when undertaking their own studies of our Community, and they are as fantastic as they are unrealistic. So, in a nutshell, one stated purpose of the VEWRS / AVEWRS is to address the flaws in previous research and refute the more fantastic claims made therein.” “3. What about backlash from outside the Community? Will the general public be made more aware of vampire culture? Could there be an "X-Men Effect?"

As stated above, the print sources are out there already. Some of these, like Dawn Perlmutter's essays, papers and book, "Investigating Religious Terrorism and Ritualistic Crimes," have already been actively shopped to law enforcement. There have been very disparaging portrayals of the vampire club culture in widely-available hardcover books, such as Katherine Ramsland's "Piercing the Darkness," and on popular mainstream television shows, like CSI (in the episode entitled, "Suckers").

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In general, the public has been bombarded with bad information about the vampire and other related communities, and there is a real danger that casual consumers of popular culture will take this as source material to form beliefs about the Community and its members.

Furthermore, the existence of the print sources suggests that when specialists in their fields - writers, researchers, sociologists, anthropologists, scholars of religious movements, law enforcement personnel, and religious clergy or professionals, likely are already receiving misleading information. These are people who we especially want to have true and verifiable data on what comprises vampirism and vampire culture.” – From Suscitatio Enterprises LLC: http://www.suscitatio.com/research/faq.html

Independent researchers who have taken a fresh look at the Vampyre Community as an independent and unique entity, rather than as “just another Satanic cult”, have also made critical observations of her treatment of the VC:

“Psychoanalyses sometimes ignores the vampire community and looks at vampires on a case-by-case basis. Yet another approach has been to consider the entire vampire community as sinister. Dawn Perlmutter, director of the Institution for the Research of Organized and Ritual Violence, contends that the vampire community is a network of cults that uses the Internet to recruit lonely and alienated kids.” – From “Vampires Today” by Dr. Joseph Laycock

Two reviews of Permutter’s books that should provide useful insight on material which is used as actual reference material by law enforcement when dealing with occult communities and crime: http://www.amazon.com/review/R3MYW2WW3SRLZ5/ref=cm_cr_dp_title?ie=UTF8&ASIN=0849310342&channel=detailglance&nodeID=283155&store=books and http://www.amazon.com/review/R17F1J15KR18V5/ref=cm_cr_dp_title?ie=UTF8&ASIN=0849310342&channel=detail-glance&nodeID=283155&store=books

Bill Schnoebelen:

Bill Schnoebelen is an enigmatic American who today claims to be a born-again Christian, who conducts seminars and presentations and sells videos on the sum of his life experiences, in which he claims to have been everything from a Catholic, to a Free Mason, Mormon, Satanist, Wiccan – and also a vampire. For years, this man has fueled Satanic Ritual Abuse (“Satanic panic”) due to his misinformation and cherry-picking of facts, misrepresentation of facts, and his work to undermine tolerance of religious diversity by agitating religious fundamentalists and inciting action against other religious groups. He has been an adversary of the Vampyre Community also, and is one of the sources people refer to when forming an opinion – a skewed opinion – of what the real VC is about. The problem with his claims
are many, including how 1 person could have attained so many positions in so many religious bodies in the time specified, and also the detail that the type of “vampire” which Schnoebelen claims to have been, according to his own description – is entirely of the fictional variety.

Wikipedia provides the following biography for Bill Schnoebelen:

“William Schnoebelen was born in 1949 and claims to have been raised a Catholic. He released a nine-hour DVD program titled "Interview with an Ex-Vampire: A True Story", hosted by Stephanie Relfe, where he speaks of his claimed involvement in vampirism. He also claims to have been a Satanist for a time before converting to Evangelical Christianity.[1][2] Additionally, Schnoebelen claims[3] to have been made a first degree Wiccan priest in 1968, a Spiritualist minister in the Alliance of Divine Love (1972), a priest in the Alexandrian rite of Wicca (1973), a Druidic High Priest (1973) a Third Degree Alexandrian priest (1973), a priest in the Old Roman Catholic Church (starting his studies for this in 1974-5), a Second Degree member of the Church of Satan (1975), a Master Mason in 1977, a Knight Templar in the York Rite Masonry, a 32nd Degree Mason in the Scottish Rite (1980), a Gnostic Bishop with the Monastery of the Seven Rays (1977-8), a 90th Degree Mason in the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis Misraim Freemasonry, baptized into the LDS church in 1980 and become Elders’ Quorum President and Institute of Religion teacher and formally left this church for evangelical Christianity in 1985.” - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Schnoebelen

In an excerpt from Mark Dice’s book, The Illuminati: Facts & Fiction:

"His claims of having sex with a demon are actually quite tame compared to what he says in another video titled Interview with an Ex-Vampire, where he states that within the vampire subculture, human vampires exist and indeed grow fangs to feed off of human blood. A small subculture of “vampires” actually does exist, but they are not walking dead who turn into bats and sleep in coffins. They are a small minority of the gothic subculture who do drink animal or human blood as part of their lifestyle. Usually they do not kill people for this blood, but they have friends and fellow “vampires” willingly give up a pint of blood for consumption, or they purchase animal blood from butcher shops and consume it. But Schnoebelen takes this idea to an absurd extreme, claiming that to become a “real” vampire, he drank the blood of a fallen angel and was then able to grow fangs which would retract when he was not “feeding.” He says as a result of “becoming a vampire” that he couldn’t go outside during the day because his skin would blister, and that he had to get a third shift job because he could only go outside at night.”

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You Tube video: Bill Schnoebelen recently claimed to be an “ex-vampire.” However, his own words demonstrate that he is a fraud, as he doesn’t know the difference between the Hollywood vampire and the vampire that some people in Europe still believe in, and real self-identifying Vampyres – let alone that there IS a difference. - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvu0gg09qlc

Bill Schnoebelen is very frequently accused of persistently misrepresenting and cherry-picking facts to suit his agenda.

Bill Schnoebelen’s “Little White Lies” (part 1) by Kerr Cuhulain
Bill Schnoebelen’s “Little White Lies” (part 2) by Kerr Cuhulain
EX – Satanic Priest, Catholic Priest, Witch, Satanist, Ninety Degree Freemason, Vampire and more!
Debunking William (Bill) Schnoebelen

Kobus Jonker – South Africa’s Own Top Self-proclaimed Occult Expert:

"I also think it is an illusion to think men like Jonker and Lamprecht even want to understand Paganism. They call Witchcraft the "devil's white lie" and "white magic" is a gateway to Satanism. The only way we will ever "work with them" is if we all convert to Christianity. The influence of these men must be reduced and limited and therefore a stance against the principles of the ORCU is needed." – Francisco Fumarola

Known to many occultists in South Africa as “Donker Jonker” (or in the UK as “Bonkers Jonkers”), Kobus Jonker is a former SAPS officer who founded and was the first commander of the Occult Crimes Unit in South Africa in the 1990’s to early 2000’s and has remained on call as a private special consultant to the unit ever since.

Since Jonker was the founding member and commander of the occult unit, his personal religious beliefs and writings (including at least one book) and also his apparent influence over subsequent and current members of the unit, remain central to the training and operating manuals of the ORC, and have determined the nature and outlook of the unit. His material has also been extensively referenced and quoted by evangelicalists and other self-styled “occult experts”, journalists, and even academics, not just in South Africa, but around the world.

An article by Sarah Duguid from 2004 traces his conversion to charismatic Christianity in 1981 to his being the driving force behind the establishment of the occult task force in the SA Police soon afterward.
“In 1981 Colonel Kobus Jonker joined a charismatic church and became a born-again Christian. At the time, he was a respected senior detective with the South African police.

A few months after his conversion, he investigated the case of a woman who was killed when she walked in front of a car late one night.

The dead woman had “Jesus” tattooed on the sole of one foot, “Christ” on the other and “666” on her arm. It turned out that she was a witch, symbolically trampling Jesus into the ground with her every step.

How did this turn out? Being a witch and being a Satanist are two different religions entirely. Numerous other possibilities appear to have been ignored. What if, unbeknownst to Jonker, the woman had once been a “legend tripper”, or even a real Satanist, and had subsequently become a “born again” Christian? Tattoos were not removable in those days, certainly not to the extent they are today. What if Jonker misconstrued the meaning of the tattoos under the woman’s feet? What if these signified her “walk with Christ”? As seems to be typical in Jonker’s so-called “occult cases”, circumstantial evidence at the scene of a fatal collision is being woven together to fit a presumption.

“Jonker explains. She had apparently killed herself as a gift to Satan.

How did Jonker arrive at such a conclusion? Had she left a suicide note? Had the driver of the car admitted hearing her say something to this effect? Had she perhaps been under the influence of alcohol or narcotics or prescription medication at the time, or distracted – and might not have seen the car for that reason? What if the driver hadn’t been paying attention and had lied about her “just walking” in front of his car?” How did Jonker KNOW she was a suicide? Even if she was, HOW does he KNOW WHY she killed herself? Or did he simply consult his “occult calendar” to look for a convenient date to “confirm” his suspicions?

“If the story sounds like the imaginings of the unhinged, it is recounted to me in calm, measured tones. Jonker is utterly convinced of the reality of a dark underbelly of Satanic activity in the Christian world: this woman’s death changed his life.

He stopped investigating murder and robberies and began to devote himself to fighting Satanism full-time. In the course of his work, he says, he helped people possessed by demons to find Jesus. He interviewed a woman whose voice turned into a growl deeper than anything he had heard before.
He describes watching as a pentagram inexplicably appeared in blood on a suspect’s arm. He tells how he thwarted a female assassin working for a Satanic coven who turned up at his office clutching a pistol inside her handbag. She left still clutching the gun, her hand seemingly paralysed by his prayers.

Jonker’s bosses remained steadfastly cynical; they rolled their eyes at his stories. But when he raided a house in 1991 and found a Bible bound in chains, the walls smeared with blood and a Chinese woman’s head in a cupboard, his commanding officers were finally persuaded to start the Occult Related Crime Unit (ORCU), with Colonel Jonker at its helm. Last year, the unit claims, it made 70 successful prosecutions under the 1957 Witchcraft Suppression Act.

I first heard of South Africa’s occult unit while reading about the case of “Adam”, the name given to a young, black boy whose torso was found floating in the Thames in London in 2001.

Detectives from Scotland Yard had flown to South Africa to meet Jonker and his occult-crime-fighting team in the hope of coming up with some leads on Adam’s death. It seemed incongruous that police work, usually based on the rational and empirical, could be coloured by reborn Christians and their worryingly literal, some would say ludicrous, take on the Bible. So, I went to South Africa to spend time with the occult unit and, I hoped, gain some insight into the apparently fervent activity of Satanic groups and the police officers who try to outwit them.

First I met Colonel Jonker, who left the police in 2001 after a heart attack and now practises as a “pastoral psychologist”: a therapist who treats patients with a mixture of traditional psychology and the Bible’s teaching. He explains why the ORCU was made up entirely of devout Christians: “The ordinary guy cannot investigate occult crimes. There are things you see and experiences you have as a result of the supernatural. You must be strong in faith to be in the occult unit.”

Daguid also states that she interviewed one of Jonker’s apparent sources, Morris Smith, one of several “high priests” arrested by Jonker for murder.

"It was Jonker who led the team that convicted Morris Smith of beheading a man in the woods. Smith, who converted to Christianity in prison and claimed to have been a high priest of a Satanic coven, blamed his actions on the devil. Speaking from Middledrift prison near Port Elizabeth on the Eastern Cape coast, where he is serving 30 years for murder..."

[In non-Christian terms, Smith would be viewed as a psychopath]
who is using a “Satan made me do it” justification, but to evangelical Christians such as Jonker he was a man in the clutches of the devil. “These guys aren’t mentally ill,” says Jonker. “They’re just evil.”

This clearly demonstrates where the bias of an investigating officer may determine the outcome of a case. Is Jonker a qualified mental health professional? Were any of these suspects properly evaluated by mental health professionals before being convicted largely on evidence tainted by the religious spin put on it by Jonker and his colleagues?

Where, in SRA related terms, someone may be suffering a mental illness – and while it may not absolve them legally of a crime, it would certainly provide the real reason why the crime was committed in the first place – motive – and the individual would be given appropriate medical or psychiatric care while in prison, rather than just locked up with a bible and cajoled into converting to Christianity.

The next stretch of the article continues to examine the rampant Christian radicalism evident in the SA Police at the time, which if anything, has shown no sign of letting up over time. The claims made by so-called “survivors” of “Satanism” interviewed appear to be no more than recollections of pieced together memories viewed through the lens of admitted drug abuse – and yet, instead of referring these people to competent medical professionals for treatment, their fantasies are encouraged in religious indoctrination and brainwashing centers masquerading as “help”.

The source of Attie Lamprecht’s (Jonker’s successor as head of the task force) assertion that Satanism in South Africa is “different” to Satanism in the rest of the world, and their intimation that a different approach is needed, can be found in this article as well:

"Jonker believes that the situation in South Africa is unique. He agrees that Satanists in Britain and the US are not criminals but says that during his 23 years investigating Satanism in South Africa he has found plenty of evidence – a difference that he puts down to his country’s violent culture and troubled recent history."

Clearly, in this and other opinions, Lamprecht is influenced by the opinions of Jonker, both in his writing, his training – and in their personal interaction. In this view of course is the hidden caveat that since Satanists not in South Africa are not criminals, those within South Africa – where he has jurisdiction, are – something reflected very strongly in the statements of both Jonker and Lamprecht.

The full article may be read at:

http://www.religionnewsblog.com/8089/possession-and-the-law

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This article demonstrates that Jonker grasps several things, but especially that in his own views is unable to separate the identity of Witch from Satanist. He also is a firm believer (as a fundamentalist Christian) that anyone who is not a Christian is a potential Satanist, and that anything he may consider unusual or supernatural, may be attributed to “Satanism”.

He is currently a lead consultant and training advisor for the Occult Related Crimes Unit – AND a self-proclaimed “occult expert” AND part of a “warfare ministry”. While he is NOT the only such individual enlisted by the SAPS to train their new ORC members, he is certainly the most prominent of these. His material is used as training and operations manuals by the ORC as though they are accepted law enforcement guidelines, even though it has never been independently or academically verified, and is filled to the brim with errors and libellous statements about occult groups and Satanism.

Below are several examples of flaws in Jonker’s material, discussed by a former police officer:

“Kobus Jonker and the “occult unit” – Kerr Cuhulain (Charles Ennis) was a police officer and is a Wiccan and author. He takes on Kobus Jonker and his investigations. –

The same rational reasoning can be applied to Jonker’s other claims and cases.

The Thames Torso Case is often used by journalists (and by Jonker) when building up Jonker before an interview, most likely to make it appear he has more credibility – and indeed, international experience and credibility, than he really does.

The following is a challenge to Jonker’s input in the infamous “Thames Torso Case”, which discredits his methodology and also his level of “expertise” by pointing out that he did not actually prove anything in his contribution to the case.

“Virtually every policeman, psychologist and media person involved in this case has accepted Jonker’s insistence that ritual sacrifice is a regular occurrence in South Africa and based on this ‘fact’ they have deduced (completely in error) that the Thames Torso Killing is evidence of it being imported into the U.K. In fact in 8 years on the trail of ritual killers Jonker has not been able to find any ritual murders in South Africa to conclusively prove his claims.” -

http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/ttorso2.htm
The following article is from the Police Forum, the official police section newsletter from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. 1992. The author is Professor Phillip Jenkins. The article takes a critical look at so-called “occult units” and the very need for such units. Jenkins finds such units to be a waste of time and resources.

http://lib.radford.edu/archives/Policeforum/Police%20Forum%20Vol%202%20No%201.pdf

This article is titled “Occult Cop” and it contains another account of a police officer, Randy Emom, who became sceptical of the whole “satanic/occult” crime label and its “survivors”. He compares the phenomena of “occult survivors” to UFO abductees. He found that the whole phenomena served a purpose within fundamentalist Christianity.


The above articles can be found listed at Satanic Panic Sources and Resources by Francisco Fumarola: http://www.penton.co.za/satanic-panic-sources-and-resources/

“And with the resurrection of SAPS’ Occult-Related Crime Unit in 2012, Pagans, Witches, Occultists, Satanists and Vampyres are facing a possible new wave of propaganda and persecution at the hands of the next-generation of witch-hunters; each trained under the old master of SA’s own ‘satanic panic’- Kobus Jonker.

It is more important than ever that we stand together as a community united against the lies that Kobus Jonker and his ilk that have, and undoubtedly will continue to spread about our community. What this series of articles will ultimately aim to do is dispel the lies and expose the propaganda for what it really is. Now is the time to show the general public that Kobus Jonker, and those who falsely portray themselves as ‘occult experts’, are nothing more than Christian fundamentalists lost in their own deluded occult fantasies.” – From Penton Pagan Magazine: http://www.penton.co.za/exposing-the-lies-inside-servamus-drugs-occult-related-crime-part-1/

What is rather astonishing is that Jonker, a clearly apparent threat to religious freedom and to the integrity of this freedom as applied to religious minorities alike Paganism, was reportedly banned from spreading his SRA propaganda around in the name of the SAPS:

“S.A. POLICE BANNED JONKER FROM SATAN SEMINARS

How on earth did Black Britain miss the fact that in March 1999 senior police officers at National Police Headquarters in South
Africa had had enough of the Occult Related Crimes Unit. SAPS bosses ruled that the South African constitution, which guarantees freedom of religion, does not allow police officers to warn the public about the dangers of Satanism. Which is why they BANNED Jonker from continuing to give seminars on Satanism to Churches. What a turn up! The South African police seek to curtail the Occult Related Crimes Unit long before the British Police succer into it.” – From the Subculture Alternatives Freedom Foundation: www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/ktorso2.htm

Fourteen years later, we have a complete reversal of fortunes, with the unconstitutional police unit officially NOT reformed – but exposed as having secretly continued in order to avoid publicity (a fact first exposed in the media in 2012) and Jonker back at the helm, even if just by providing all the training, training material and being involved in an “advisory capacity”!

The leaked SAPS internal memo which reactivated the ORC unit: http://www.paganrightsalliance.org/documents/SAPS%20religious%20crimes%20unit%20mandate.pdf


Reformation of SAPS ORC unit makes headline news: http://www.penton.co.za/ignoring-the-elephant/

SAPRA’s objections to the reformation of the SAPS ORC: http://www.paganrightsalliance.org/documents/SAPRA%20objection%20to%20SAPS%20Religious%20Crimes%20Unit.pdf To date, the SAPS has ignored the SAPRA’s attempts to engage on this or any other matter completely and has not even acknowledged receipt of this document.

Christian news portal, Gateway News article 25 April 2013 announce that the SAPS occult task force had never disbanded, but the announcement of its disbandment had been a lie to allow the unit to keep functioning covertly. http://gatewaynews.co.za/2013/04/25/saps-occult-unit-was-never-disbanded-just-went-underground/#comment-6198

Kobus Jonker has appeared in numerous radio, TV and print media interviews about “the occult” and spoken at length as an apparent “expert” on “Satanism”. Here are links to some of these:

Here are two podcasts (in Afrikaans) with Kobus Jonker, James Lottering and Johan De Beer talking about occultism in schools on a radio show. De Beer speaks about his “satanic” gangs. Kobus Jonker thinks that children practicing
meditation and working with angel oracle cards are evil. They are so busy evangelizing that they offer no proof of what they are saying whatsoever – and of course none of this is actually proof of CRIMINAL activity.


Below are two video files of an interview from late 2012 in which Kobus Jonker is called upon as an “expert” on the occult in the Kyknet actuality program “Freek” with Freek Robinson:

http://www.fileden.com/files/2010/11/16/3017029/ARF%20Project%20Media/Kobus%20Jonker%20Freek%20Robinson%20Kyknet%202020120927%20%281%29.mp4

http://www.fileden.com/files/2010/11/16/3017029/ARF%20Project%20Media/Kobus%20Jonker%20Freek%20Robinson%20Kyknet%202020120927%20%282%29.mp4

Jonker’s Sources Upon Which He Bases His Claims Of “Organized Satanism Conspiracy” In South Africa

Throughout Jonker’s career as an “occult expert”, he has made claims about so-called ‘dangerous Satanic cults’ in South Africa, based on tales ostensibly told to him by alleged “occult survivors” whom he either arrested or interviewed over time. Using these accounts, he has woven an intricate yet seemingly absurd tale of interconnected ‘covens’ of ‘Satanists’ spying on Christian organizations and churches and actively working to bring down “Christian society”, kidnapping victims for sacrifice to Satan etc.

Jonker’s supposed conspiracy spreads its arms very wide while maintaining a very vague framework without any apparent substantiating evidence – and goes further to incite mistrust and suspicion even within his own religious circles by making accusations of “Satanism” through the use of SRA propaganda and misdirection, whereby even a truant teen smoking or rebelling against “parental authority” – or indeed against any conservative notions or norms – could earn them an accusation of “Satanism”.

According to occultist Francisco Fumarola,

“Organized Satanic groups involved in criminal acts are a rarity. They are usually young people from a Christian background who make up their own rituals based on the Christian myth of Satanism, as spread within Christianity by concerned pastors and “cult-cops”, so-called “legend trippers” or “tabloid prophecy fullfillers”.

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Such criminal fringe groups are a nuisance to the serious Occultists, Pagans and Satanists. They are usually scattered and unorganized. There really are no groups with the devil secretly running the show, where he bestows supernatural powers upon his followers – proving the Christian mythical war between “good” and “evil” and Biblical accounts.

I have come across references to The Brotherhood of the Ram, The Order of Darkness, so-called satanic orders etc. in works by Kobus Jonker. There is very little evidence on these groups and that they are part of organized conspiracy and crime.”

Let’s take a closer look at the Satanic groups Jonker repeatedly refers to as being part of a Satanic conspiracy in South Africa:

**The Order of Darkness:**

“The Order of Darkness” Jonker refers to originated in the accounts of an “occult survivor” called Dave Griesel, who began touring churches to “witness” of his “deliverance” from “Satanism” in the very early 1980’s, when the new “Satanic Panic” hysteria in the USA was at its height, and was only reaching South Africa.

A recording of Griesel’s lengthy and outlandish testimonial has been circulated for decades, wherein he talks (in Afrikaans) about the Order of Darkness, makes outlandish claims, including that he "destroyed churches", that there are (in 1982) 120,000 Satanists in South Africa alone, and that Sybil Leek was a South African Satanist and "top Witch" whom he worked with.


Griesel also claimed that “The Order of Darkness” keeps tabs on all churches in South Africa and notes that where Dominees/Pastors or ministers smoke – apparently such churches “belong to Satan”.

No other independent references on the “Order of Darkness” are to be found, aside from a series of novels by Philippa Gregory entitled “Order of Darkness”, however these are new, and were first published in 2012.

Further, no references to it appear in Satanist-managed group listings such as Satanservice.org http://www.satanservice.org/covens.html, or the Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology (which even mentions the obscure and short-lived Brotherhood of the Ram as a wholly American group) but which does not make any mention at all of the Order or of any of the other groups listed by Jonker.

The only identifiable source which first named this group was Dave Griesel, whom Jonker calls a "high priest". We will take a look at the enigmatic Mr Griesel later.
The Brotherhood Of (The) Ram:

The only verifiable group for which the name matches, existed in the USA between 1961 and 1980.

"The Brotherhood of the Ram was a short-lived Satanic group that operated out of an occult bookstore in the Los Angeles area during the 1960s and 1970s. Members reportedly made a pact with Satan renouncing all other devotions, especially any Christian elements in their past. The pact was then signed in blood." - From Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology, by the Gale Group, Inc (online version):

http://www.answers.com/topic/brotherhood-of-the-ram#ixzz2RURmIzy8

Mention In The Press - SRA Scare in Canada, 1992:

The few other references you can find to the BOR come from a 1992 “Satanic-panic” scare in Martensville, a small Canadian town, taken from references in SRA reporting about the incident. The rumours about a Satanic group involved in crime and human sacrifice indeed turned out to be nothing but a scare – but the claims made by sensationalist reporting – perpetuated by Jonker, remain.

"By the spring of 1992 Martensville was reeling with rumours about a Satanic cult called The Brotherhood of The Ram that had police officers as members." CBC News: http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/martin/scandal.html

“Travis Sterling, son of the day care's owners, was convicted of two counts of sexual assault. He was the only person convicted. ... Early reports of the case suggested the alleged abuse was part of a satanic ritual, but after an RCMP task force took over the investigation, it concluded the original investigation was motivated by "emotional hysteria." CBC News (2002-06-19): http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2002/06/18/popowich020618.html

All those who were originally harassed by claims of “Satanism” and Satanic Ritual Abuse – including the only person to be convicted earlier, were compensated after a lengthy law suit for malicious prosecution. The only conviction was overturned. Also worth mentioning, is the detail that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation found that the original was motivate by "emotional hysteria" – in short, “Satanic Panic” had run amok and resulted in a total loss of objectivity and professionalism.

This outcome is similar to the American SRA hysteria, where over a period of a decade or longer, most of the people wrongfully accused

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and convicted on false testimony, had their convictions overturned and were freed.

The Connection Of This Group To Fiction:

“Brotherhood of the Ram” is referenced in a novel titled “The Satanist” (ISBN13: 9780749322724) by Dennis Wheatley in 1960:

“The Satanist is the story of a young man and woman who are prepared to acquiesce in appalling blasphemies and take part in horrific sexual rites in order to penetrate a Satanic circle in an attempt to solve a foul and brutal murder. The man, Barney Sullivan, is a secret agent who, horrified by the death of one of his colleagues whose body is virtually unrecognisable, becomes involved in the bestialities of the Devil whilst investigating Communist activities which threaten the security of the West; the girl, Mary Morden, has a past which enables her to put moral scruples aside – as she knows she must if she is to triumph over evil and bring the Devil worshippers to justice.” – From Good Reads: http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/479486.The_Satanist

“Dennis Yates Wheatley (8 January 1897 – 10 November 1977) was an English author whose prolific output of thrillers and occult novels made him one of the world's best-selling writers from the 1930s through the 1960s. His Gregory Sallust series was one of the main inspirations for Ian Fleming’s James Bond stories.[1]” – From Wikipedia:

Dennis Wheatley wrote mainly occult fiction, and more can be found about Wheatly and his writing on the Dennis Wheatley Info site. http://www.denniswheatley.info/

The novel “The Satanist” lives up to the usual standard of international intrigue, cloak and dagger, occult mystery and action usual for the time. Within the book, the following:

"By the symbol of the Creator ... I swear henceforth to be ... faithful servant of His most puissant Arch-Angel... the Prince Lucifer ... whom before departing to perform further wonders ... He designated as His Regent and Lord of this World ... As a being now possessed of a human body in this world ... I swear to give my full allegiance to its lawful Master ... To worship Him, Our Lord Satan, and no other... To despise all man-made religions ... and to bring contempt upon them whenever that may be done without courting danger ... To undermine the faith of others ... in such false religions, wherever possible ... and bring them to the true faith ... if after consultation with my superiors they decide that to be desirable ... I swear to obey without question... every order I may receive from my superiors
... or those who may be placed in authority over me ... I swear to
give my mind, body and soul unreservedly ... to the furtherance
of the designs of Our Lord Satan . . . Finally I swear that as a
neophyte . . . and later should I be privileged to be initiated into
the Brotherhood of the Ram ... I will in no circumstances
disclose its secrets . . . the places of meeting of its Lodges . . .
anything to which I have been a witness while attending their
meetings ... or the identity of any person that I have met at one
or more of them. Should I break this my oath ... may it be
decreed that for a hundred incarnations . . . beginning with my
next... I shall never rise from poverty . . . shall be rejected by all
upon whom I may set my affections... and die from some
agonizing disease."

According to a source within Satanist religion, Covens of Cultists,
(http://www.satanservice.org/covens.html#BR), the Brotherhood of the
Ram was founded in the 1960’s. According to the shop site linked from
Covens of Cultists as the original site for the Brotherhood of the Ram,
called “Panpipes” since it was transferred to new ownership in 1985:

“Oldest occult and Pagan store with largest known magickal
apothecary. Panpipes Magickal Marketplace, a full service
Occult shop, serves all of the pagan community as a classical
and actual occult shop since 1961.”

Since the book “The Satanist” by Dennis Wheatley, containing the
name “Brotherhood of the Ram” and the “blood oath” referred to, was
published in 1960 – and “The Ram Occult Center” where the
Brotherhood of the Ram was established and met first opened a year
later, in 1961.

This indicates that the group may well have been inspired by the fiction
in the novel.

CLARIFICATION: "The Brotherhood of the Ram" in the USA was
therefore very likely inspired by a novel called "The Satanist" published
in 1960, featuring a Satanic coven called "The Brotherhood of the
Ram", and also featuring an oath which was most likely similar to the
one described as being used by the real life group in the USA. The
shop they opened and met in and where the real life group was formed,
was only opened by them in 1961... a year later.

Wheatley could not have based the group in his book upon the real
group by this name as a plot device, since it did not exist until AFTER
the book was already published and circulated.

Regardless of whether it was the original coven that was inspired by
the book to form, name themselves after the fictional group, or to adopt
or adapt the ritual contained in it, the question still arises – where did
Jonker or his “sources” come by the idea that there was or still is a group in South Africa by the same name?

Was it Griesel or one of Jonker’s other “sources” or “high priests” who read the book at some time, and when pressured into giving names to impress, it was “Brotherhood of the Ram” that surfaced first?

Was it Jonker himself who may have read the book and thought for reasons unknown, that there was (or ought to be) a group of that type in South Africa, with the same name? If so, did he think nobody would ever find out or connect the dots and point out the amazing coincidence?

The relevance of this group to the South African scenario remains a mystery, as the BOR was based in the USA during the 1960’s and 1970’s. Why did Jonker continue to use mention of this group as if it had connections to South Africa, as though it was somehow active here? In an article on Witchvox about Kobus Jonker, Jonker makes a reference to the Brotherhood of the Ram in the sense that it had influence in South Africa:

“There is in Satanism even a controlling body which provides drugs, money and whatever the needs of their subjects may be,” Servamus Magazine (of the SAPS) claims, “called ‘The Brotherhood of Ram’. This group is even allegedly involved in organised crime such as prostitution, drug dealing and even dealing in weapons.”[78]

This is all we are told about the “Brotherhood of Ram.” No proof, no details, no names of ANY alleged members prosecuted, numbers arrested, nothing. Instead we are told:

“We can therefore clearly see the footprints of the unfeeling, selfish and inhumane leader if we look at these movements and work methods. Remember that IGNORANCE is not an excuse!”[79] From Witchvox:

http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=cabc&c=whs&id=8980

This perpetual name-dropping and claims and accusations without any proof or substantiation being given is nothing more than hearsay. As a policeman of many years, Jonker should know very well the laws of evidence. Simply making accusations without providing any evidence at all is not how police officials should operate. It is not professional, it is not ethical and it isn’t plausible. But it is exactly how propaganda works. Servamus (from where Jonker’s material is quoted) even dots the i’s by using the loophole-word “allegedly”. Yet they are using references to a long extinct American group which has apparently never existed in South Africa.
Since the Brotherhood of the Ram in the USA had long since ceased to exist, how could it still be accused of any crimes – in another country over two decades later? Do Jonker and his colleagues expect people to believe that this little-known and short-lived Satanist group somehow “faked its own death” and now has off-shoots in countries around the world – and in South Africa, committing acts of SRA – all while not leaving a single shred of evidence in its wake over 50 years?

The Sons of Satan:

Jonker mentions “the Sons of Satan” several times and is quoted by numerous sources, mentioning “the Sons of Satan” as a group which seeks out “victims” for Satanists.

There is nothing at all to be found via Satanist resources about a Satanist group calling itself “The Sons of Satan” – real or imagined – existing in South Africa, least of all in the context of Satanist religion – at least, not outside of Jonker’s claims.

There is mention of a motor cycle club originating in the late 1940’s (once again, in the USA) of which the current leader of this motorcycle club-turned-gang is alleged to be both a Nazi and a Satanist (http://ogmtarp.wikia.com/wiki/Sons_of_Satan_Motorcycle_Club). The gang seems to fit the SRA profile – drugs, guns, violence, led by a Nazi Satanist. Unfortunately there is no mention of any ties to South Africa made on the information website – but here is the kicker – the WHOLE mention of the “Sons of Satan” motorcycle gang, names, dates and events – is entirely fictional. That’s right – it’s part of a role-playing gaming information resource, called a “wiki”, for a role-playing game called “Odyssey” or “Los Santos”.

Jonker and his “sources” should probably have called this phantom group “the Hell’s Angels” – they are an American-based biker club too, only this time, one which really existed, still operates, and actually had a chapter in Johannesburg, South Africa: http://hells-angels.com/?HA=history By all accounts, they’re actually less scary than the fictional “Sons of Satan, and (probably) aren’t really Satanists either.

There is also a movie by that title: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0007375/ - though “The Sons of Satan” is from 1915, silent, black and white – and probably wouldn’t be very entertaining by modern standards.

Additionally, there is a metal band called “Sons of Satan”, which seems to live up to SRA propaganda expectations. Sons of Satan is a “black metal” band, formed in 1996 and located in Uddevalla, Sweden and recording on the Vinland Winds label. Although it is still listed as being active, its last album was released in 2004.
According to the Metal Archives (http://www.metal-archives.com/bands/Sons_of_Satan/7302),

"Sons of Satan was created in 1996 as a project band of Stormtrooper (aka Master Motorsåg) (vocals) and Warslaughter (drums) from Bestial Mockery. Sons of Satan started back up again in 2008/09 to record a final album with a new drummer." The band is about the glorification of death, war and extermination of human beings and the reign of Satan on earth. It also states: "This band is also not a parody band, contrary to the views of some." The band is credited with three releases, a demo album "Cast into the Race of Progress" (2000), "Our Visions of a Holocaust to be" (2001) and "In Times of Fire", a compilation (2004).

So what is "Sons of Satan"? A fictional motorcycle gang led by a fictional Satanist-Nazi in a role-playing game? A 1915 silent movie about a jewel heist? Or a Swedish black metal band shrieking about Satan? All of the above – but no trace of any kind of "dangerous" super-secret Satanist group in South Africa as Jonker alleges.

The Scorpions:

Presumably Jonker does not mean the elite police unit which was disbanded by the SA government and reformed as “the Hawks”, and which has since then faded into relative obscurity. Even if he did, the Scorpions unit ceased to exist almost a decade ago. It is logical to assume this is not the group he refers to, since he has not changed the name of the alleged Satanic group to “The Hawks” since.

Then there is the “Scorpions” – a motorcycle club based in Gauteng province, South Africa.

On a "Wall of Remembrance" page (http://www.deadmen.co.za/wall_of_remembrance.htm) a member of Scorpions MCC is listed as deceased. The link on the name "Cliffie Stoltz" leads to an "in memoriam" page (http://www.deadmen.co.za/wor_Cliffie.htm) dedicated to the deceased member of the Scorpions MCC (Motor Cycle Club).

Here it can be seen that the members of the club identify personally (if not in group) as Christians and run the club based on a Christian ethos. Where does the alleged “Satanism” come in? In fact, some of the club names on the Wall page make it pretty plain what their themes are in club names such as "Soldiers of Jesus" and "Knights For Christ". The Scorpions appears to belong to a Christian group called “Dead Men Riding Ministries”. Surely it is unlikely that these groups would willingly share “wall-space” with a Satanist biker gang?
There is also a 1970’s German metal band by the name “The Scorpions”, having an international portfolio (http://www.the-scorpions.com/english/history.asp). This band is not known to have appeared in South Africa, nor is it advertised as having any links to Satanism.

There is no known Satanist group in South Africa called the “Scorpions”, nor does the Scorpion hold any known significant symbolic relevance to Satanism as a religion.

Common Denominators & Differences:

1) The names of two of Jonker’s “dangerous” Satanist groups, the “Sons of Satan” and the “Scopions” are used by motorcycle clubs/gangs. The “Sons of Satan” is a fictional biker gang used in an online role playing game based in the USA and “The Scorpions” is a real Christian motorcycle club in Gauteng, South Africa. If these are the groups he refers to, does it mean that Jonker views biker gangs (even Christian or fictional ones) as inherently Satanic?

2) Intriguingly enough, the same two groups have namesakes in rock music. There are rock music bands that have the names “The Scorpions” and “Sons of Satan”, although the genres of music, countries of origin, and periods differ somewhat. If these are the groups he refers to, does it mean that Jonker views rock or metal music as inherently Satanic? Does it mean he fears bands on other continents as threatening to South Africans?

3) A common denominator for “the Order of Darkness” or “Brotherhood of (the) Ram” is that NEITHER have bands OR motorcycle clubs or gangs with the same names as namesakes.

4) Both “Order of Darkness” and “Brotherhood of the Ram” have connections to published novels (fiction), in that “the Order of Darkness” is the title of a series of novels relating to the supernatural first published in 2012 (too new to have any bearing on claims made as far back as 1982) and “Brotherhood of the Ram” is referenced as a plot device IN a novel titled “The Satanist” by Dennis Wheatley in 1960 – written a year or more before the apparent founding of the short-lived group in the USA.

Does this pattern indicate that Jonker lacks imagination or actual experience with “de facto” occultists, and has to rely on cherry-picking sources based in fiction and the names of biker clubs in order to provide convincing names and plots to build his conspiracy theories on?

In order to make sense of Jonker’s claims and his conspiracy theory, we need to take a closer look at the sources he relied upon to build his view of Satanist religion and his resulting conspiracy theory.
“Donker Jonker” & His Satanist “High Priests”:

Not much is known about the alleged “former Satanists” Jonker claims to use as his “sources” within South African Satanist religion. In a few places Jonker is quoted as implying that they are all either “in prison or dead” – which if viewed in a certain kind of light, can prove very convenient for someone to claim that their theories are based on statements made by people who are unavailable – and whose statements cannot be verified, confirmed or challenged in the first person.

Aside from a few vague references by Jonker in media statements and interviews, or some equally vague recordings of just some of these individuals, there is virtually nothing to prove that they even exist. Naturally it might be claimed that this is in order to “protect” such sources from possible revenge attacks.

**Dave Griesel, Debunked:**

Dave Griesel is a source Jonker refers to on occasion in reference to "Satanic high priests" (who are conveniently either in jail, or dead). Griesel today remains an enigma, one of many mysterious accusers employed by Jonker who cannot be confronted or called out on their accusations, exaggerations or false claims.

Griesel’s so-called testimony is to be found in several recordings dating from the early 1980’s. He is referenced as a source for Kobus Jonker’s information on the alleged existence of at least two Satanist groups in South Africa, including “the Order of Darkness” and “the Brotherhood of the Ram”, and also to 40 alleged “cell groups” around South Africa. Jonker referred to him as a “high priest”, a claim he himself seems to make.


In the recordings, Griesel claims that the “Order of Darkness” monitors all churches in South Africa, and record in which churches the dominee, priest or pastor smokes. This is simply beyond far-fetched.

To what end would Satanists – who by the definitions of the different religions under the umbrella term, are self-absorbed and more than typically atheistic – spy on Christian churches? Is this not a demonstration of the paranoia with which many Christians view outsider religions?

Even in the 1980’s, the sheer number of churches of all denominations in South Africa was staggering large – the resources to manage such an ambitious project would be a daunting prospect even by modern standards.
Griesel claimed in recorded interviews, that "rich people belong to the Order of Darkness" and then says "look at the deacons "ouderlinge" in your church – they make rich people deacons". So therefore, naturally, all rich people in a church belong to the Order of Darkness, or all rich deacons appointed in a church, are members of the Order of Darkness. This is quite a reach indeed. Naturally by this definition, charismatic super-churches like Rhema or Word of Faith must belong to Satan body and soul!

Griesel claims that he worked with Sybil Leek, who is described as “a South African Satanist and Top Witch". Yet, Leek was an English Witch (Wiccan, not a Satanist) and celebrated author and astrologer who emigrated to the USA later in life. She contributed to the Neo-Pagan movement up to the time of her death, just a year before his testimony in 1982. Leek is not known to have ever visited South Africa. Did Griesel travel to the USA to meet her there? Was there ever any correspondence between them?

Griesel also alleges that: “On the inside of crosses [pendants] the words "may this soul be bound by satan" will be imprinted, then cursed and then put in the market for sale.” Not only is this unlikely, since most pendants are cast or sometimes carved from solid materials – be they metal or other substances, but this reveals a high level of paranoia – perhaps even one indicating the possibility of a mental disorder.

How would someone prove such a claim? How would someone be expected to disprove it? Destroy the pendant by attempting to open it up in search of a hidden message?

He states that ‘The Book of Shadows’ is “Satan's sacred book” – which is possibly the origin of Jonker’s apparent inability to accept demystifying explanations from Pagans and Satanists alike to explain that a Book of Shadows is a private journal kept by Pagans concerning their own thoughts and experiences. A Book of Shadows is a Neo-Pagan and particularly Wiccan term which originated with Gerald Gardner, one of the founders of the Gardnerian Wiccan Tradition – again, not Satanism.

Griesel (or Griessel as some sources name him) has been used as a reference by numerous evangelicalist organizations and churches (especially warfare ministries) targeting Satanist religion. As an example of the “exaggerations” attributed to Griesel, this quote from a document by The Great Hope Ministries,

"Dave Griessel became the first South African Satanist priest in 1980. He claimed that there are more than 165,000 active Satanists in 40 cell groups across the country. Another Satanist, Phil Botha, confirmed these figures."
Satanic centers are primarily in Bloemfontein, Pretoria, Polokwane, Port Elizabeth, Queens Town, etc. The centers are especially in high school youth and school leavers, support (all underground, of course). The SAPS has established a special Task Force against Satanism was, to try to curb the underground operations of Satanists.” - From The Great Hope Ministries: http://www.thegreathopeministries.co.za/wederkoms.pdf

There are glaring flaws in this statement that “Griesel became the first South African Satanist priest in 1980”.

1) No mention of which organization he became a priest in is mentioned. If it were the claimed “Order of Darkness”, and there were indeed “165,000 active Satanists in 40 cell groups across the country” at the time, then why is there no outside reference to this Satanist group AT ALL, in ANY material in South Africa in the last 30 or more years since these claims were made?

If there are 40 cell groups of Satanists throughout South Africa, and “at least” 165,000 Satanists in South Africa, then surely that would mean that there are approximate 4125 Satanists in each of these 40 “cell groups”? Those are awfully large cell groups – especially if they are to operate in secret.

Even when one looks at virtually the only other known uses of “cell groups”, being that of Islamic terrorist “cells” (containing anything between 2 and 20 members) and Christian home-based fellowship meetings called “cell groups” (containing between 2 and any number of members) - and when one understands the kind of dynamics at play in any social group – least of all one in which leadership and secrecy are vital for the survival of the group, this claim is nothing short of ridiculous!

2) If there were so many “active Satanists” in South Africa in the 1980’s, then why are there NO outside references to promising or achieving South African Satanists in ANY Satanist literature? South Africans achieve in every single field, internationally – why not in Satanist religion?

3) If there are indeed so many Satanists in South Africa, and if there are indeed Satanist groups (cell groups as he claims), then why are there NO internet groups or websites for these or any mention of them in social networks? If they exist, and the SAPS know about them, why have they not been named? Why stick with the same old namesbeing
circulated by the ORC since the 1980’s? Are there no new ones? Aren’t young Satanists “going electronic”?

There are plenty of such groups linked to other places around the world, and Satanist religion is no longer illegal in South Africa, so if they exist, why should they hide? Do super-secret Satanists skin cats and slaughter chickens in public parks, and leave the evidence lying around to say “Beelzebub was here?” Do the authorities even SEE the glaring CONTRADICTIONS in their own arguments?

**CHALLENGE:** Why then, with “165,000 active Satanists in 40 cell groups around the country”, when local occultists attempted to find and establish contact with local Satanist groups or leaders of ANY kind in order to participate in this Project, using the channels available to them within the international occult community, were they unable to establish the EXISTENCE of even ONE such group in South Africa?

4) Griesel claims to have become the first “Satanic priest” in 1980. In Phil Botha’s claims (as quoted above by Jonker, and reviewed in the next part of this examination), Botha claims to have become involved in “Satanism” in 1951, rising to the rank of “High Priest” or “Magus” in 1958 or 1959, and according to correspondence with the author or marketer of the book, leaving Satanism in 1969, this claim has effectively been debunked simply by the association of these two sources as both being “credible”. When Botha became involved in a “Satanist” group in 1952, there must have been “Satanic priests” in South Africa already? How can a source be considered credible if it refutes claims by another source which is also considered credible? It is the feeling of the Project that neither Botha nor Griesel were ever really as involved in Satanist religion as they claimed, if at all.

5) If as claimed “these groups communicate internationally”, and even well-placed and influential authorities within Satanist religion in other countries are unaware of the existence of a SINGLE Satanist organization or affiliate group in South Africa, and of no more than a few serious individual Satanists here, then where do Griesel and Jonker get their information from? What happened to the alleged 120,000/165,000 “active Satanists” supposedly in South Africa during the last 35 years?

It is fairly obvious that the facts, figures and claims made by Jonker, based upon the testimony of Griesel/Griessel and others like him, are flimsy and relatively easy to break down into their incongruencies through the application of simple logic and fact.

While at least one Christian church website still features a link to his so-called testimony of salvation replete with his wild claims, there is this interesting anecdote about Mr Griesel (spelled as Griessel), debunked as a fraud within a Christian context, although possibly more
on the lines that he was “not really a Christian” in their own views than solely for his far-fetched and inventive claims.

“For example the so-called ‘evidence of Dave Griessel. He appeared in almost every church and his testimony in every church, the ‘former’ satan worshiper priest who repented, and then brought thousands of audio cassettes and videos of his testimony so that even those people who could not attend his service could listen to it again and again. It is in circulation even today, almost thirty years later.

He converted the first time, and brought his testimony of salvation, traveling from congregation to congregation, reverted, and again a few years later repented at another church, and again traveled from congregation to congregation to continue giving his testimony, backsliding and again. Later at a third church group, he again repented and continued until one day he was in a small town where he would give his testimony in the town hall. On that particular night, during the service, the Holy Spirit came to an old man, a great well-known child of God, giving him a gift of discerning of spirits. When Dave came to speak, the old man stood up and addressed him in words inspired by the Spirit:

"If you do not give honor tonight to my Jesus, you will not speak one single word."

Dave then turned and ran out of the town hall without saying one word.

The following week, Dave posted a section in the newspaper in which he said that he had never once converted, but that he used the Christian pulpit to glorify Satan.” – Translated from Opstandingskrag.co.za:

This little tale, while it cannot be actually verified in terms of accuracy, seems to be as much connected to reality as Griesel’s alleged “testimony”.

It is entirely likely that Kobus Jonker was taken for a ride by this and other crackpots, and took his initial ideas from "occult survivors" in the SRA sense, believing literally their every word because of his own religious mindset which appears to genuinely believe in the existence of a “Satanist conspiracy”. It probably never entered his thoughts that their testimony is all too likely compromised by religious hysteria and false-memory creation, or just plain old dishonesty – and that his evangelical/charismatic background made him susceptible to these stories.
Phil Botha, Debunked:

Phil Botha, is another of Jonker’s “sources” vying for the title of “former High Priest of Satan in South Africa”. Taken in comparison with Bill Schnoebelen’s claims, and with the number of outlandish, unlikely and blatantly crackpot claims made in his book and on his website, uncle Phil and uncle Bill are close contenders for the “crazy of the month” award.

Phil Botha (there are references to him changing his name from “Jan” in several places) first made the headlines in 1978, in an article published in the Huisgenoot magazine.

Translated from an article by Johannes de Villiers 16 April 2011 which refers to the original 1978 article:

"In 1978 the Potgieter faction was strengthened dramatically by the publication of a Huisgenoot article with dramatic photos and with the title "I was a priest of Satan". In the second paragraph at the beginning of this section of the topical article on Satanism, Durban-based Phil Botha said he was a Satanic priest for years, that there were 90 000 Satanists in the country and that they like to sacrifice cats.

Skeptics mistrusted Botha. Dominee E.A Gaum remarked in Die Kerkbode: "Surely it is not too much to ask why the so-called "satanic high priest" did not point out some, if not just one of the 90,000 members indicated?"
But it was too late. The Dutch Reformed, Reformed and other churches held symposia on Satanism and commissioned reports (sometimes with information supplied by Botha). In the absence of other evidence, the traces of Satanism were found in rock music, TV shows, karate, transcendental meditation and spiritism.

A whole genre of books appeared, discussing what allegedly happens at Satanist events. Evard Huisamen's "Forces of darkness: About Satanism in South Africa" (other books in: 1990), claimed 40 satanic churches in the country that sacrifice five people each year alone.

An excerpt reads: "After the ritual, the remains are burned. Satanists have contacts at the various crematoriums in our country... This way Satanists make it virtually impossible for the police to follow up any leads!" – From Rapport "Where are all the Satanists?" by Johannes de Villiers:

http://www.rapport.co.za/Weekliks/Nuus/Waar-is-al-die-sataniste-20110416

Note the reference to crematoria being used by Satanists, supposedly to destroy evidence, indicating the thought that there is a “Satanist conspiracy” at work. This of course, is so that the world would be none the wiser that there were "90 000" Satanists in South Africa, “murdering 5 people a year” (and undoubtedly LOTS of cats). Naturally, the piles of skinned cats found lying on people’s doorsteps recently, are an indicator that the deals with the crematoria had fallen through (or gone up in smoke) or perhaps the “Satanists” are just getting careless and letting things slip, exposing fringes of the great conspiracy at work in South Africa – sarcasm intended.

Born in 1934 (deceased in 1997), Botha would have turned 18 (and been initiated into his alleged “Sanctuary of the Great Light” in the early1950’s) and if he were still alive today, would be 79 years old.

According to correspondence with “Francis B”, the person marketing the life story of Phil Botha,

"Phil Botha was recruited in 1951 days after his eighteenth birthday"

"He attained Magus Thor’rauna high priest around 1958, but he was only allowed to officiate his first Voodoo ceremony unaided in Feb 1959."

"He was saved 1st April 1969"
Kobus Jonker refers to him as a reliable source by means of a reference to his supposedly confirming the figures and “facts” given by his other source, Dave Griesel:

“Dave Griessel became the first South African Satanist priest in 1980. He claimed that there are more than 165,000 active Satanists in 40 cell groups across the country. Another Satanist, Phil Botha, confirmed these figures.”


It seems that since he died in 1997, and his website is being managed by someone else, presumably “Francis B”. The website (http://www.magus.org.uk/) exists to promote his biography, in which he supposedly tells his tale to a friend – presumably the marketer of the book – of deliverance from Satanism, to become a re-born Christian (readable here on Google Books - http://books.google.co.za/books/about/Magus_Thor_Rauna_High_Priest_of_Satan_in.html?id=-Pvh5tNWJuAC&redir_esc=y).

Botha’s story is however laced with inconsistencies, errors and flaws in his claims about Satanism which reveal that he did not know enough about Satanism to ever qualify as a “High Priest” in Satanism. Further, Francis B, whoever he is, is even less knowledgeable about Satanism and bases his understanding entirely on Botha’s recollections.

Jonker’s relationship with Botha is also unclear. Since no claims that Botha had been arrested for any crimes supposedly connected to “the occult” can be found, did Jonker ever consult with Botha before his death in 1997? Had the two ever met or spoken or corresponded? Had Jonker ever taken the trouble to verify any of Botha’s claims or his authenticity as a so-called “occult survivor”? How would we know? Is there any independent source to confirm the story as supposedly recounted to the author, such as accessible audio recordings etc? Or did Jonker simply make use of information provided by Botha in this book (or material that was later made into the 145 page book)?

Problems with Botha’s claims:

1) He states: “No other Magus has escaped alive since the formation of modern Satanism in 1735 by a well known French bishop.”

- Modern Satanism only came into existence in 1966 with the establishment of the Church of Satan in the USA. Not earlier. This is a historical fact agreed upon by modern academics and from within the modern Satanist religion itself. For that reason it is questionable whether Botha could have become initiated into
2) Botha repeatedly refers to himself as “Magus Thor’Rauna, High Priest of Satan”. He uses the title “Magus” as he describes it, to convey the idea that he was the leader of the entire “Satanist underground” as it were, and that his names would be known to all high-level Satanists, since they would all belong to the same hierarchy in one form or another.

- In most large and organized Satanist religions, the head of the religion itself is referred to as “High Priest”, for example in the Church of Satan. Peter H. Gilmore, the current High Priest of the Church of Satan and successor to Anton Szandor LaVey (former High Priest of the Church of Satan), is sometimes referred to as “Magus Peter H. Gilmore”. His rank is not “Magus”, and it does not identify him as a leader of ALL Satanists. It is simply put, a form of address given out of respect for his achievements, and the position he holds WITHIN the Church of Satan.
- “Magus” is not an interchangeable term to describe the status of High Priest, and least of all as a rank to describe the high Poobah of “ALL Satanists”. Nor do the leaders of all groups within Satanist religion necessarily all correspond, or know each other – they are after all, independent from each other.
- The fact that Botha seems to display a failure to grasp this, using “Magus” to describe his claimed RANK and position in “Satanism” as if Satanism in his mind were one homogenous movement, should be viewed as evidence that he lacked knowledge of his claimed subject, save enough to impress his would-be fans among his impressionable neighbors, one of whom took it upon himself to record his musings and try to achieve fame and fortune by publishing it as a book. In short, whatever Phil Botha was a “Magus” of, it probably wasn’t Satanism. But he sure could spin a good yarn.

3) His biography is billed on Google Books as “Irrefutably the most riveting extraordinary and miraculous biography of the only Satanic High Priest in history to escape, receive Christ and boldly preach out against Satanism.” But... wait – what about Dave Griel? Didn’t he also “escape, receive Christ (three times apparently, depending on which story you read) and boldly go to preach out against Satanism?"

4) According to a synopsis of his book: “He discovers why the first three initiations in Satanism are exactly the same taken by all witches, Freemasons and professional magicians, only after he is placed in a coffin, carried into a field and is unceremoniously and literally buried alive!” – From A Wanderer’s Blog (October 15, 2007):  
http://wanderersweblog.blogspot.com/2007/10/synopsis-of-life-of-phil-
So Witches, Satanists, Freemasons and professional magicians are buried alive as part of their initiation ceremony? Really? Has anyone told them about this?

5) On the same “Wanderers blog”, the promoter, here going by the name of “Marius” adds to the mystique of his apparent mentor by saying: “One specific instance which I know about was when 3 Professors of the University of Stellenbosch, Proff. MW + BM + CF at various places and times during 1981-1990 witnessed his demonstration of time travel. These Professors were apparently convinced because I am in possession of a transcript of a taped conversation between Phil and them.” – A transcript of a recorded conversation without the recorded conversation is proof of, wait – nothing. In short, it might as well be fiction, and probably is.

6) In his book, Botha makes claims that he used to “teleport” all over the planet. (While he was a Satanist of course, so presumably they took away his teleportation permit when he got “saved”).

“Seemingly fictitious to most readers, Phil teleports to many countries in northern Africa, the Middle East and other locations to study under the five ageing masters of the Ancient Babylonian Mysteries. This knowledge is and always will be passed on verbally in secret chambers as nothing is ever written or recorded. This prevents all human error and efforts to burn, expose, lose or destroy any of the original sayings and teachings articulately memorized and passed down from the first five priests of Nimrod!

Grasped by fear and intrigue he is exposed to prophecy being fulfilled by Satanism, for Jesus Himself predicted for the days of His Second Coming. The same reason forced God to initiate the flood in Noah's days. Fallen angelic beings fathering half human and half demonic off-spring in a hope to foil a sinless Messiah born of a pure lineage blood line of humans.” – From the Wanderers Weblog:

Yet there is no proof. No matter how the author and his agent and supporters insist on the truth of these claims, there is still not one single shred of proof to support any of this. Despite the existence of contemporary photographic, video or filming equipment, there are NO recordings of such events. Not even so much as two photos of uncle Phil standing beside two landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower or the Great Wall of China minutes apart – or even at the same moment, seeing as he also claims he had the ability to time travel. This sounds like a fairly good piece of 1970’s fantasy. The movie might actually break even if they can get the effects just right.
7) Whoever is running Botha’s site seems to have been keen to try and find at least some proof that the old man wasn’t ripping him off. According to the site, newspaper reporters were “immediately on hand” when Phil plunged to an uncertain death – and yet it seems nobody saw anything and nothing ever turned up in the papers, or years later on YouTube or any other social media site. The site is offering a whopping R1000.00 for anyone who can confirm seeing Phil Botha falling from a 13th floor balcony – and miraculously walking away as if nothing happened. Since the offer is still up, we should assume nobody saw it, or perhaps nobody saw it for that amount.

8) “ATTENTION: All members of the Church of Satan USA
Did you know that your former so called high priest of Satan (Anton LaVey) never levitated once in his entire life. I did that when I was 13 years of age practicing Yoga in the second month. LaVey never astral projected once either, nor did he ever attend a single Satanic ritual, ceremony or Satanic Temple as long as he lived – because he was never a high priest of Satan.” – Anton LaVey was not known for his levitation or astral projecting skills. LaVey was an Atheistic Satanist, founder of the Church of Satan, who presided over numerous rituals and ceremonies in his capacity as High Priest of the Church of Satan. LaVeyan Satanists are atheistic and do not have a belief in deities or magic other than as a ritual means to focus on goal-fulfillment. Is Botha suggesting that in order for someone to qualify as a High Priest of Satan, they should prove that they can levitate or astral project? Perhaps if LaVey wanted to levitate or astral project, he should have tried Yoga? If he failed to levitate within the allotted 2 months, would he be disqualified?

9) “Minutes later and ironically on the 1st April he accepted the Lord Jesus as his own personal Savior…” – Ironic indeed.

10) Even more incredibly Phil claims: “Incubi and Secubi still have intercourse with humans and after a normal nine month period, prostitutes in Satanism give birth to zombies. If any of these ‘Infants’ are born with hoofed or webbed feet, snubs, bat-like tails, wings or grotesque facial features that would alarm the public - they are immediately dropped in huge vats of acid to remove all evidence of any demonic off-spring and traces of Satanism. However the ‘normal’ survivors are only answerable to and used by priests to bring traitors back for punishment. Zombies feel no pain, emotion, conviction, cannot be saved and most live until 18 years of age, living in safe houses on the outskirts of Johannesburg.” – Commentary about these bizarre claims might stray into the scope of remarks that bats do not have tails, and questions about how effective acid might be in removing “traces of Satanism” and may lead to articles entitled: “Satanism: The Acid Test” – and is perhaps best skipped.

A possible explanation for these claims by Botha might be found in a later paragraph which states: “In his final year as Magus, terminally ill,
dependent on daily doses of illegal drugs, alcohol, the inevitable heart attack and a daily injection for his diabetes, he withdraws to a small hotel in Amanzimtoti.” – Perhaps with a story as wild as this one, it is inevitable that “alcohol” and “illegal drugs” had to come into it somewhere.

Botha makes claims which create the impression that all Satanists everywhere fall under one central hierarchy, and all believing in the same brand of Satanism, when in truth there is no such thing. As it turns out, there are many different groups of Satanism around the world – and as a matter of fact they are wholly independent of each other, and some even view each other adverserially.

“Francis B”, the person managing Botha’s legacy of tall tales claims to have written to Peter H. Gilmore, the present head of the Church of Satan in the USA, asking questions as Phil Botha, also using “Magus” in his email address – which apparently (according to Botha) all Satanists would fear and acknowledge – but Gilmore didn’t, so he concludes that “Gilmore is fake”.

Setting up your victims by claiming in advance that those who don’t know your fancy made-up titles are “fakers”, is the hallmark of a scam artist.

In his letter, the individual managing the late Mr Botha’s website and publishing his book, assumed the name “Phil Botha”, and wrote to the High Priest of the Church of Satan in the USA:

"Dear High Priest Mr. Gilmore,

Forgive me for the errors, but I’ve never written to a High Priest Magus before and have no idea how to address you. Please would you assist me as to what exactly is transmigration and where does it fit in, in Satanism?

A dear friend of mine said he had transmigrated and said he was deep into Satanic ‘worship’ Is this true? Knowing you are a High Priest I decided to ask you and not get second hand rumors or sensationalism, if you know what I mean? Thank you so much for your help and time.

Faithfully,

Phil Botha"
The reply from the Church of Satan:

"Dear Phil Botha,

There is no such thing as transmigration in Satanism, and Satanists do not call what they do ‘Satanic Worship’. Sounds like you met a phony. We think that you'll find the answers to your questions in the essay to be found on the Theory/Practice page our official website entitled "Satanism The Feared Religion."

Also, the other essays to be found in that section will assist you in exploring our philosophy, and once you've finished with those, the Sources page lists books that you may order should you wish to continue to deepen your grasp of our philosophy and practices.

Sincerely,
Administration
Church of Satan"

Referenced from: http://www.magus.org.uk/article8.html

NOTE: Instead of questioning the 145 page-long conspiracy theory he is promoting as fact, he describes his correspondence with the Church of Satan as “Proof that the Church of Satan is run by novices & con-artists” in a page-long rant on his website dedicated to Phil Botha. It doesn't seem to occur to him at all that Botha might have made all this up.

In response to an email asking the promoter of Botha’s book about his correspondence with the Church of Satan, “Francis B” said:

“Yes, I wanted to prove a point to everyone in the Church of Satan in the States and wake the thousands of gullible Americans about the biggest con artist ever Anton LeVey.

That’s why I sent an email to the high priest and his answer said more than a thousand words."

"...I think you misunderstood the email to the Church of Satan – it wasn’t disappointing at all. In fact the reason I wrote it was because I knew they wouldn’t be able to answer the question correctly and THAT would show all other members of the USA church, just how false they really are.

When I am asked to interview or confront Christian ‘wanna bes’ in Satanism, Transmigration is one of the questions Phil and I
used to ask these people before they had a chance to get to the pulpit and spread their lies.

And no I haven’t bothered to contact any other ‘Satanist’ organizations, because wherever they are, they are 100% false. The left hand Path (as they prefer to call themselves) have very strict rules and instructions to follow and one of them is NO EVIDENCE whatsoever – for the public to trace or track them.

That is why there isn’t a single bona fide Satanist group or ‘church’ On Line as their spirit guides wouldn’t allow them the chance of sharing ANYTHING with the outside public pertaining to their ceremonies.

It is NOT a game and the wanna be Satanists (like the current foolish court case where common coloured bored young people set that poor girl alight and tried to blame it on Satanism). None of them would ever have been allowed into the temples let alone join.

You see in Satanism, you don’t sit round idle and watch ten or twenty movies from Hollywood depicting silly Roman Catholics with holy water trying to exorcise demons and suddenly you get an idea “..OK that’s cool I want to join Satanism.”

No one voluntarily decides out of their own free will to join Satanism because they WON’T KNOW where they hold their meetings firstly. 96% of the people who get recruited are chosen by the enemy (people call the devil) by the age of ten years BUT. . . . no one under 18 years can attend, be invited, become a member or get initiated till they are 18 years of age.” – Francis B.

This conversation reads like something out of a Dan Brown novel... Can you spell “paranoid”? Of course there’s no evidence – because “they” cover it all up! “Of course ‘they’ didn’t know what I was talking about, because uncle Phil and I made it all up!”

Sorry to break it to you “Francis B”, but there are a great many very real Satanists who delve very deep into ritual, practice and learning, some of them who even have groups in real life – and some of them even have an online presence. “Massive-scale” conspiracies could not exist today without the internet.

**CHALLENGE:** Claiming that none of the “real” Satanist groups have an online presence at all, and cannot be found unless they want to be found, is simply just another way to try to circumvent being debunked. After all, how can something be refuted or proved to exist (or not exist) if it cannot be contacted or verified? That way the con artist can claim even if evidence for their purported scheme cannot be located, that
they are still out there, watching, waiting etc. It’s an almost perfect con, but still a con.

The attempt by Francis B to verify Phil Botha’s claims provides glaring proof of the problems facing those who build conspiracy theories around the claims of people who never provided ANY actual proof of their own claims – other than their own statements, and who have subsequently died. It places any such claims and theories on uncertain ground and SHOULD in the mind of any serious researcher – or police investigator – that a source who cannot be questioned, proven or verified, cannot be simply taken at face value and then just pointed at as “confirmation” of anything.


In another a lengthy article about Phil Botha, in which the (again unnamed) author attempts to explain another book by Phil Botha detailing a vast conspiracy, he demonstrates his own and Botha’s clear misunderstanding typical of Christian evangelicals – that ALL forms of witchcraft, Paganism, magic (both black and white), paranormal events such as hauntings, ghosts, poltergeists, telekinesis etc – up to and including faith healing, are signs of “Satanism”!

"He proceeded to boast how he used white magic to create enough money to buy the items, then merely reversing the spell - making the money disappear."

Were this sort of nonsense ever true as claimed, then why are there so many poor Pagans and Witches who often cannot even afford rent? Why does the Pagan religious movement struggle to put up places of worship in the form of brick and stone temples in South Africa? Where are the Pagan schools for the Pagan children? Where are all the rich “white witches” to sponsor the building of such places? This claim is debunked by its own glaring lack of evidence and provability.

"The authentic members of Satan who are witches obviously never divulge their status or craft to any outsider but their homes are always decorated in the same fashion, as their spirit-guides are drawn by certain occult symbols, creations and books of their Master. These people often place curses on their own family members and literally summon spirit beings to cause havoc, bodily harm and destruction upon any who dare to confront or ‘burn’ them."

These claims are of the order of the sort of malicious rubbish used by people to those they despise for personal reasons, of being “witches” and causing “harm” to others – and getting them killed.

“Their houses are normally cluttered with new-age magazines, burning incense, Hindu deities statues of Buddha (an instrument
that demons draw power from), the five pointed star, the eight pointed star and the crucifix.(displayed in their to homes only to mislead backslidden Christians and gullible Roman Catholic members who have no idea where the crucifix originally comes from). Also many posters or photos of Shiva, Krishna or Brahmin and a table with assorted dolls, tarot cards, a copy of the Koran and the Bible."

Here the hostile and intolerant intent of the evangelicalist movement betrays itself – the hostile maligning of other religions and beliefs – including those of other Christian sects.

The only way anyone can accept any of the things in Botha's books as true, is if the reader buys into the evangelicalist views of Christianity, or into the belief that Christianity itself is correct and true, and everyone else is entirely wrong and does not have any place in the world.

Yet despite the obvious lack of credibility of this man, Kobus Jonker has used him as an apparently credible source of information, to paint a damming picture of at least one religion given legal protection along with all other religions in South Africa.

How Has This Information Been Used?

Over the years, Jonker used the claims of people claiming to have been Satanists (naturally according to the classic SRA pattern, those who claim to be Satanism "survivors" are always High Priests, (and apparently Magii) and never ordinary common or garden variety Satanists) in an attempt to build up a personal conspiracy theory which both built up his image, reputation and credibility as "God's Detective" rather than as just another wannabe "ghost-buster".

Griesel and Botha are quoted and referenced through Jonker's work, and Jonker is interviewed and consulted frequently even today as a "reliable expert" by newspaper and TV journalists – almost always overriding the objections of those he tars and feathers with his conspiracy theory which is built upon nothing more than the fantasies of people like Griesel and Botha.

Furthermore, his statements are used and picked up on by other evangelicals and re-used on the basis of Jonker's alleged "expertise" and reputation as a "Satanist/Witch-hunter".

"Satan's disciples seek their victims in the occult. The victim is usually an uninformed, defenseless individual encouraged to perform tasks until he / she will also be accepted in the order. Jonker says there are four types of Satanists:

Satanic families: Those born in the "bloodline" of Satanists. "Sixth-generation satanists" have occurred in South Africa.
Organized / Religious Satanists: Those belong to an order of Anton LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan. They worship Satan and reject God.

Freestyle Satanism: Those do their own thing and follow their own "laws".

Experimentalists: Usually young people who seek attention and power. This can lead to Satan worship. (Source: Servamus, Drugs & Occult related crime, special community edition November 1998 - March 2000)


In this article Jonker is also credited with listing “Sons of Satan”, “Brotherhood of (the) Ram” (the ‘Satanist mafia’), “Order of Darkness” as “dangerous Satanist groups”. Of special note, in this particular instance, he does not mention “The Scorpions”.

LaVeyan Satanists do not “worship Satan”. Broadly speaking, LaVeyans are atheists who elevate the self to the position of godhood, using the imagery of Satan as an icon if you will for the self. They do not “worship” Satan, they equate the power of a “God” with the power each person has over their own life and personal development. This statement by Jonker is an oversimplification he makes, expecting the average journalist or reader or audience to comprehend the inner workings of the Atheistic Satanist paradigm. No – the average audience Jonker appeals to will simply accept such as statement at face value, and in most cases will always have this statement in mind whenever someone tries to correct them, as though it is some sort of perverse trick or test of their faith to see if they will fall for it.

The relevance of “sixth generation Satanists” is elusive, particularly if we take into account that most Christians today have been raised in Christian families going back even longer, right back to the times when their Pagan ancestors converted to Christianity, and began persecuting non-Christians. Considering the potential for destructiveness and harm inherent to many teachings of Christianity, especially in the hands of fundamentalist extremists, why is THIS not viewed as threatening?

These allegations (full of half-truths and outright falsehoods) perpetuated by Jonker and those using his material, result in the perpetuation of his fallacies in items posted by “warfare ministries” in documents like the one quoted below:

"In South Africa there are several active Satanist groups, but none are officially registered in the country. The Satanic Bible of Anton LaVey is used as manual by most of them (1) and their activities correspond with those of the Satanist groups in America and Europe. (2)"
Some of the best-known Satanist groups in South Africa are the Brotherhood of Ram, the Order of Darkness, the Sons of Satan and the Scorpions. There are also several smaller branches of these groups and of foreign groups that are active in the country, like groups of Gothic Satanists.

Satanism as such is not illegal in South Africa, but some activities that are related to Black Magic are against the law. Animal and even human sacrifices, damage to property, grave desecration and murders or suicides that were allegedly Satanist inspired from time to time cause headlines in the media. However, because there are no Satanist groups registered in the country, these crimes cannot be attributed to Religious Satanism.


1) “The Satanic Bible of Anton LaVey is used as manual by most of them”

The Satanic Bible is not the anti-thesis of the Christian Bible, used by all Christian sects, whether modified or unmodified. It is one book produced for Atheistic or LaVeyan Satanists alone. Neither is it purported by the Church of Satan to be a manual or blueprint of Satanism, or even “the word of Satan” and it is certainly not “used by most Satanists”.

2) “…their activities correspond with those of the Satanist groups in America and Europe.”

Groups identifying as Satanist in those countries practice openly, are free to identify openly as Satanist, and the majority are law-abiding and oppose violence and the majority of things Jonker and other SRA propagandists accuse them of.

**CHALLENGE:** If the activities of local Satanists “correspond with those of Satanist groups in America and Europe”, then HOW do Jonker and Lamprecht justify their statements in other articles that claim Satanism in South Africa is DIFFERENT to these places, being allegedly focused on CRIME?

3) "Some of the best-known Satanist groups in South Africa are the Brotherhood of Ram, the Order of Darkness, the Sons of Satan and the Scorpions."

There is no record mentioning any of these groups being specifically Satanist groups, and as ever being active in South Africa, or currently existing, and with the exception of the Brotherhood of the Ram, ever having existed – other than as claimed by Jonker, based upon Dave Griesels dubious testimony.

**CLARIFICATION:** So if there were registered Satanist groups in South Africa, as this article by an evangelicalist warfare ministry points out, these alleged crimes would be blamed on them automatically – would this not proceed pretty much in the same fashion as they are currently?
Currently there is a massive up-swing of SRA hysteria in South Africa, and the material promoted and built up by Jonker forms the foundation of it. It is used as doctrine by the reformed Occult Religious Crimes unit, in its operation and training as well as in the selection process of its members.

**NOTE:** When propagandising that Satanists are all “dangerous” and violent, synonymous with criminality etc, they make no distinction in type of Satanism – but at the same time they also claim that the majority of Satanists in SA are LaVeyan, atheistic, conduct themselves like the law-abiding Satanists in the USA - and are not really their focus. How can they not see the paradox?

Jonker’s material has law-enforcement chasing ghosts – literally, and not of the supernatural kind at all – it has police officials squandering tax money in working to connect mundane crimes with mythical “Satanism” by using dates in fictitious “occult calendars” and fictitious groups of Satanists which do not and never have existed. It works on the suppositions that Jonker’s material and claims are factual, and that there are 165,00 or more “Satanists” in South Africa, and looks at ways of destroying them in one way or another, either by converting them, or pressuring them in other ways by using the law to harass them.

Either Jonker has it all wrong, and there is no conspiracy – or the real conspiracy here is misdirection: the misdirection of attention and state resources away from the real culprits of criminal acts in South Africa – and placing it on “the devil”, in the form of the alternative subcultures and religions of non-Christians.

**Where Have All Jonker’s "165,000" South African Satanists Gone?**

Jonker and the SA police have claimed since about 1982, that there were 120,000-165,000 Satanists in SA. If one were to add to that number to account for the time passed since 1982 and the expected growth of such a large number, one would today expect South Africa to be “over-run” with “Satanists”. Perhaps it is little wonder those who believe Jonker and his sources (Phil Botha and Dave Griesel) are so paranoid and convinced there is a conspiracy of Satanists behind the scenes, or even hiding behind their rose bushes.

To prove a point, this Project searched the internet for any local Satanists we could find and sent them requests for information about local Satanist groups, specifically of the sort mentioned by Jonker. (Requests for information were conveyed to these individuals directly and not posted openly on any message boards, forums or groups, and responses were received in the same manner as replies, making any cross-communication between recipients/respondents extremely unlikely.)

Their responses are included below:
#1: "When I converted to Satanism I did research very seriously for any other Satanists and especially groups within SA and didn't find any groups. The individual Satanists I found on Facebook." – Garrett.

#2: "Haven't heard of any groups... But then I don't go around looking for any. I don't need other people in order to practice my beliefs, so I don't waste the time looking for them." – Logan.

#3: "I have been a practicing Satanist for over a decade, and have encountered solitary individual Satanists of all kinds, but never a Satanist group in my area or being based in South Africa, and never a group called Sons of Satan, Order of Darkness, Brotherhood of the Ram, or the Scorpions" – Master Ciege.

#4: "I have been in search of Satanist groups in my surrounding towns for 6 months now, if not longer, and have not found any in South Africa." – Lee-ann.

#5: "I have read of these groups in newspaper articles, but never heard of them among others of my faith. I have been an Atheistic Satanist for 2 years. I don't believe they exist." – Clemente

#6: “The BOR had my attention until I saw kids flapping around with their tag claiming to be leaders in it. When something gets used in a roleplaying chat zone, you realise that everything about it is bollocks. The only place the BOR exists is in pen scribble art on the inside cover of some angry teenagers maths text book." – Shade.

We also found a collection of South Africans on Meetup.com, a well-known international social networking site which connects people by interest, asking about meetings and groups for Satanists in specific towns and cities across South Africa. Under the category “Satanism” we found the following:

In Pretoria there were 43 enquiries about Satanist groups or meetings. (This does not indicate that ALL those making the enquiries were actual Satanists, though most stated that they were.)

http://satanism.meetup.com/members/za/pretoria/

In Bloemfontein, a supposed “hot-spot” for “Satanist activity” according to Jonker and the SAPS, 3 enquiries about Satanist groups or meetings. (This does not indicate that ALL those making the enquiries were actual Satanists)

http://satanism.meetup.com/members/za/bloemfontein/

In Pietermaritzburg, a supposed “hot-spot” for “Satanist activity” according to Jonker and the SAPS, 3 enquiries about Satanist groups or meetings. (This does not indicate that ALL those making the enquiries were actual Satanists)
In Benoni, another supposed “hot-spot” for “Satanist activity” according to Jonker and the SAPS, 46 enquiries about Satanist groups or meetings. (This does not indicate that ALL those making the enquiries were actual Satanists) ALSO, most of these are the SAME people who enquired about meetings or groups in Pretoria since Benoni and Pretoria are in very close proximity to each other.

In Cape Town, another supposed “hot-spot” for “Satanist activity” according to Jonker and the SAPS, 42 enquiries about Satanist groups or meetings. (This does not indicate that ALL those making the enquiries were actual Satanists).

In East London and Port Elizabeth, two other centers FREQUENTLY targeted as “hot-spots” for “Satanist activity” according to Jonker and the SAPS over the past almost 30 years. Strangely enough, there were ZERO enquiries about Satanist groups or meetings for this area.

Less than 200 enquiries about Satanist meetings or groups in the supposed “hot-spots” for “Satanism” in South Africa since 2008 (with some of these registering ZERO) – plus no actual meetings listed, or any sign that any kind of interaction happened anywhere in South Africa. Additionally, a modest number of the posters did not state that they were Satanists, but stated that they were “curious” about Satanism or other occult paths, with a very few stating that they were really just “looking for sexual encounters”.

Similar results were found for other areas listed, with the same general core of inquirers listed in all the towns and cities in their general surrounds, and with many others having between zero and 3.

These numbers are a VERY far cry from the kind of activity claimed by the SAPS ORC unit in its hysterical statements and propaganda about “Satanism”.

However, since it is likely that not EVERY Satanist would know about Meetup.com, or even care to be listed on it, we decided to keep looking.

Looking Elsewhere:

Since we could also not find any formal local Satanist organizations, we also approached various international groups for information about the existence of any:

The Satanic International Network.com – (http://www.satanicinternationalnetwork.com/), a US-based Satanist
networking group with **4835 members** registered from various different backgrounds and branches of Satanist religion, located in countries all over the world, including the USA, New Zealand, Sweden, the UK, and Germany. It’s rather funny **they do not have a single member from South Africa. NOT ONE.**

Naturally, it is quite reasonable to think that anyone can set up a website these days for whatever interest, but also it is reasonable to expect that not everyone from a particular region would be aware of it, drawn to it, nor would every particular region or country necessarily be represented on it.

Conversely, it is also quite reasonable to expect to find non-members and non-participants in those groups who would nevertheless be aware of those groups even if they do not participate in them.

Diane Vera, an internationally renowned American authority on Satanism within the Satanist community and respected among diverse Satanists, has maintained an information resource website about Satanism since 1996, and offers presentations on Satanism AS a Satanist. She was only able to provide us with contact details for **ONE** individual based in South Africa who had contacted her for more information about Satanism over the years.

However, as Jonker and Lamprecht both assert: “Satanism has become electronic” and moved into cyberspace – then it should be reasonable to expect to see **some** sort of evidence that real South African Satanists have a visible presence online and exist somewhere other than solely in the claims made by these men.

In order to provide some definite numbers, this Project contacted the Church of Satan. The CoS responded by saying:

> “The High Priest will not reveal any information regarding memberships, and it has been the CoS policy since its foundation.”

**CHALLENGE:** In correspondence with The Church of Satan, they confirmed that they do not release any information about membership numbers. Since neither we nor any other entity, including presumably the SAPS could obtain such membership figures for Satanists in South Africa from the Church of Satan, how can they make claims in terms of numbers – and if these are estimates, “ball-park figures” – in other words, “shots in the dark” – on WHAT do they base these estimates? The word of people like Dave Griesel and Phil Botha?

There have also been claims made by “occult experts” that there is a “Church of Satan in South Africa”. From all accounts, this is supposed to be a theistic sort of Satanism, and not similar to ‘THE’ Church of Satan in the USA. From what these so-called “experts” are saying, this is nothing more than a few lunatic fringe “tabloid prophecy fulfilling” or legend tripping groups being labelled “the Church of Satan” in the same loose sense that all Christian churches are labelled “the Church”, while completely disregarding the fact that
none of these may actually be affiliated with each other or to any actual formal body calling itself The Church of Satan.

On 31 May 2013, SAFM featured a debate on Satanism and crime called "What is Satanism?" - you can find the link to the debate here: SAFM podcast link (31 May What is Satanism?). SAFM facilitated the debate between a Satanist under the pseudonym of “Eric”, Hennie De Jager of the SAPS ORC, and Adele Neveling, a claimed “occult survivor”. “Eric” had also been interviewed on the SABC TV news a few days earlier in a case regarding the family murders committed by a 14 year old boy.

In both interviews, “Eric” claimed to be a High Priest at the head of the “Church of Satan in South Africa”. As the debate raged, there was heavy criticism from members of the public, some of whom went to the lengths of contacting the Church of Satan to verify “Eric”’s claimed position within their hierarchy, or whether there was any branch of the CoS active in South Africa. According to a reply to one inquiry, made by journalist Michael Coetzee, which reached this Project on June 04, 2013:

"As our web site (www.churchofsatan.com) clearly explains, we do not have branches, so there is no possibility for anyone to be the "head" of the Church of Satan in any nation. We have one High Priest (Magus Peter H. Gilmore), and everything is run from our Central Office. While we have members in just about every nation on the globe, we do not have subsidiary offices that anyone could "head."

So, that "Eric" person was committing fraud when claiming affiliation as well as being in a position to represent the Church of Satan. Far too many journalists these days seem so very lazy when it comes to fact checking. Our organization can easily be contacted via email, as you have done, to verify any claimant towards representing us.

Sincerely,

Priestess Serena Malone

Administrator

Church of Satan"

So if there is no “Church of Satan” subsidiary group in South Africa, what is the truth behind the claim by “Eric” as backed by Adele Neveling and De Jager who also refer to “the Church of Satan” as being part of an organized conspiracy of “harmful religious practices”? Where is the proof that there is any kind of organized religious Satanist movement in South Africa, aside from scant evidence that there are deluded individuals who fit perfectly the profile of legend tripping and not actual Satanist religion?

CLARIFICATION: If the ORC asserts that they believe there are 650,000 Satanists in South Africa, and that most of them may be LaVeyan Satanists,
and the Church of Satan (which represents LaVeyan Satanists) will NOT divulge how many members it has or has had in South Africa, then how can an UNKNOWN number be such a “majority” in such a disproportionately large estimate dating back to at least 1982? This does not make sense, and the logical conclusion is that Jonker and his associates do not really have an inkling of the situation in South Africa and have exaggerated their estimates considerably, using these exaggerations and the LACK of CONTRADICTORY information to build their conspiracy theory around it.

To give an idea of the extent which South African Satanists, having “become electronic” as Dr Lamprecht put it, are active online, we looked at Facebook as a global social networking platform. We decided to find out how many users has Facebook:

"1.01 billion — September 2012.

1.06 billion — December 2012.


“There’s a Facebook account for one out of every seven people on planet earth. The social networking site has topped 1 billion users, the company said in a blog post today. Even adjusting for fake accounts, this is a staggering number. It means that nearly half of the people in the world with access to the internet are using Facebook”. – Forbes.com: http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidthier/2012/10/04/facebook-has-a-billion-users-and-a-revenue-question/

Internationally, Facebook reached 1 billion users by April to September 2012, exceeding 1.5 billion by December 2012, but on the Facebook page dedicated to Satanism as a religious identity or interest group, there are only 367,093 ‘likes’ worldwide for this page as of 29 April 2013. Even if these were fake accounts belonging to other users who didn’t ‘like’ the page because they were afraid to be targeted on the basis of their religion, this number still represents a literal drop in the bucket in terms of the world’s population using the platform.

As a matter of interest, we looked at a group on Facebook billing itself as “The Church of Satan in South Africa” (https://www.facebook.com/groups/177817332375095/?ref=ts&fref=ts) although no formal connection with the actual Church of Satan can be established. As of 29 April 2013, its membership stood at a whopping 138 members out of 1 billion (or if we refer to Jonker’s figure – out of 650,000). So, clearly, either a massive hidden Satanist conspiracy is afoot, or Dr Jonker and Dr Lamprecht have purposely misled the public.

**CHALLENGE:** This glaring discrepancy in terms of proof in the claims made by these so-called “experts” has got to be highlighted and focused on. It is of
paramount importance for the preservation and progress of human rights and equal rights for all in South Africa, and the prevention of unnecessary panic, fear and hysteria.

Before the days of the internet, it was easier for people to claim fantastic figures and facts and maintain a desired illusion, because there was simply no way for their facts and figures to be verified or disproved – but now with the internet being accessible, and with groups such as Satanist churches and other groups being far more visible and even contactable for references and clarification – it is far more difficult for them to lie about numbers and facts without having these lies exposed.

**Conclusion:**

The fact remains, the majority of members of the Church of Satan and other organized Satanic groups tend to be law-abiding, and have gone so far as breaking their own self-imposed anonymity and silence in order to condemn hysterical media and law enforcement commentary on so-called “Satanic” crime on numerous occasions. If you expect conspiracy and believe that Satanists, Pagans and other occultists secretly engage in criminal acts, then the burden of proof is really on you.

**CLARIFICATION:** The absence of any such proof should raise questions about the validity of the theory, or if the theory remains persistently promoted despite the lack of supporting evidence – the motives of those who promote the theory.

Researching into Kobus Jonker’s mention of various purported "Satanic orders" in South Africa, there is nothing at all – no single mention of even one real Satanic group in South Africa which posed or poses the kind of threats he credited them with, or which even existed. Jonker only ever focused on these thumb-sucked imaginary orders handed to him by so-called 'informants', like Dave Griesel – a man who is not viewed with credibility even among other evangelicals.

This shows that a) Jonker may be so impressionable that he couldn't tell he was being duped into supporting belief in fictitious Satanic "orders" and conspiracies, and b) that he probably wouldn't know a real Satanist if one walked up to him and shook him by the hand. As much as he did and still does promote SRA propaganda, he is likely as much fooled by it as those who in turn believe him. If this is the case, he is then, quite literally, a blind man leading the blind.

Since there is so little (if any) evidence of Jonker’s “Satanic Orders” and claimed conspiracy, we should decide whether what we have here is a very well concealed and complex conspiracy – or whether Jonker had based his career on claims about short-lived groups on other continents, and misinformation from informants who might as well have made their careers spotting UFO’s and relying on implausible photos of car hub-caps thrown into the air as “evidence".
Should the conclusion be that “there is no conspiracy”, then one should also question Jonker’s motives in persisting in making such claims, stubbornly demonstrating a refusal to revise his theories or opinions, despite being corrected and then criticized by scholars, academics and real occult experts over the years. Was he a) duped by his belief in what his sources claimed or b) did he purposely make use of convenient mentions in SRA reporting and other circumstantial evidence to strengthen and support his claims in order to create the impression that he was more credible than he really was in actual fact, and to use this material and his credibility as a means to step-up his personal war against alternative religions motivated by religious zealotry?

Whatever Jonker’s motives, regardless of whether he accepted information given him by his “high priests” verbatim, or if he pulled the names of these non-existent groups in South Africa out of a hat, he certainly is no “expert” on the occult, on Pagan religions, or on Satanism.

James Lottering (Word of Faith Church)

James Lottering also has a career in perpetuating misinformation about crimes in order to make them seem to be connected to the occult, presumably learned from his colleague and mentor Kobus Jonker when he was in the SAPS occult task force.

Lottering is mentioned (along with Jonker) in a book detailing the experiences of Allison, who was famously attacked in 1995, supposedly by “Satanists” and left for dead. Her inspirational story of how she survived and recovered has helped many, and is told in several books. It appears also, that this case in 1995 is one which shot Lottering to his five minutes of fame.

From “The Ripper Rapists” by Martin Strohm:

"On June 10, 1995, du Toit underwent his "exorcism." Sgt. James Lottering, of the Occult-Related Crimes Unit in the Eastern Cape, contacted Pastor Arthur Frost, of the Word of Faith Christian Centre, to conduct the proceedings. In all, seven people besides du Toit attended, and the event was even videotaped. Sgt. Lottering testified that a demon did in fact manifest during the exorcism, and five people had to push du Toit down on the chair. Du Toit became "wild and aggressive," according to Die Burger (Oos-Kaap) of June 22, 1995, and he cursed and swore. Chaplain Jacobus Kruger, who also attended, testified that du Toit was unable to say the word "Christ".

Pastor Frost testified that du Toit was indeed possessed, that a demon spoke during the proceedings, and that it was successfully exorcised. He also testified that the possessed person can still deny a demon’s suggestions or orders. If the demon takes control of the possessed person, which he stated is possible, the person will feel as if he or she is in a trance and will not have a clear memory of that period of time.
Du Toit had on numerous occasions recounted the details of Alison's attack as if he were watching it unfolding before his eyes.

**Col. Kobus Jonker**, national head of the Occult-Related Crimes Unit, had serious doubts about the authenticity of demonic involvement in the attack on Alison. In addition to reiterating Pastor Frost's contentions that the possessed person retains freedom of choice and that complete demonic control will result in memory loss, Col. Jonker was also troubled by the premeditated and planned nature of the rapes. He claimed that demons are not picky entities—neither physical attractiveness nor relational qualities such as marriage are of much consequence to them. In other words, from Col. Jonker's point of view, du Toit's demon would probably have had violent sex with his wife as well — du Toit testified that he was lying next to his wife when the demon told him to rape the second victim — and would not have requested "a pretty woman" to rape and kill, as du Toit had testified regarding Alison's attack. Col. Jonker believed that the truly possessed are consumed by guilt and remorse after they have been freed, neither of which seemed particularly evident in du Toit.

Some interesting information came to light during a conversation between a close friend of the pregnant victim and Die Burger. In a weird coincidence, the friend's husband knew du Toit and he actually spent some time at their house, although he never met the victim there. Apparently, du Toit listened to recordings made by a family member of these friends who used to be heavily involved in Satanism. It was in this manner the friend claimed that du Toit learned about demons and incubi. She went on to say that he was even afraid of the dark and had asked her husband on one occasion to walk home with him.

In the final analysis, alleged demonic possession doesn't really matter anyway. It is just one more way to deny responsibility for one's actions. It's not my fault — she was wearing sexy clothing. It's not my fault — her bedroom window was wide open. It's not my fault — the gun just went off. It's not my fault — I was high on drugs. It's not my fault — the devil made me do it." From – The Ripper Rapists" by Martin Strohm: [http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/criminal_mind/sexual_assault/alison_ripper_rapist/21.html](http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/criminal_mind/sexual_assault/alison_ripper_rapist/21.html)

Five years later, in 2000, Lottering gives his input on what should have been a cut and dry murder case ([http://www.news24.com/xArchive/Archive/Murder-victim-was-saving-suspect-from-Satan-20000807](http://www.news24.com/xArchive/Archive/Murder-victim-was-saving-suspect-from-Satan-20000807)) in which a fatal stabbing in a small rural town with robbery as the apparent motive. Enter at this point James Lottering, a consultant "occult expert" already retired from the SAPS because he disagreed with the ruling that the ORC's activities were unlawful and violated the Constitution of South Africa by intimidating and harassing Pagans and occultists ([see next paragraph](#)).

"The former Eastern Cape co-ordinator of the occult-related investigation unit, James Lottering, said parents in small towns were
often "not clued up" on how to recognise the signs when their children were involved in Satanism.

Lottering said young people were being increasingly drawn into Satanism because they wanted to known about the "supernatural and the unknown".

He said people involved in Satanism had to break the ten commandments in order to climb up the Satanic hierarchy and become "Satanic high priests".

"Satanism is the only religion that I know of that promotes total disunity amongst its members and the absolute breakdown of family values." – News24:  http://www.news24.com/xArchive/Archive/Murder-victim-was-saving-suspect-from-Satan-20000807

Lottering’s statements demonstrate not only broad ignorance of occult religions, including Satanism, but also hostile intent. Is Christianity put on trial each time a Christian commits a series of brutal crimes?

An article “Possession and the law”, Financial Times, UK July 30, 2004 by Sarah Duguid describes her interview and time spent with James Lottering, a former SAPS occult unit operative, after interviewing colleague Kobus Jonker.

“On the final leg of my South African tour, I met a man who put my understanding of Satanism in South Africa into a broader context. While Jonker’s cool-headed, intelligent approach to his work led me, a semi-sceptic, to agree that there must be something “out there”, James Lottering left me with a very different impression. It seemed that in this instance God was giving a cast-iron justification for resisting the democratisation of South Africa.

Lottering was a member of the notorious security police until he became a “born-again” Christian in 1991, just a few years before apartheid gave way to democracy. Nelson Mandela’s African National Congress, with which the old Afrikaner government was negotiating at the time, had long been regarded by the fanatical supporters of apartheid as the embodiment of atheistic communism, devoted to sweeping aside their “Christian civilisation”.

In such unsettling times the “charismatic” church gave its followers a sense of meaning and of hope in the face of these looming forces of darkness. After his conversion, Lottering joined the ORCU, a move he thought could help ensure that Christians would win the war against the devil.

With the arrival of democracy in 1994 came a new constitution, conferring on everyone in South Africa the right to freedom of religion, including Satanists. The police could no longer use God’s laws to raid

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and break up Satanic covens: they could only investigate statutory crimes committed in the name of the supernatural.

Lottering resigned in 1997. “You can’t fight the devil with the devil,” he says. He wanted to fight the devil his own way and became an exorcist, shaking off the manacles of political correctness he felt the new South Africa wanted to impose on him. When I put it to him that perhaps his desire to believe in these “dark forces” was constructed by a mind that was seeking self-justification for a dislike of non-Christians and non-whites, he grew very angry and snapped that I should “stop taking things so seriously”. Like the officers in the unit, he says it has nothing to do with race or politics and everything to do with God.

“When you are dealing with the devil there are certain dos and don’ts,” says Lottering. It took him time to learn them but now he describes himself as South Africa’s top exorcist. He believes all personal difficulties are caused by demons. To find out which demons are to blame he asks the client several standard questions: “Is there anyone in your life you can’t forgive?” (spirit of unforgiveness); “Have you ever had a homosexual experience?” (spirit of perversion); “Have you ever been inside a church where you have had to take your shoes off before entering?” (potential opening for demons); and so on.

I spend the day with Lottering, who practises in a small office within the Word of Faith charismatic church in Port Elizabeth. His telephone has been ringing all day. Calls come from parents with problem children who want appointments, a newly opened beauty parlour that has been robbed (the staff want him to come and pray for them – he spots a small statue of Buddha and hastily smashes it), and the owner of a factory that makes cakes for a large supermarket chain, who calls to ask for help.

The owner believes that one of her clients is waging a dirty-tricks campaign intended to bankrupt her. The factory is empty, her staff have been threatened and all but one have not turned up to work. When the proprietor reveals that her suspected adversary is Muslim, the penny drops for Lottering. He’s got a fight with the devil on his hands.

When Lottering prays over the owner she becomes nauseous and rushes out of the room to vomit. Lottering says a demon had been dropped in her tea by one of her Muslim foe’s lackeys, but that by vomiting she has purged it. Next, he prays over the remaining factory worker.

As she lies on the grimy factory floor, surrounded by crates of cakes and bags of flour, Lottering asks the demons to reveal who they are. Her arms flail, her eyes roll back and her feet kick against the floor.
She starts screaming. “This business is going down,” she says. “No, this business is going to Jesus Christ,” Lottering retaliates. The exchange continues for about five minutes while the rest of us hover awkwardly in the background. Finally the woman becomes calm, the demon has gone and Lottering says he has broken the curse cast on her.

The factory owner had been trying for some time to get a pastor from her local mainstream church to pray for her, to no avail. Lottering says traditional Christians are doing people a disservice when they dismiss the evangelical church’s literal interpretation of Satan.

Because of their scepticism, innocent people end up in the clutches of the devil. Lottering believes that so far the devil is winning the war for control of the world, but he won’t win for long. It is a painstaking process but Lottering says he is “making major structural damage to the kingdom of Satan” and has no doubt that in time this evil will crumble at his feet.” –

http://www.religionnewsblog.com/8089/possession-and-the-law

James Lottering is a pastor at Word of Faith church in Port Elizabeth. As can be seen in the previous article quoted, he is a homophobe who believes that a person’s inborn sexuality in the case of homosexuality, is the result of demonic influence, and therefore not natural. This is a typical conservative and extremist Christian form of intolerance, one which is shared by Word of Faith, which even goes so far as to ban weddings between not only same sex couples, but even for couples where one had undergone sex reassignment treatment. Lottering also runs a group called “Warfare Ministries” at http://www.warfare.co.za/.

"Pastor James Lottering was a member of the South African Police Service for 21 years and was assigned to the Occult Related Crimes Unit as Provincial Coordinator, Eastern Cape in July 1992 until 31 December 1997.

During this time he was appointed to assist in the investigation of Satanism, witchcraft and other supernatural occurrences which constituted crimes through these practices." Skip paragraph of proselytizing self-promotion, "Pastor James is a recognized authority in the field of deliverance in South Africa and has appeared on numerous talk shows such as TBN Christian Television and Radio and now recently on the national television show broadcast on SABC 3 – 3 Talk. As a result of this show on TV, he received calls from all over the country. He has also had interviews done by International TV Networks and the press.

There is such a need for this training world wide, that he has made himself available to travel. Pastor James is not a person who considers a demon behind every bush, but is very level headed and speaks from
a point of personal experience. Pastors and leaders do not need to fear inviting him.

He is not on a “one-man-mission”, but also belongs to a church in Port Elizabeth, South Africa of more than 3000 members and is under the spiritual covering and fathering of the senior pastor, Pastor Jimmy Crompton.”

The website has a page titled “Victim Support Center”. It shows no information other than a few images of the inside of a modern, and appealing-looking residence, presumably meant to be a place of safety for victims of “Satanism” (or any number of other ‘sins’). On the Mission page, the images are clarified in a short text which reads:

“To become a team of committed people working interdependently within our giftedness for the purpose of helping build solid family values and effective victim support. To create a “safe place” for behavioral changes to occur in individuals who have either disempowered themselves or been dis-empowered.” - http://www.warfare.co.za/mission.asp

On the about page for his new book called “Exorcism Made Easy”, Lottering says:

“This is a book that is written for every Christian to understand and to follow step by step. I have found that the majority of Christians do not really realize the authority which each one of us has in the Name and the Blood of Jesus Christ. That is why I wrote this book. To teach the body of Christ. We have got a real enemy – satan. We need to know how to “fight” this enemy!

I also run a VICTIM SUPPORT CENTRE at my local church, where I do counseling every single day of my life. God showed me such an easy way to do deliverance. It only takes 30 minutes with a person and that person will be completely set free in the Name of Jesus. I have 23 questions which I ask a person coming for counseling. No kicking and screaming involved. No throwing-up on the carpets or slipping and sliding like snakes. JUST ONE PRAYER and God will set them free.

I am also available to do Deliverance Seminars and I also give talks on Satanism and the Occult. When I was a police officer I use to work in the Occult Related Crimes Unit in South Africa.” - http://www.warfare.co.za/newbook.asp

This statement of belief that the religion of others is an enemy of their own religion is nothing short of a declaration of war, and in a very real sense. Lottering, like his ilk, work to undermine any semblance of respectability or equality which Pagans, Satanists or other occultists work to achieve through trying to oppose their propaganda.

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Lottering’s determination is evident in the closing statement on his “mission” page:

“Our objectives are ambitious – and we have every intention of achieving them.”

Warfare Ministries by Lottering is by its own description, a “deliverance ministry” and behavioural modification center, which uses isolation, continued reinforcement of ideology, among its tools to convince children with emotional problems associated with teenage years that they are possessed by evil spirits. In fact, the site even promotes Lottering’s new book and DVD on “exorcism made easy” as though he is unaware of the dangers of such practices.

A comment by a satisfied customer is posted with the advert:

"The book is non-academic and fun to read, while at the same time being a powerful tool for warfare." - Denzile Reddiar, Durban

Is Lottering not the least bit concerned about placing material which encourages common or garden Christian followers without any basic knowledge about the occult, the paranormal, or most likely even any qualifications in the field of religious studies (or First Aid basics) what amounts to a loaded gun? Perhaps he should be, given the tendency in Africa and around the world, for even children to be accused or suspected of being "possessed" by “evil spirits", and to undergo “exorcisms", frequently resulting in their deaths.

Below are a few recent examples, with the latest two being in South Africa, and one of these being in Humansdorp – about only an hour’s drive from Lottering’s church in Port Elizabeth.

"USA - An autistic 8-year-old boy died while wrapped in sheets during a prayer service held to exorcise the evil spirits that church members blamed for his condition. The minister who performed the service was arrested in connection with the death..." - CBS News, 11 February 2009: http://www.cbsnews.com/2100-201_162-570077.html

"Police in Malaysia say a toddler has died after seven of her family members and a maid piled on top of her in a suspected exorcism." - BBC News 7 August 2012: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-19159967

"South Africa - A PASTOR and four of his congregants appeared in the Humansdorp Magistrate’s Court yesterday in connection with the death of a seven-year-old girl who died after a violent exorcism last week. A 25-year-old woman, who did not want to be named because she feared for her life, said she had also had a lucky escape this week after four horrific weeks spent locked up like a prisoner in a..."
church house and allegedly repeatedly assaulted by the pastor and some of the parishioners.” - PE Herald 18 November 2011: http://www.peherald.com/news/article/3661

"South Africa - An Umlazi teenager, accused by relatives of being possessed by demons, was tortured for three days and then brutally murdered. Sinethemba Dlamini, 15, was left lying on the lounge floor with her intestines next to her at her home in K-Section.” - Independent Online 15 March 2012: http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/girl-dies-after-exorcism-attempt-1.1257392#.UX1GcqLTxbo

Isn’t handing someone, apparently children or teens, a book on exorcism that is “non-academic and fun to read” like handing someone a loaded gun and saying to them “relax – it’s only dangerous if you don’t know what you’re doing”?

**CHALLENGE:** Declaring war on other religions, and acting as though they really are waging war on them – if that is not a “harmful religious practice”, then what is?

**Criticism From Christians:**

The church group Lottering is involved with (Word of Faith) itself is criticized by other Christians in the charismatic movement for combining spiritualist and transcendental meditation practices in their own worship format.

“Here is a Church in Port Elizabeth (Word of Faith Christian Centre – Jimmy and Mariana Crompton) who is attracting people to their church via Spiritualism, they call it the G12 (what ever that means…quite frankly it does not matter, they could have called it ‘Bullet Point •’ when one views a bullet point in HTML Code it shows up as the following: &bull;

When you enter a trance like state either after intense ‘praise and worship’ or ‘getting people to open themselves up and express their emotions’ or via contemplation, mantras or clearing ones mind, yoga, breathing, etc. You encounter ‘yourself’.

Most people do not know that what they are actually encountering are demonic spirits who give you extreme peace and a joy unlike anything ever experienced. Now you ask, if I am encountering my inner self how on earth can I be encountering demonic spirits? Well, when you encounter yourself, you become balanced or centered within creation. God is creation and God is in creation. You enter into a godlike state of consciousness. Yourself = The god in you. Yourself = God.

This is the LIE you will experience once you reach this ‘SECRET’ place. Satan appears as an Angel of Light. What you think is your inner light is not you, but Satan.” – From Discerning the World: (16 May
2009):  [http://www.discerningtheworld.com/2009/05/16/what-does-an-encounter-mean-or-is-that-a-g12/#more-5114](http://www.discerningtheworld.com/2009/05/16/what-does-an-encounter-mean-or-is-that-a-g12/#more-5114)

The writer of the article gives the following references for his information, linking to the Word of Faith website:

**Resources:**


**QUESTION:** Are these “experts” using the cases of apprehended criminals or presented “cases of possession” etc, and through imagined connections with “tabloid Satanism”, turning them into “Satanists” by twisting the perception of these cases?

**QUESTION:** Are these “experts” using these cases as propaganda tools to advance their own careers as “occult experts” as well as their personal brand of extreme religious bias?

**Abdicating Responsibility – “The Devil Made Me Do It”**

Much has been written about people using outside influence as an excuse for their actions. This is often referenced in the humorous statement “the Devil made me do it”. In truth this is nothing short of a cop-out, and is not accepted as a valid excuse for causing harm or breaking the law in a court of law.

An article about “Satanic killers”, including some mention about South African murders, appears on Onyx Drake’s weblog, in which much discussion of this blame transference takes place, which is relevant to this Project:

“**Abdicating responsibility: Can we still blame the devil?**”

The phenomenon of a school murder is certainly not new. There’s a good chance that you may have heard about the notorious Columbine High School massacre that occurred when two teens, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, took it upon themselves to remove some of their fellow students from the gene pool. The first thing that people started asking was why did it happen? When answers weren’t forthcoming immediately, some reason had to be found and talk abounded about the effects that the gothic subculture, bullying, violent computer games and the availability of guns have on teenagers.

In his 2002 movie, Bowling for Columbine, filmmaker Michael Moore interviewed “shock-rocker” Marilyn Manson.
Michael Moore asked Marilyn Manson, “If you were to talk directly to the kids at Columbine or the people in that community, what would you say to them if they were here right now?”

Marilyn Manson replied, “I wouldn’t say a single word to them, I would listen to what they have to say and that’s what no one did.”

This, in my mind, is perhaps a telling reason why some youngsters feel the need to look toward the occult or “darkness” in imagery when they choose to express themselves. But to say that all youngsters who tend toward this are, at heart potential killers, is a display of faulty logic. By the same measure, fingers can be pointed to other religious affiliations, whose adherents commit crimes of violence. What then, can be asked, about so-called “holy” wars? This is a social quagmire.

Issues of social alienation, a fascination with the occult and “dark” subcultures, have often been blamed for abhorrent behaviour in youngsters and, from time to time crop up closer to home. Not too long ago, during August 2008, a Krugersdorp learner Morne Harmse, who attended Nic Diederichs Technical High School, took a sword to school and aimed a few swipes at his fellow learners, slashing young Jaques Pretorius fatally through the throat before going on to injure three others.

The uproar was phenomenal, making front-page news in many newspapers in South Africa. So, why did he do it? The name of the band Slipknot was mentioned in the same breath as the word as “Satanic” and that the boy was somehow “possessed” by an evil spirit due to his dabbling with so-called occult forces.

According to an article published on www.iol.co.za, Christian pastor Marc Bredenkamp felt quite strongly about that there was a link to Harmes and Satanism. By observing Harmse’s reported behaviour, Bredenkamp believes that the boy is a self-styled Satanist. This term refers to people who follow a form of Satanism which they evolve themselves and are not governed by any other group or individual. 1

In the same article, Bredenkamp is further paraphrased speaking about the evils of heavy metal. Bredenkamp says death metal or heavy metal music can play a role because the lyrics are hopeless and make the listener believe there is no hope in the future, but he added that this did not mean that the music was entirely to blame.

So, was the devil behind it? Does dabbling in so-called “evil” forces and listening to heavy metal music result in an instant desire to go out and mutilate, main and murder? Ask upstanding Christians about Satan and you’re bound to receive a range of reactions, mostly of disgust and fear. You don’t have to go far on the World Wide Web to dredge up opinions too countless to deal with in the scope of this article.
According to Dr Attie Lamprecht, senior superintendent at the SAPS detectives’ head office, **Satanism is not a crime, it is a belief system that leads to crime.** There are some of the Satanic rules that will get you in trouble sooner or later. Satan represents all of the sins, and young people apply them to their lives.  

But, so far, has anyone bothered asking one of the major Satanic organisations what its opinion is?

Magus Peter H Gilmore, High Priest of the Church of Satan, a religious organisation founded by Anton La Vey during the 1960s, kindly added his five cents when contacted for comment on the Krugersdorp incident.

Saffron: Do you see a link between Morne’s actions and Satanism?

Peter: I currently see no relation to Satanism in this incident. Certainly such killings are contrary to the philosophy of Satanism. There is no rational way to speculate as to what motivated this student to commit his crimes. Until one had statements by him or had the chance to interview him, any opinion would simply be pure theory, and weak theory at that since it wouldn’t be based on any data.

Saffron: Any religion, if taken to an extreme, can be dangerous. Where do you draw the line between right and wrong?

Peter: Making broad statements about religions and extremes is simplistic and pointless. It all depends upon what religion is in question and what could be defined as an extreme – and whether that extreme is supported by the philosophy and scriptures of the religion or if such extremes are in fact contrary to the philosophy of the religion which then makes them acts which are OUTSIDE of the religion in question.

Satanism is a religion of atheism, scepticism, and reason, which supports law and order and complete secularity of government. It is NOT devil worship, does not embrace supernatural beliefs, and in fact feels that a social contract is mandatory for our species. Concerning situations of criminal behaviour, we insist that the punishment should fit in kind and degree the crime. This is very clear from our literature.

Saffron: How would you suggest helping misguided teens, such as this boy?

Peter: The following text is from an essay in my book The Satanic Scriptures called Victors and Victims: From West Memphis to Columbine, which answers your question about Satanism and disturbed students in commenting on the Columbine incident, where the killers were known to be intelligent and creative by the school officials and their fellow students:

*“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”*

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One thing might have helped defuse the situation: Satanism. If Klebold and Harris had understood real Satanism and chosen to live by it, their vengeance spree would not have happened. Satanism would have taught them that, indeed, they were not like these others, and that such is a positive attribute. Satanism would have taught them that they had only one life, and that their intelligence and talent would take them along paths which would lead to their drinking deeply from that cup which is offered but once. They would have known that Satanists practice Lex Talionis, making the punishment fit in kind and degree the crime. With their superior intelligence, they should have been able to respond to taunting with verbal wit, and made responsible administrators aware of their pain. They would see that the herd cannot help their nature, and that the human who really flows with Nature learns to walk nimbly between these ponderous golems, to snatch the bounties that the dullards will never even see. The Satanist finds a way to prevent the torture, and means to be free to prosper, as living well is truly the best revenge. If these two had a Satanist’s perspective, they would not have seen the transitory period of High School as being such an insurmountable burden, and they would not have been compelled to commit heinous acts against innocent victims.

Instead, they saw no way out, and thus made their last stand, and perhaps did so as a gesture for those they thought to be like themselves. They are now icons for the alienated, and an example that sets up an Is-To-Be that desperate others may follow. Satanism can stop it. Satanism sees the futility of martyrdom, as what matter is it becoming a symbol while losing your own life? To the Satanist, his own life is the most precious. Let fools die and become symbols. Self-immolation is “herd think,” Christian life’s blood—the essence of their creed. And so in this siege, they essentially finally adopted the herd’s premise that one’s own life can and should be thrown away.

Saffron: Do you think that extreme music can influence your behaviour?

Peter: The idea that any sort of music, whether somebody considers it “extreme” or not, could influence behaviour of a sane individual to commit acts not congruent with their character and beliefs is complete nonsense. People are not robots who can be programmed into behaving in certain ways simply by listening to music. If that was the case, then we could broadcast positive tunes with happy messages that would make everyone behave like nice little automatons. That just doesn’t happen.

Individuals who have mental illnesses on the other hand can be influenced by anything, from a leaf falling to seeing secret messages in alphabet soup. You cannot base the validity of any aesthetic expression – be it music, art, literature, film or poetry – on whether a mentally unstable person has used it as motivation for insane acts. Responsibility does not lie with the artist or art form, it rests on the
person who was looking for any excuse to justify the behaviour in question. People are horrified when a person snaps and kills innocent victims and they look for easy answers – there are none. At such times of shock and grief it is important not to scapegoat a song or a band or a religion to get a quick answer.

Studying what happened over the course of the disturbed person’s life might give some clue as to why that person finally acted in such horrific ways, but the responsibility for each person’s actions must stay with the person themselves and not be fobbed off on something else to make the victims feel better by providing an excuse. There is no excuse or simple cause when an irrational person explodes in violence. The emotional trauma has no simple or quick fixes. To think otherwise is classic lynch-mob mentality, which has no place in a sane society.

Saffron: Is belonging to a minority religion/sub-culture dangerous?

Peter: There is no inherent danger in participating in many minority religions or sub-cultures. Remember that most of the present majority religions and above-ground cultural forms began as small niche associations and, over time, those that had values that drew in more followers ultimately graduated to become the major generators of mass beliefs and practices. If a particular religion has life-threatening actions as part of its practices – such as the evangelical Christian sects that handle poisonous snakes – then that would be an exception and could be seen as being dangerous. The sexual sub-culture that practices auto-erotic asphyxiation would also been seen the same way. I’d add to that any sub-culture that encourages the use of addictive substances.

But outside of those rare exceptions, no, there’s no inherent danger in simply being part of something that is not embraced by the majority. The only historical exception to that would be if the majority had the power to put you to death for not sharing their beliefs – which was the situation for much of the past two thousand years when Christian churches worked with governments to exterminate anyone they considered to be heretics. That bloody history should not be ignored. Christianity – with its central image of a father God sacrificing his only son as well as offering rituals which claim to be the eating of their saviour’s flesh and the drinking of his blood – is currently considered to be harmless when in fact it was the motivating force behind centuries of slaughtering innocent people.

Satanism, unlike Christianity, does not advocate murder of those who think differently. We Satanists never forget that fact. Satanism embraces life, since it is fleeting and precious. For us, enjoying the one life we have is our goal and sharing it with the people we cherish.
In Closing, it is abundantly clear that each case of school violence or incident with supposed occult or Satanic influences must be viewed individually.

The crime Morne Harmse committed was deplorable. Reading the assorted newspaper articles, it is clear that it was premeditated and the act of an individual in control of his actions. 3

Morne knew what he was doing when he donned the mask and gripped that sword. Morne, alone, is to blame for his actions and we should not seek “easy” answers by pointing fingers. Morne needs help. He needs people to listen to him.

If it were heavy music, a subculture or Satanism that is to blame, why aren’t there thousands more involved in these things being found guilty of similar, heinous crimes? Why is there no hue and cry over the so-called “influences” of Christianity when a Christian murders his children, as in the case of policeman Marius van der Westhuizen. 4

It doesn’t matter what your religion or culture is. When the circumstances are right – or wrong, in these cases – any individual can take a life.

Media sources:


“Occult Experts” – Debunking Fanatic Religious Persecutors

In looking at Warfare Ministries, the religious extremists who lead them – the self-proclaimed “occult experts” who seem convinced that they are soldiers for their religious survival locked in a war with evil supernatural forces – and those they claim to “deliver”, and “support” through their “recovery” as “occult survivors”, most people cannot help but question either the validity of any of their claims, or their mental health.

That, oddly enough, does not appear to be far off from the truth, as many so-called occult survivors who started off the original modern “Satanic Panic” hysteria in the 1980’s were subsequently shown to have been suffering from mental disorders, and as having manufactured or recovered false memories of ritual abuse or practices during unethical practices of therapists.

It is possible, even likely, that some individuals today claiming to be “occult survivors” and spreading SRA propaganda about “mythical Satanism” have had a little minor experience in occult religion, or even none – but when confronted or cornered by persecutors, have perceived an opening to achieve fame and fortune based on telling their stories, basically in any form which happens to suit the audience of the day. There is a lot of money to be made these days in touring the country, appearing in churches to “witness” and tell their life’s stories of where they “went wrong” and how to avoid making the same mistakes and to “stay on the straight and narrow” – and of course, selling recordings of these appearances.

Being a self-proclaimed “occult expert” is also a doorway to a lucrative market and a career in religious “witnessing”, motivational speaking – TV and radio appearances, book deals, press interviews, consultation work and influence with law-enforcement – all while raking in the loot.

THEORY: It is the view of this project that it may well be possible, even plausible, that some of those who have clearly made their careers out of persecuting other religions while under the delusion that they are acting as champions for their religion or even in the pursuit of secular justice, or both – having claimed to witness signs of “possession”, and any number of paranormal events or occurrences, even in groups in the context of what has been described as “mass hysteria”, and having convinced themselves (and others) of the reality of these events – may well suffer from the very same conditions.

In an article debunking “occult survivors” Rebecca Brown and Elaine Moses claims, Christian resource Personal Freedom Outreach thoroughly debunks their status as either “occult survivors” or “experts”. - http://www.culthelp.info/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=1091

“Jack Chick, in Closet Witches 1 says, “These two ladies are experts in the world of the occult.” Elaine says she was a trained witch who was
married to Satan. In telling their stories to Chick [Publications], Elaine and Rebecca refer to satanists as witches and vice versa. Yet, anyone with even a little knowledge about the occult knows that witchcraft and satanism are not the same, nor are they compatible.

Former witch Tom Sanguinet stated in the October-December 1983 Personal Freedom Outreach newsletter that, "There's not a connection really between witchcraft and Satanism. It's only been in the neo-system of the occult that witchcraft and Satanism have taken this melding. Satanists have always worshipped the negative entities or deities – the temple of Seth in ancient Egypt, for example. Witches don't fear God and they don't believe in Satan."

Ex-occultist Johanna Michaelsen concurs with this distinction. On page 316 of her book, Like Lambs to the Slaughter, she states: "There is probably no faster or more efficient way to enrage your average witch than to accuse him or her of devil worship. Their literature and lectures are filled with pleas and/or demands that people stop confusing them with Satan worshipers."

"THE HIGH PRIESTESS ELAINE Edna Elaine Moses was born Edna Elaine Knost in sleepy New Castle, Ind. In 1986 she legally returned to her maiden name. (38) Elaine was born with a cleft palate which left her face somewhat disfigured.

She tells Chick in Closet Witches 1: "I hated people, I had been so badly mistreated at home, I had been badly mistreated in school. Nothing like peers to hurt you the worst, kids your own age can just make your life miserable and it did mine because of my deformities." (39) It appears that Elaine carries some psychological scars from her disfigurement and the teasing she endured because of it.

Interviews with family members of Elaine disclosed her as living a life permeated with lies and fabrications. They expressed little surprise to her wild tales promulgated in Rebecca's books. Elaine's exaggerations proved, at times, an embarrassment for these family members, noting she would do almost anything to receive attention. For instance, one method repeatedly utilized by Elaine was her pretending to have seizures at public functions.

One medical record says Elaine has a "mixed personality disorder," and "is of questionable reliability." (40) This is evident when the cassette tape version of her testimony is compared with the book version and when one looks carefully at the story she and Rebecca have told.

For example, Elaine tells Chick she had a "fast-growing ability to influence others, to make them do as I wanted. I had unusual physical strength as well." (41) On the tape Closet Witches 1, Elaine says she used that strength in high school when she attacked a football player
who called her a name in the school hallway. "... there was a football player, he weighed about 265 ... I ran at him knocked him down and began hitting him and I beat his face so badly that he had to have repair work done. I broke his nose and his jaws and knocked out his teeth, and it took eight teachers to get me off this boy. I would have killed him." Chick then asks, "Elaine, how big were you then?" Elaine responds, "Oh, I only weighed about 95, something like that. I stood about 5-foot-4."

In He Came To Set The Captives Free, she tells the story again, changing the number of teachers to five, the boy's weight to around 200 pounds, her own weight at 98 and the injuries to a broken nose, jaw and facial bones. (42)

The discrepancies between those two versions of the story are understandable. Anyone speaking off the cuff about an event that happened years ago could change such details slightly with each retelling. What is significant about the story is that interviews with several of Elaine's high school classmates, including members of the football team, denied the incident, as described by Elaine, never occurred -- no matter which version one cares to believe."

The above example in which so-called "occult survivors" make wild attention-seeking" claims, which resemble, in their improbability, those made by other alleged "survivors" have been thoroughly debunked.

This example is NOT an isolated incident, nor is it a generalization. Even the claimed originator of the SRA hysteria in the 1980's suffers from mental illness:

“The first person to write a first-person narrative about SRA was Michelle Smith, co-author of Michelle Remembers; Smith was diagnosed with DID [Disassociative Identity Disorder] by her therapist and later husband Lawrence Pazder.[164]"

“SRA has been linked to dissociative identity disorder (DID, formerly referred to as multiple personality disorder or MPD),[21][160] with many DID patients also alleging cult abuse.[161][162] Many DID patients report memories that they allege are forms of ritual abuse though most are undocumented.[163]"

“A survey investigating 12,000 cases of alleged SRA found that most were diagnosed with DID as well as post-traumatic stress disorder.[111] The level of dissociation in a sample of women alleging SRA was found to be higher than a comparable sample of non-SRA peers, approaching the levels shown by patients diagnosed with DID.[165]"

A sample of patients diagnosed with DID and reporting childhood SRA also present other symptoms including "dissociative states with satanic
overtones, severe post-traumatic stress disorder, survivor guilt, bizarre self abuse, unusual fears, sexualization of sadistic impulses, indoctrinated beliefs, and substance abuse".  

[160]” – From Wikipedia:  

In numerous articles and books about Satanic Ritual Abuse, reams of evidence was provided which showed a direct link between people claiming to be “occult survivors” and mental illnesses such as Disasssociative Personality Disorder or even Multiple Personality Disorder – references below:


The claims of “occult survivors” in many ways closely resemble the sort of claims made by certain “occult experts” who act like “witch hunters” waging a war on occult religions, placing all of their own belief into their own experiences and the claims made by those they “deliver” and allow their claims to pass unchallenged, as “fact” and then perpetuate them seemingly without question.
To connect the views and claims of “occult survivors” with the unwavering support or belief of “occult expert” cops, the views of these law enforcement officers themselves give insight into the mindset they feel is necessary – one which shares the religious views of the alleged “occult survivors” who make these outrageous claims, frequently resulting from demonstrated likelihood of mental illness.

The influence of “faith” and its effects speak volumes of this, even in the words of ORC unit operatives themselves:

"Sceptics are not allowed to join the unit. Says Jonker (now retired): “The ordinary guy cannot investigate occult crimes. There are things you see and experiences you have as a result of the supernatural. You must be strong in faith to be in the occult unit..."

"Lamprecht, meanwhile, is a detective with the Occult Related Crimes unit, which has featured on this blog previously; its founder, Kobus Jonker, insisted that only police officers who shared his religious beliefs were suitable members " - http://barthsnotes.com/2008/09/29/satanic-panic-in-south-africa/

**CLARIFICATION:** By isolating the law enforcement investigation of such claims and incidents, these people are turning the investigation of random criminal acts into an arcane pseudo-science whose files, evidence, motives and activities become restricted to a kind of law enforcement “priesthood”, supported by propaganda, shielded from public attention and criticism, exempted from the onus of providing proof of their claims, and are essentially made immune to legal consequence which SHOULD result from instances where they step over the boundaries of their jurisdiction and infringe on the legally guaranteed civil rights of citizens of this country.

An ideal example of what we are referring to would be incidents like those described where “occult survivors” claim they could levitate, fly or teleport – and where “witch hunters” allegedly witness paranormal events, for instance during intensive meditational and spiritualist mind-altering experiences (for instance an “exorcism”) and such as seeing a “pentagram in blood” appearing on someone’s arm – and manifest such fanatical unshakable belief in the paranormal and make wild claims and allegations of their own – such as belief in a countrywide conspiracy of “Satanists” – as police officials who mix their personal beliefs and quests with serious police work – which violates numerous points of the Bill of Rights and SHOULD seriously jeopardize their credibility. Instead, they are taken seriously, lauded for their efforts by press and media, and supported by their superiors.

**QUESTION:** Is it possible that some of these investigators suffer from the same or even variations of the same illnesses as these debunked “occult survivors”?
Since it is already apparent that so much harm can be done by mentally affected people claiming to be “experts” on anything, especially while being taken seriously by others, as reflected in the above quoted article – especially on issues where religious zealotry comes into play, inciting mass hysteria, fear, panic and even hatred and harm against others – especially where such issues are based on faith and which do not require concrete proof, and which override reason, restraint and morality – perhaps in the interests of public safety, some of these alleged “experts” need closer examination by qualified mental health practitioners not having a demonstrable bias in their favor.

At any rate, policemen with fanatical beliefs of any kind – which can adversely taint the objectivity of their work in opposing crime and solving cases, and a police task force active in evangelism and issues unrelated to the combatting of actual crime – does not bode well for believability, credibility, impartiality or objectivity – especially when it comes to the matter of ensuring justice for all people.

**SRA Material References**

Often various “experts” and “warfare ministries” will refer to so-called “case studies” or books written by other so-called “experts” and “warfare ministries” that supposedly “prove” their warped views on Satanism, Paganism and “the occult” – thus causing these “experts” to feed each other’s paranoia. Most often, these same “references” have been debunked and exposed as either fraudulent or pure fiction. Nevertheless, these continue to do great harm to people through the perpetuated ignorance of those who use and believe them. Below are some of these references and/or authors or originators.

**“Doreen Irvine**

Irvine is the author of “From Witchcraft to Christ”. This was one of the very first books that sparked the satanic panic. Interestingly, it does not contain the concept of “Satanic Ritual Abuse” or even references to such a thing. The SRA scare emerged later. She makes the fatal mistake of confusing witchcraft and Satanism as the same thing. What true occultist would not be able to tell this most basic difference? There is absolutely no corroborating evidence for the fantastical events described by this “Witch-Queen”.

[http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/dirvine.htm](http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/dirvine.htm)

**Lauren Stratford** (one alias among others)

She was the author of Satan’s Underground and claimed to be a breeder for a satanic cult, giving up babies for sacrifice. She later emerged under a new name, Laura Grabowski, and claimed to be a holocaust survivor. Her story was completely debunked by Cornerstone
Magazine, which used to be a Christian publication. She was exposed as a fraud for her holocaust story. Interestingly, Beeld and Volksblad used accounts from Satan’s Underground to link the Van Eck murder to Satanism. They tried to provide a source and motive for the face skinning aspect and ended up using a source with suspect credibility. It is tempting to speculate that Auksano had a hand in providing this misinformation (see media category below)

http://www.answers.org/satan/stratford.html

http://www.answers.org/satan/laura.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornerstone_(magazine)

Michelle Smith and the start of Satanic Ritual Abuse

The book that started the Satanic Ritual Abuse scare was Michelle Remembers by Michelle Smith and Lawrence Pazder. 1980. She recalled lost memories while under hypnosis and horrific stories of satanic cults soon emerged. The hypnotic induction methods used to recover lost memories have since been discredited and are largely considered to be unreliable. It was Pazder who coined the term ritual abuse.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Remembers

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False_memory_syndrome

The original article debunking Michelle Remembers was in the Mail on Sunday. Michelle Remembers: The Debunking of a myth. 1990. It is reproduced here:

https://xeper.org/pub/pub_wh_michelle.html

The following is an article by Kerr Cuhulain exposing the highly unlikely and even impossible accounts from Michelle Remembers.

http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=cabc&c=whs&id=4349

Further scepticism regarding Satanic Ritual Abuse: http://www.skeptdic.com/satanrit.html

Rebecca Brown and Elaine Moses (Pseudonyms)

These two women were thoroughly debunked by a Christian evangelical organization known as Personal Freedom Outreach.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_Freedom_Outreach

The organization seeks to educate Christians about heretical doctrines and cults. Their article entitled “Drugs, Demons and Delusions” goes a long way in debunking the strange accounts of Rebecca Brown and Elaine Moses.

The books by Rebecca Brown include “He Came to Set the Captives Free”, “Prepare for War” and “How to Become a Vessel of Honour”. They contain a fanciful account of satanic conspiracy that includes the rock music industry and even the Catholic Church. The books describe horrific rituals witnessed by Elaine and they even contain an account where Satan comes in physical form to take Elaine as his bride. “Rebecca Brown” eventually had her medical license revoked for over-prescription of Demerol in patients. She believed that hospital staff was either possessed or involved in a “satanic conspiracy”.

Read the article here (pdf):


The Bizarre Case of Dr.Rebecca Brown

http://www.answers.org/satan/brown.html

Mike Warnke

Warnke is the author of the Satan Seller who claimed to be a former Satanic High Priest. Investigations by Cornerstone Magazine revealed most of his claims to be fraudulent. His response included calling his critics Satanists.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Warnke

Angus Young (AC/DC, Hit Parader, 1995) Misquote

“The article [Who is Recruiting your Child?] then bounces to the classic SRA standby- music. It is an exceptionally popular myth within SRA beliefs that Satanists listen to heavy metal exclusively and that the genre is performed by Satanists and has the ability to influence one to experiment with Satanism. And that is just it with this theory, it is a myth based on fear and has zero evidence to support the wild claims.

Using a quote by Vladimir Lenin, “One quick way to destroy a society is through its music,” the article only displays the link between Apartheid Communism fears and its post-Apartheid replacement, Satanism. The only source for this quote is the 1974 book, The Marxist Minstrels by David A. Noebel (American Christian College Press), where it was used in support of Noebel’s theory that rock music carried Communist intentions.

The supposed connection between Satanism and certain genres of music is further reinforced with the belief that Satan, in His role of the fallen angel, is associated with music; therefore according to SRA believers (such as the writer of the article and its sources) it seems only ‘logical’ that Satan would use music to attempt to reach children. And the reason why heavy metal and similar genres are ‘Satanic’ is that, according to the article, “heavy metal music promotes violence, suicide and the occult”. This is yet another claim that is false and cannot be supported by any evidence; and once more ‘the occult’ is wrongfully painted as being sinister.

The music angle is further pushed with a doctored quote from AC/DC guitarist Angus Young which directly reads: “Someone else is steering me, I become possessed when I am on stage- Angus Young (AC/DC, Hit Parader, 1995)”. The correct, original quote is from July 1985 and reads:

“…it’s like I’m on automatic pilot. By the time we’re halfway through the first number someone else is steering me. I’m just along for the ride. I become possessed when I get on stage.”

This inaccurate quote is then followed with: “The covers and names of the lyrics most of the time indicate the content of the group’s message.” Contrary to popular SRA beliefs, the vast majority of musicians do not actively set out to portray a specific message as a unified group- it is generally held that song writing is the result of a creative process and not specific calculations to lure children into Satanism.” – By Bronwyn Katzke, from Penton Pagan Magazine:

Servamus & “Drugs and Occult-Related Crime: The Facts, The Answers”

Servamus, the SA Police’s internal serial publication aimed at serving SAPS members, publishes a series of articles entitled: “Drugs and Occult-Related Crime: The Facts, The Answers”. This publication has been described by Pagans as “the Malleus Maleficarum of our generation”. This propaganda has been, and still is, used as a hammer against the witches against constitutionally protected minority religions in South Africa.

Pagan rights activist Bronwyn Katzke wrote a three part series dissecting this work during 2012, published on Penton Pagan Magazine. Extracts below:

“Each week in the ‘Doing a Dis-service’ series an article from Servamus’ Drugs and Occult-Related Crime: The Facts, The Answers will be dissected and shown for the religious propaganda that it is.”


“I am greeted with a spread of images from Jonker’s own personal collection of ‘occult paraphernalia’: steak knives, cheap Halloween décor, a homemade Ouija board, a melted mannequin head, skulls and doll heads covered in simulated blood (red paint), heavy metal posters, animal skulls, and even a packet of Dracula Sherbet and a promotional paper cup from the Ghostbusters movie.

In all my years exploring the occult and Paganism I have never read or encountered a call for any of the above to be essential, or even suggested, in the practice of any occult, or Pagan ritual. Even my research of Satanism has turned up zero evidence that any of the above is required in the spiritual practices of Satanism. What Jonker terms as ‘occult paraphernalia’ may in fact just be everyday items used by confused teenagers playing into the very fantasies that he propagates.

The introduction of this article lists purported ‘occult crimes’ committed since 1989 until the first publication of the ‘special edition’ in 1998. Unfortunately these alleged crimes would need to be referenced against SAPS case files, which would be no easy feat; so I cannot verify these ‘facts’. However the next paragraph proves to be most interesting:

“First there is no or very little knowledge about the occult or spirit world with specific reference to Satanism. Investigation officers and the legal profession are skeptical about occult rituals. Not all Satanist activities necessarily constitute crime. Victims often point out scenes where no evidence can be found to correlate with the atrocities supposed to have taken place…Crime scenes are difficult to find or are sometimes not found at all.”
What becomes abundantly clear from the above excerpt is just how deluded the prior ORCU and its leader Kobus Jonker were (and potentially how deluded the new ORCU will be). There is plenty of information on Satanism and occult practices and beliefs, however that factual information contradicts the ORCU fantasy of Satanism and the occult; hence the statement that no information exists.

"Not all Satanist activities necessarily constitute crime," is the bare truth, but the same can be said for any other belief held by its adherent. Substitute ‘Satanist’ with Christian, Muslim or Jewish and it becomes clear that the belief of a criminal rarely, if at all, has anything to do with the crime committed.

In logical and unbiased investigative work if there is no evidence, then there is no provable crime. And in today’s technologically advanced age, there is no crime that leaves zero evidence. If a ‘victim’ of ‘occult atrocities’ takes an investigator to a scene and claims illegal activities took place there, and a crime scene investigation unit can find zero evidence, odds are the ‘victim’ is lying.

And when it is stated that, “crime scenes are difficult to find or are sometimes not found at all,” it only goes to prove the depth of the occult delusion that Jonker swims in. The fact that they have to actively seek to prove something as an ‘occult crime’ from their warped fundamentalist perspective only further shows their desperation in proving the satanic panic myths true.

In the fourth paragraph the reader is then hit with the ‘big sell’ of the previous ORCU in reference to the occult: “The only way to get out is through the power of Jesus Christ”. A statement based on the testimony of alleged former witch Elaine who claims to have served Satan for 17 years. This paragraph is followed by more testimony from an alleged former ‘Satan worshipper’ who turned to Christianity and at the time of publication, was working as a pastor. But this section ends with a gem of a quote:

“Occult-related crimes are difficult to prevent and to investigate, because the majority of people don’t even know what occult means.”

The absolute irony is that Jonker and his then ORCU did not (and still do not) even know or understand the definition of the occult and the beliefs and practices it encompasses. And once again, it only shows that they are lost in an occult fantasy of their own design- God’s own warriors on a spiritual mission from the Creator Himself to stamp out the non-believers and practitioners of anything that fits the satanic panic lie.”

“The article [Breaking the Circle] opens with the claim that:

“Family time is most of the time non-existent or non-effective. Psychologists say that of the nine minutes a day that a parent has interactions with a child, six are negative: What are you doing...why didn't you...keep quiet! etc.”

The above statement is based on an article by Christian life coach, Brian Osher; who is not a certified or registered psychologist or mental health practitioner. In turn, Osher’s source for this information is not credible scientific study or research but is based on a survey done by marketing company Nielsen. This is not credible or even remotely true information.

The opening paragraph then goes on to make the claim that:

“Breakdown in communication damages family structure and could cause feelings of insecurity and rejection among children. Children are often left to make up their own minds about ‘right’ and ‘wrong’, which leaves them even more confused. Some children look for attention, acceptance and love somewhere else.”

According to registered Pretoria counselor Amanda Rykaart, this “is a very broad, sweeping statement”. She goes on to explain that, while not totally wrong, it is too generalized. She says, “Millions of children grow up with this background and become fully-functional productive adults,” and that this cannot be seen as an “indicator or precursor of Satanism.” Furthermore, children affected by such a background are more likely to turn to coping mechanisms like withdrawal, isolation, drugs, alcohol, gangsterism and while definitely vulnerable, only a small minority may experiment with casual Satanism also known as ‘legend tripping’).

In short, the opening paragraph of Breaking the Circle is not based on credible research or professional opinion and is therefore unrelated to the topic of alleged ‘Satanism’.

“Breaking the Circle then claims that, “Involvement with friends that wear black, greet each other with the Satanic salute and visit alternative clubs regularly” is another sign of someone being involved in Satanism. This point then goes on to add that, “They communicate with one another in code, eg by writing or talking some intelligible jargon,” and that, “Rejection of the normal friend circle, being secretive about new friends, and organising/involvement in secret meetings,” are also symptomatic of Satanic involvement.

This sign is, once again, standard satanic panic fodder based on Christian misinterpretations of Goth sub-cultures and links back to the
idea of heavy metal being ‘Satanic’. There is no basis to this claim and it is totally false.

- “A sudden or rapid change in attitudes towards authorities. A rebellious, sullen spirit towards parents.

- Secretive and withdrawn. Some places of the child’s room are locked and out of reach of parents, brothers and sisters.”

The above signs, as listed in Breaking the Circle, could be considered typical teenage behavior, or at the very least indicative of psychological issues- they are not signs of supposed ‘Satanic involvement’.

- “Lack of empathy towards others the hurt of others, be it people or animals in distress.

- Suicidal tendencies and self-destructive behavior.

- Drastic personality changes. (From a perfectionist to a room where you can find the wardrobe on the floor.)

- Use of illegal drugs of any kind; alcohol abuse

- Evidence of cruelty to animals.

- A philosophy or attitude that shows a reversal of norm, eg bad is good and good is bad.

- Self mutilation, including cutting oneself or marking with tattoos.

- Obsessive preoccupation with death and gruesome and bizarre methods of dying.”

The inclusion of the above collection of ‘Satanic involvement’ signs is most troubling. If anything, these ‘signs’ are indications of psychological issues that would warrant counseling by a qualified and registered counselor or therapist. If a misinformed parent took this list of supposed ‘signs’ as truth and acted on this article’s ‘information’ by taking their child or teenager to a minister, it could possibly cause a child or teenager more harm than good. This list is wholly irresponsible and reckless!

An, “Animosity towards Christianity, the church and Jesus Christ,” and further elaborated as a, “Resistance and hate towards God and religious leaders,” is further listed. There are many people who display an ‘animosity’ towards Christianity, its beliefs and organizations, foremost are some atheists. Again this ‘sign’ is not indicative of anything but a waning faith in the Christian religion. Regardless what

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Christians may think, their religion isn’t for everyone no matter how hard some of them evangelize, and a rejection of Christianity is not automatically make one a Satanist.

“The use of Satanic nicknames that can be traced to the Middle Ages,” is yet another confused statement in Breaking the Circle. The use of magickal or craft names is common in Pagan traditions; but the practice of taking on a new name when converting to a religion is common in numerous world religions including Islam and Christianity to name a few. What should be made clear is that these are not just ‘nicknames’, but names that show a new devotee’s commitment to their beliefs and the name almost always has deep spiritual significance. It should also be stated that these names cannot be ‘traced to the Middle Ages’.

Just as disturbing as the symptoms of possible psychological disorders listed in Breaking the Circle is the following ‘sign’: “Unusual body movements, such as twitching, tics, rocking, glazed eyes, head banging, moaning or groaning and chanting.” This is yet another totally irresponsible inclusion- any one of these supposed symptoms are likely indicators of neurological disorders and are deserving of immediate medical attention and not salvation through Jesus as is suggested at the end of the article!

And in the same medical vein is the inclusion of, “Different sexually transmitted diseases,” as an alleged ‘sign’ of Satanic involvement. Again, this is an irresponsible inclusion. Sexually transmitted diseases are in no way a ‘sign’ that one’s child or teenager is practicing Satanism, but it is a sign that they are having unprotected sex.

Again, playing into the Christian belief that the Goth sub-culture is synonymous with Satanism are the following ‘signs’:

- “Desire to paint room black.

- Black clothing, when worn almost exclusively or when combined with the wearing of jewellery, buttons or paraphernalia with occult symbols or names of heavy metal groups. A child who is recruited by a Satanist covens (sic), will without exception receive jewellery from the high priest and be told to always wear it.”

“Furthermore, to quote Theistic Satanist James L. Nicholson III:

“The color black, is typically associated with strength, protection and the dark energy of the Black Flame, but not evil. Using black candles is one way to bring more power into your workings, but it is not the only powerful color you can use.”

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
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Wearing black clothing, liking the colour black and reading horror books does not make one a Satanist. Furthermore, the claim that a child recruited by a Satanic ‘coven’ will ‘without exception’ receive jewellery is completely false. Also to be noted; modern day Satanists are organized into grottos, pylons and temples - Pagans in Wiccan and Witchcraft traditions are organized into covens.

The only alleged ‘sign’ in Breaking the Circle that might be indicative of a child or teenager having an interest in Satanism or Occult philosophies is: “Writing poems and letters about Satanism or with occult sign pictures and occult symbols (upside down crosses, pentagram, 666).”

However the latter part of this sign is where the wheels, once again, fall off: “Secret messages: full sheets of paper with everything written backwards. Look at your child’s schoolwork and books, especially at the art projects the child did at school.” Supposed ‘secret messages’ are not a sign of Satanic involvement.”


“The article [Who’s Recruiting Your Child?] opens with the claim that there was a 100-300% increase in ‘occult-related crime’ between 1997 and 1998. These crimes are listed as: ‘murder, malicious damage to property, desecration of graves, missing persons and bomb threats’. This is a claim that is highly suspicious as none of these crimes form constituted requirements of any form of occult practices, so how can they be ‘occult crimes’? If anything, it is more likely that standard crimes were misinterpreted by Occult-Related Crime Unit members to falsely boost their statistics.

This claim is expanded on by stating that, according to FH Havinga, “80% of occult-related crimes are not reported”. Once again, as has already been evidenced in FH Havinga’s beliefs and ‘work’, he is a believer in Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA). A cornerstone of SRA myths is that Satanism and the ever elusive ‘the occult’ are based on criminal acts, acts which supposedly number in the thousands each year. However this is nothing more than myth and not based in the realm of fact.

This claim leads into the belief that, “many law enforcement personnel are ignorant about Satanism and do not recognize important evidence”. What this shows is that, a) this article, like the rest featured in the magazine, ignores the fact that even Satanists are afforded religious rights under the South African Constitution, and b) the false claim that
crime is an essential cornerstone of Satanic religious beliefs and practices.

The true motives behind Servamus’ series of articles centering on Satanism and Occult practices is evidenced in the following statement:

“What makes it even more complicated is that not all Satanist activities necessarily constitute crime.”

This quote acknowledges that Satanism is not about crime and because of that, it is harder for individuals such as FH Havinga and the then Occult-Related Crime Unit to investigate and persecute Satanists. The true nature of South Africa’s period of Satanic Panic is evidenced in this single sentence: that regardless of an individual’s constitutionally protected beliefs, believers in SRA and members of the ORCU saw it as their Christian duty to convert such individuals to Christianity, more often than not abusing their position in the SAPS to do so.”

Worth nothing, is that F.H. Havenga, an individual referred to often in these articles, is also a key member of ASERAC, a warfare ministry.

“The article then moves on to the claim that Satan has a specific strategy in place for South Africa’s youth:

“Satan uses the power of suggestion, deception, curiosity and covenants/pacts. An ex-Satanist mentioned that for a covenant with Satan to be legal, it does not matter whether you are drugged or underage. Satan attacks in three areas: gratification of the flesh (eg drugs, sex) of the ego (eg status, wealth) and of power (eg white and black magic).”

This alleged ‘strategy’ is totally false and based solely on Christian fears and not on any actual Satanic religious practices. It should also be noted that, considering that Pagan beliefs are termed as ‘white magic’ by FH Havinga (an information source for this article), it stands that the author of this article is pushing the false belief that Paganism is ‘of the devil’.

Next on the agenda is the topic of recruitment and the article claims that it “is a process in which many instruments and methods are used”. It is further claimed that a Satanist apparently has all the time in the world to dedicate to luring a Christian child into the world of Satanism: “It could take weeks, months or even years. Satanists infiltrate every level of society.”

The truth is that practicing Satanists can indeed be found at “every level of society” just as Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Pagans and individuals of various other faiths can. Furthermore, Satanism does not proselytize as Christianity does, so despite what this article claims, a
practicing Satanist will never recruit anyone into their beliefs, whether child or adult.

Who is Recruiting your Child? then goes on to make the statement that “informal training [in Satanism] is provided by occult literature that is readily available.” There are two problems with this statement. The first is that, once again, we live in a democratic country and every citizen is guaranteed religious freedom; so whether someone chooses to study occult literature is their personal choice, and one they’re entitled to. The second point is that ‘the occult’ is not solely Satanism and it covers a very broad range of beliefs, practices and philosophies which are not sinister or damaging in the manner in which this article (and Servamus’ entire community edition) implies.

“Who is Recruiting your Child? then moves on to describe how Satanists supposedly ‘recruit’ children. In the article it is claimed that, “talent scouts of a Satanic coven target a person’s natural abilities or weaknesses,” and that, “the coven curses that person with rebellion, lust etc.”

It should be stated that practicing LaVeyan Satanists are organized into grottos, pylons and temples- Pagan groups in Wiccan and Witchcraft traditions are organized into covens. This only goes to show the SRA myths at play that knowingly, and wrongfully, interchange Paganism with Satanism. Additionally, as already stated, Satanists do not recruit anyone into their beliefs as their path does not proselytize, and on that point alone the angle of this article is but a lie.

Furthermore the idea that Satanists supposedly cursing individuals are to blame for human behavior such as “rebellion, [or] lust” is based solely within the ideals of Christianity. It is the exact same principle of refusing to accept responsibility; instead using the excuse of, ‘the devil made me do it’ to justify feelings of guilt surrounding natural human behavior. It is also yet another common myth within the greater SRA myth.

“Who is Recruiting your Child? then ends with the following statement:

“Don’t make the mistake of minimizing Satan’s power or denying the reality of his kingdom of evil. Ex-Satanists say that the only way out is through Jesus Christ. Satan, with his whole kingdom, has already been defeated by Jesus Christ when He was crucified. Whosoever believes in Jesus can partake in his victory over Satan.”

And, as with the other articles in Servamus’ ‘Special Community Edition’, it ends with the ‘big sell’- there is a spiritual war and only Jesus Christ can save you. A rather confusing statement as the above claims that Jesus has already “defeated” Satan, so one is left
wondering why the need for the feverish beliefs in a “spiritual war” that has already been won?

However, what is most shocking is not just the level of propaganda in the article, but that this was written for members of the South African Police Service as an educational piece. Even more shocking is that fifteen years after it was originally penned, it is still being promoted to the same audience and for the same purposes."

SRA Myths – “The Devil Made Me Do It”

The Music Made Me Do It

Music, especially more aggressive forms, are often portrayed by “occult experts” as being directly linked to Satanism or “the occult”. Often SRA articles will try to link crimes committed with music listened to by the perpetrators. The same idiotic idea is also used to link violent behaviour with computer games. The entire game of blaming criminal acts on music or computer games is as ridiculous as – well, blaming criminal acts on religious beliefs.

“It is an exceptionally popular myth within SRA beliefs that Satanists listen to heavy metal exclusively and that the genre is performed by Satanists and has the ability to influence one to experiment with Satanism. And that is just it with this theory, it is a myth based on fear and has zero evidence to support the wild claims.

Using a quote by Vladimir Lenin, “One quick way to destroy a society is through its music,” the article only displays the link between Apartheid Communism fears and its post-Apartheid replacement, Satanism. The only source for this quote is the 1974 book, The Marxist Minstrels by David A. Noebel (American Christian College Press), where it was used in support of Noebel’s theory that rock music carried Communist intentions.

The supposed connection between Satanism and certain genres of music is further reinforced with the belief that Satan, in His role of the fallen angel, is associated with music; therefore according to SRA believers (such as the writer of the article and its sources) it seems only ‘logical’ that Satan would use music to attempt to reach children. And the reason why heavy metal and similar genres are ‘Satanic’ is that, according to the article, “heavy metal music promotes violence, suicide and the occult”. This is yet another claim that is false and cannot be supported by any evidence; and once more ‘the occult’ is wrongfully painted as being sinister.

The music angle is further pushed with a doctored quote from AC/DC guitarist Angus Young which directly reads: “Someone else is steering
me, I become possessed when I am on stage- Angus Young (AC/DC, Hit Parader, 1995). The correct, original quote is from July 1985 and reads:

"...it's like I'm on automatic pilot. By the time we're halfway through the first number someone else is steering me. I'm just along for the ride. I become possessed when I get on stage."

This inaccurate quote is then followed with: "The covers and names of the lyrics most of the time indicate the content of the group’s message." Contrary to popular SRA beliefs, the vast majority of musicians do not actively set out to portray a specific message as a unified group- it is generally held that song writing is the result of a creative process and not specific calculations to lure children into Satanism."

"The alleged recruitment process is further described:

"Then s/he is invited to a party where there are free drugs and alcohol and trance music. Most of the time the drugs are camouflaged, heroin in the candles or drugs in the drinks or in the ice."

Again, this is nothing more than Christian fears of the modern world where drugs are a danger, and at the writing of this article, trance music was incredibly popular. Instead of accepting that popular culture is fluid and changes, some Christian factions choose to hold to the popular culture of previous generations and out of fear, blame modern popular culture on the Satan of Christianity." – From Penton Pagan Magazine: [http://www.penton.co.za/exposing-the-lies-inside-servamus-drugs-occult-related-crime-part-3/](http://www.penton.co.za/exposing-the-lies-inside-servamus-drugs-occult-related-crime-part-3/)

The PC Games Made Me Do It

"The blame is then passed on to computer games which the article claims provide a doorway into the occult. According to the article, computer games “teach players sorcery, voodoo, magic, witchcraft and spiritual warring skills” and that some games “include information on techniques of meditation, astral travelling, spells, demonic incantations and the calling of spirit guides”. Just as with the majority of the statements made in Who is Recruiting your Child? this statement is based on the Christian fear of what falls outside of their narrow worldview.

While some game developers may loosely base such game elements on actual occult practices, what is eventually conveyed in the game is far removed from actual occult practices, and as such, a very poor source of information or introduction to ‘the occult’. What the author and other supporters of this false claim forget is that computer and console games are just like the SRA myths- works of fiction and nothing more.
This statement is then followed with the idea that playing computer games promotes “a lust for bloodletting, murder and suicide” and that these games also lead the player to progressively be controlled by “spiritual forces”. The article even goes so far to claim that players can be involved in “spiritual battles” when resting or sleeping. These ideas are then extended to “literature, videos and movies [that] expose people to demonic possession.” Again, this is more fiction and SRA myth based on a lack of knowledge and understanding, and a fear of computer games.” – From Penton Pagan Magazine: http://www.penton.co.za/exposing-the-lies-inside-servamus-drugs-occult-related-crime-part-3/

The Black Clothes Made Me Do It

“Again, playing into the Christian belief that the Goth sub-culture is synonymous with Satanism are the following ‘signs’:

- “Desire to paint room black.
- Black clothing, when worn almost exclusively or when combined with the wearing of jewellery, buttons or paraphernalia with occult symbols or names of heavy metal groups. A child who is recruited by a Satanist covens (sic), will without exception receive jewellery from the high priest and be told to always wear it.”

“Furthermore, to quote Theistic Satanist James L. Nicholson III:

“The color black, is typically associated with strength, protection and the dark energy of the Black Flame, but not evil. Using black candles is one way to bring more power into your workings, but it is not the only powerful color you can use.”


The Jewelry Made Me Do It

“The Servamus article then flows into the statement that fashion plays an important role in a teenager’s life and that peer pressure is the reason why children belong to groups. It is then stated that, “they [children, teenagers] buy the Satanic rings, bracelets or necklaces and give the demons a legal doorway.” “Furthermore, the claim that a child recruited by a Satanic ‘coven’ will ‘without exception’ receive jewellery is completely false.”

Again, this is more SRA and fringe fundamentalist Christian fodder. Within the realms of these two beliefs it is held that, as gold is a
‘Christian metal’ silver is therefore an unholy metal, and as such, wearing silver or unchristian jewellery can open one up to demonic possession. This is based on superstition alone and has no factual basis whatsoever.” – From Penton Pagan Magazine: http://www.penton.co.za/exposing-the-lies-inside-servamus-drugs-occult-related-crime-part-3/

If Satanists Aren’t Committing All These Crimes Reported In The Media, Then Who Is?

Categories Of Killing In The Name Of Religion

Human sacrifice:

“Human sacrifice is the act of killing one or more human beings as part of a religious ritual (ritual killing). Its typology closely parallels the various practices of ritual slaughter of animals and of religious sacrifice in general. Human sacrifice has been practiced in various cultures throughout history. Victims were typically ritually killed in a manner that was supposed to please or appease gods, spirits or the deceased, for example as a propitiatory offering, or as a retainer sacrifice when the King's servants are killed in order for them to continue to serve their master in the next life.

Closely related practices found in some tribal societies are cannibalism and headhunting. By the Iron Age, with the associated developments in religion (the Axial Age), human sacrifice was becoming less common throughout the Old World, and came to be looked down upon as barbaric in pre-modern times (Classical Antiquity). Blood libel is a false charge of ritual killing.

Capital punishment has been described by an advocate as a 'thinely disguised manifestation of the ritualized killing of people'.[1] Death by burning historically has aspects of both human sacrifice (Wicker Man, Tophet) and capital punishment (Brazen bull, tunica molesta). Detractors of the death penalty may consider all forms of capital punishment as secular variants of human sacrifice.[2] Similarly, lynching, pogroms and genocides are sometimes interpreted as human sacrifice following Theodor W. Adorno.[3] In modern times, even the practice of animal sacrifice has virtually disappeared from all major religions (or has been re-cast in terms of ritual slaughter), and human sacrifice has become extremely rare. Most religions condemn the practice, and present-day secular laws treat it as murder. In a society which condemns human sacrifice, the term ritual murder is used.[4][5] In India, Sati, the immolation of
a widow on her husband's funeral pyre, continued well into the 19th century, but is now very rare.”

“Allegations of human sacrifice have been made against the Jews generally in the form of accusations of child cannibalism or desecrating the eucharist. Groups that have had such accusations leveled against them include blood libel against the Jews by Apion in the 30s CE,[113] Christians in the Roman empire later allegations of a Jewish conspiracy and the witch hunts of the 16th and 17th centuries.[114] In the 20th century, blood libel accusations re-emerged as part of the satanic ritual abuse moral panic.[114]

The People's Republic of China as well as Chinese nationalists in the Republic of China in their effort to discredit Tibetan lamaism make frequent and emphatic reference to the historical human sacrifice in Tibet, portraying the 1950 People's Liberation Army invasion of Tibet as an act of humanitarian intervention.”

“Human sacrifice is illegal in India. But a few cases do occur in remote and underdeveloped regions of the country, where modernity has not penetrated well and tribal/semi-tribal groups adhere to cultural practices as they did over the course of millennia. According to the Hindustan Times, there was an incident of human sacrifice in western Uttar Pradesh in 2003.[118] Similarly, police in Khurja reported "dozens of sacrifices" in the period of half a year in 2006.[119]” – from Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_sacrifice#Allegations_of_human_sacrifice

**Ritual Murder**

“Ritual killings perpetrated by individuals or small groups within a society that denounces them as simple murder are difficult to classify as either "human sacrifice" or mere pathological homicide because they lack the societal integration of sacrifice proper.

The instances closest to "ritual killing" in the criminal history of modern society would be pathological serial killers such as the Zodiac Killer, and mass suicides with doomsday cult background, such as the Peoples Temple, Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God, Order of the Solar Temple or Heaven's Gate incidents.[according to whom?] Other examples include the "Matamoros killings" attributed to Mexican cult leader Adolfo Constanzo and the

### “Muti” (Medicine) Murders

In most cases “muti” or medicine murders are not ritual murders. The murder is fairly ordinary in itself, though the murder is marked by the evident removal of one or several body parts, and these are intended for use in a ritual or for magical purposes.

“A Medicine murder is the killing of a human being in order to excise body parts to use as medicine. It is not human sacrifice in a religious sense because the motivation is not the death of human, but the creation of an item or items from their corpus for use in traditional medicine. Its practice in the format described below occurs primarily in sub-equatorial Africa[citation needed].

Medicine murder in southern Africa has been documented in some small detail in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland, although it is a difficult subject to investigate because of its controversial standing in customary practices and laws. Very few research and discussion documents have been devoted to this subject. Three concerning Lesotho were published in 1951, 2000 and 2005 regarding the same events in the 1940s and 1950s; one concerning Swaziland was published in 1993 covering the 1970s and 1980s; and a commission of enquiry held in South Africa in 1995 covering medicine murder and witchcraft in the 1980s and 1990s.”

“In the early 1990s when South Africa was experiencing internal political strife between several political groupings, it became clear that some mutilations for medicine were opportunistic and incidental to the assassination of political opponents. There have also been occurrences of mutilation of corpses in medical facilities. In not all cases does the employment of a traditional healer seem to have been thought necessary to the process.” – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicine_murder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicine_murder)

Muti murders and similar crimes are today the most frequently occurring incidents blamed by evangelists, “warfare ministries”, individuals prominent in the newly reformed Occult Religious Crimes unit of the SAPS and other self-proclaimed “experts” in “the occult” as supposed “evidence of Satanism”, “Devil worship” and “Witchcraft” – even though none of these terms are applicable in reality, unless viewed in a strictly “19th century missionary” sense.

While the practice of human sacrifice and the trade in human body parts are illegal, here we see even traditional ethnic practices and
beliefs being mislabeled as “Satanism” by Western sensibility which equates these with its own traditional understanding – creating and perpetuating confusion.

Ritual Suicide

Buddhism is not a religion known for violence, although it is known for self-sacrifice and suicide. Oft times, monks and adherents ritually burn themselves to death as a form of protest against perceived instances of injustice, although it must be said that while this is usually very public and very distressing to witness, it is also non-violent towards others.

Islam is feared today perhaps mostly because of extremists who enlist in terror training camps and train to become suicide bombers in order to specifically create fear and distrust of their religion among their perceived enemies. The intention is to widen the divide between moderates within their religion and the perceived enemy in order to drive the moderates to support the extremist element by starving them of support from the perceived enemy. These extremists attach explosives to their bodies, walking or driving into densely populated public areas, and blowing themselves up to inflict maximum damage, death and hysteria. Their motivations are faith based, where they believe they will attain “paradise” for their actions as “martyrs”, while their relatives are assured of wealth and respect and support by the terror organizations and supporting governments.

Acts of Violence, War Or Inter-religious Hate

This section would include various wars throughout history which were inspired by or fueled by religious hatred, zealotry, territorialism and/or what we today classify as religious fundamentalism. Prime examples would include:

- Muslim expansion and conquest in the Middle Ages, mostly westward from Palestine, where it came into conflict with Christianity.
- Christian Crusades eastward towards Palestine to “reclaim the Holy Land for Christ”, where it brought Christianity directly into conflict with Islam.
- Numerous examples of civil wars, genocides and other conflicts in modern Africa and Eastern Europe where the combatants are divided along lines of religious differences aside from race or language etc, i.e. Christian/Muslim/Afrio-spiritual/Animism.
- Terrorism in the name of a religion, with resulting acts of violence usually on a relatively small scale, such as the hijacking of passenger aircraft or busses, the taking of hostages, usually with the intention of creating fear and mistrust and to gain for their cause as much publicity through their acts as possible, in order to widen the divide between their perceived enemies and...
perceived moderates within their own religion, thereby agitating the situation towards a violent end.

- Acts of violence on a personal basis which are not part of a war "per se", and which can be labeled hate-crimes on the basis of religious differences between parties involved. These are fairly common-place around the world.

How Does The Satanist Religion View Human Sacrifice, Ritual Murder, Etc?

Now that we have seen a broad spectrum of human sacrifice and ritual murder in history and in recent and even contemporary times, let’s look at this from the perspective of the Satanist community itself:

“Human sacrifice is still practiced, alas, by an assortment of fringe cults in many parts of the world. And, to this day, “Satanic Ritual Abuse” scaremongers seize upon the existence of human sacrifice as evidence for their claims. However:

A.) With only very rare exceptions, human-sacrificers are not Satanists in even a very broad sense of the word "Satanist". Most are fringe practitioners of religions far older than Christianity, such as Hinduism and some African traditional religions. Some are adherents of syncretic folk blends of Christianity and older religions.

B.) These days, almost all religions, including Hinduism, African traditional religions, and the syncretic religions of the African diaspora, have repudiated human sacrifice for the most part. Those adherents who still do practice human sacrifice, or who have recently revived the practice, should not be considered representative of their respective religious traditions. They should be regarded as only a fringe.

C.) All the more so, those who commit violent crimes in the name of Satan should not be considered representative of Satanism. The vast majority of Satanists (even in a very broad sense of the word "Satanist") do not practice human sacrifice (at least not in the sense of actual physical murder, though some do believe they have the ability to cast death curses and that they may be justified in doing so under some circumstances). Furthermore, none of today’s forms of Satanism have any provable direct lineage to any tradition older than the 1960’s. (There did exist some older forms of Satanism, but no Satanists today can prove a direct lineage to them, as far as I am aware.) The longest-established known Satanist orthodoxy is LaVeyan Satanism, which has always rejected criminal activity in the name of Satan.
D.) Although there do exist some people who have committed violent crimes in the name of Satan (see my page on Tabloid prophecy fulfillers - Satanism's real-life criminal fringe: How should law-abiding Satanists respond?), there have also been many, many more false alarms (see my page of links on the Satanic Ritual Abuse scare).

E.) There is no evidence of a massive criminal conspiracy of Satanists. Nor is a conspiracy theory necessary in order to explain the reluctance of some police departments to investigate allegations of "Satanic crime." The vast number of false alarms is sufficient to explain any such reluctance.

F.) All these points are important to keep in mind - especially because, alas, it appears that human sacrifice may be on the rise these days, hopefully only temporarily.

On this page I'll document some of the many examples of human sacrifice committed in today's world by non-Satanists. My point is that, when evidence of "ritual human sacrifice" is encountered, it should not automatically be assumed to be the work of a "Satanic cult." – Diane Vera: http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/dvera/asp/h.html

Accusations Of Ritual Murders, Medicine Murders, Ritual Suicide Or Violence In The Name Of Religion

Whenever someone accuses a group or individual of ‘Satanism” in the context of crime or murder, it is usually in reference to the stereotype that says “Satanists do x, y, or z that harms other people”.

As history can attest, it is not that simple to identify “the bad guy” by simply classifying his entire race, culture or religion as taboo, objectionable or unwelcome, or to portray these as unacceptable – in fact, it defeats the object by turning the accuser into the very thing he or she fears.

History has shown that EVERY single group in existence, past and present, has the proverbial bad apples in the basket that give the rest a bad name.

Those who act out violently in the name of their religion are considered to be extremists or fundamentalists who do not share the moderate or even liberal views of the majority of their fellow believers.

Thus it is our argument that it is unfair and inaccurate to lay claim that an ENTIRE group of individuals identifying with the label of Satanism to describe their diverse beliefs, are ALL deserving of the propagandistic treatment as being “threatening” and “dangerous” etc. It is perhaps best demonstrated by the sheer number of examples of killings or ritual murders – and even terrorist actions committed allegedly in the names of other religions which are NOT
generally or as widely considered as “threatening” and/or dangerous as Satanism is portrayed to be.

Of special interest is the number of crimes, hate-crimes or violations of human rights in which religion plays a critical role, either in terms of special mention in the coverage of the case, or in the specific particulars of the crime.

In South Africa it is mainly protagonists of Abrahamic religions and especially Christianity who are actively portraying and categorizing suspected crimes as “Satanic” as they continue to defame or persecute these by associating them with the occult – even decrying laws which protect religious freedom as being part of the problem.

Aside from the obvious differences in the religious backgrounds or affiliations of individual suspects in a wide variety of cases, the one obvious common denominator is not merely religion or religious belief – it is mental illness or plain criminality. It is a well known dictum that religion is often nothing more than a good excuse to get away with something, resulting in the age old “defense” which goes: “The Devil made me do it”.

**Justifying Murder – The Religious Extremists**

Religious extremists are those who carry religious fervor to the extreme. They are the sort who will resort to acts of terror and violence in order to promote their own religion or advance its interests by harming a perceived enemy, which is frequently another group or religion which is in some way identified as clear opposition to the religion’s goals or beliefs, or which in some way violates or offends the sensibilities of the religion, in some cases, simply be existing. Then they will most typically used the victim’s religion or behavior relating to their own religious doctrine or views as justification or exoneration of their actions. Below are listed some examples of extremism among Abrahamic religions.

**Jewish Extremism:**

“Jewish terrorist actions are performed on a much smaller scale, and are limited to the Near East. (The Jews comprise only 0.2% of the world population.) However, the sentiment behind those actions appears to be similar to the sentiment governing the Islamist attacks:

Karen Armstrong notes that in 1980 Rabbi Israel Hess published an article entitled "Genocide: A Commandment of the Torah" in the official magazine of the Bar-Ilan University. In it he argued that:

"the Palestinians were to the Jews what darkness was to light, and that they deserved the same fate as the Amalekites". 4

And just what fate is that? According to 1 Samuel 15:3 the Hebrews were told:

"United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests"

Version 01.00
"Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass."

Among the best known cases of Jewish terrorism is the 1994 machine-gunning of Moslem worshippers at a mosque in the town of Hebron. A single terrorist killed 29 people and wounded about 150 before being killed himself. The killer, Baruch Goldstein, was an American medical doctor and a devoted follower of Rabbi Meier Kahane. He became a hero to the extremists, and the marble plaque on his grave reads: "To the holy Baruch Goldstein, who gave his life for the Jewish people, the Torah, and the Nation of Israel." – From Religious Tolerance.org: http://religioustolerance.org/relhateex.htm

Islamic Extremism:

“The most distressing feature of Islamic extremist terrorism is that that the perpetrators believe that they have the right to murder people in order to achieve religious and political goals. It is especially the theological framework developed by the Egyptian writer Sayyid Qutb in the 1950s and 1960s that made the killings committed by terrorist groups seem reasonable and necessary. Sayyid Qutb himself was hanged in 1966. The assumed right to kill is an extension of traditional Islamic rules concerning apostasy, which historically called for the death penalty against ex-Muslims who abandoned the faith.” – From Religious Tolerance.org: http://religioustolerance.org/relhateex.htm

Christian Extremism:

Christian-on-Christian Violence:

“In Northern Ireland, "the troubles" refer to about three decades of violence, largely between the Roman Catholics nationalist community who sought union with Ireland and the primarily Protestant unionist community who want to remain part of the UK. It was largely rooted in discrimination by the Protestant majority against the Catholic minority. Between 1969 and 2001, 3,526 people were killed by Republican and Loyalist paramilitary groups and by British and Irish security forces. An uneasy peace was attained by the Belfast Agreement of 1998 and has endured. After 3,600 killings and assassinations over 30 years." – From Religious Tolerance.org: http://religioustolerance.org/curr_war.htm

Christian on Other:

Each year in South Africa, hundreds of suspected “witches” are murdered or turned into refugees. Those doing the accusing follow a mix of traditional African spiritualism and Christianity, which teaches
that witches should be killed in the traditional sense. For more on this topic, refer to SAPRA’s Advocacy on witch hunts resource: http://www.paganrightsalliance.org/advocacy/

“Christian rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army are conducting a civil war in the north of Uganda. Their goal is a Christian theocracy whose laws are based on the Ten Commandments. They abduct, enslave and/or raped about 2,000 children a year” – From Religious Tolerance.org: http://religioustolerance.org/curr_war.htm

Violence by religions whose central ethos appears to be based on and founded on peace, love and “fluffy” values is not a new thing. Even in ancient times, Christianity was evidently somewhat prone to open violence:

- “As soon as Christianity was legal (315 BCE), more and more pagan temples were destroyed by Christian mob. Pagan priests were killed.
- Between 315 and 6th century thousands of pagan believers were slain.
- Examples of destroyed Temples: the Sanctuary of Aesculap in Aegaea, the Temple of Aphrodite in Golgatha, Aphaka in Lebanon, the Heliopolis.
- Christian priests such as Mark of Arethusa or Cyrill of Heliopolis were famous as "temple destroyer." [DA468]
- Pagan services became punishable by death in 356. [DA468]
- Christian Emperor Theodosius (408-450) even had children executed, because they had been playing with remains of pagan statues. [DA469] According to Christian chroniclers he "followed meticulously all Christian teachings..."
- In the 6th century pagans were declared void of all rights.
- In the early fourth century the philosopher Sopatros was executed on demand of Christian authorities. [DA466]
- The world famous female philosopher Hypatia of Alexandria was torn to pieces with glass fragments by a hysterical Christian mob led by a Christian minister named Peter, in a church, in 415.” – Truth Be Known: http://www.truthbeknown.com/victims.htm

For further reading on violence in the name of the Christian religion in antiquity, please refer to http://markhumphrys.com/christianity.killings.html and http://www.truthbeknown.com/victims.htm

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In modern times, most expressions of religious intolerance by Christians have been more peaceful, through political expression, lawmaking, verbal opinion and blatant discrimination and so on, but there have also been some cases of extremists taking to violence as shown in these examples from the Religious Tolerance information resource:

- “The 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK, by Timothy McVeigh killed 168, including 19 children.

- One lynching, one attempted mass murder by stoning, and numerous fire bombings, shootings, and assaults victimized Wiccans and other Neopagans in the U.S. during the late 20th century. To our knowledge, all were perpetrated by Fundamentalist Christians. Because of the increasing public awareness of, and knowledge about, Wicca, the frequency of these attacks has been reduced to near zero over the past 25 years.

- Fundamentalist Christians have attacked Jewish centers, attempted to poison municipal water supplies, bombed abortion clinics, and assassinated abortion providers in the U.S.

- During 2011. Anders Behring Breivik, 32 -- a.k.a. Andrew Berwick -- conducted two related terrorist attacks in Norway that together resulted in 77 deaths, mostly of teenagers at a campground. Although described as a fundamentalist Christian by many commentators, he regarded himself as a generic Christian who hated Muslims, The motivation for the mass murders was retaliation against the governments of Norway and of other European countries that he felt were encouraging multiculturalism and the immigration of Muslims.

The members of the Christian organizations perpetrating these crimes seem to be convinced that the forces of truth wage a perennial, cosmic battle with the forces of falsehood, and that they face the challenge of protecting Christian truth by any methods available.” – From Religious Tolerance.org: http://religioustolerance.org/relhateex1.htm

Bearing all this in mind, in all fairness, is it not strange that more mainstream religions are not also defamed as being “dangerous” and “threatening” “occult practices”?  

When authority figures, politicians, clergymen, evangelicals and the media either start or fuel such rumors, make false or unproven accusations or allegations, and they are circulated and supported by the public to the extent that it sparks a hysteria – this is SRA.
News Media, Journalists & Editorial Staff As Sources & Purveyors Of Misinformation

When journalists approach representatives of communities or groups which SRA focuses on, expectations are not always lived up to by the newspapers they represent. This is not always the fault of the journalist conducting the interview, just as it sometimes IS. Some journalists are objective and open to learning the facts for themselves. Conversely, some journalists have ulterior motives, and some news agencies have pre-existing policies and mindsets on various issues, and again, certain viewpoints are maintained effectively by the Editors regardless of the viewpoint held by the original article.

Most people make the mistake of thinking that newspapers are sources of factual information, with an ethical obligation to tell the truth without bias or spin. Well, technically, at least according to various ethics and standards which the industry sets for itself, they ARE supposed to be. Time and again, however, journalists, editors and newspapers throw ethics out the window – and prove the public fatally wrong. Newspapers are BUSINESSES, and like any business, they are in the business of making as much money as possible. Nothing sells like sex… AND Satanism – or in the case of SRA, ACCUSATIONS of “Satanism”. Many papers in SA maintain a Christian readership, and cater for a Christian viewpoint – and even a Christian fundamentalist viewpoint.

The Press Ombudsman has proven himself to be a bigot who has repeatedly refused to engage with occult religions in South Africa on matters of libelous SRA reporting in SA press, and some newspapers with a specific religious bias – and others more motivated by increased profit, have declared “open season” on alternative religions and lifestyles. This despite the detail that this is a SECULAR country – at least, according to the increasingly ignored Constitution which promotes freedom of religion and equal treatment for people regardless of their religious beliefs or affiliations.

Journalists and Editors don’t always understand the topic of an article, and they don’t always CARE enough to. It’s an assignment that needs to be done before they get to do more important things in their own time. They don’t always want the “truth” – they want sensation. Modern “news” is often nothing more than skillfully re-packaged advertising, presented as really attractive propaganda that happens to fit a particular viewpoint and influence public opinion to create a desired effect.

Journalists don’t always want to know how it REALLY IS in a targeted religious minority group or subculture, what they REALLY want is material to reinforce the SRA viewpoint – and the controversy around the religious fundamentalist hysteria that boosts their sales.

SRA – or Satanic Ritual Abuse – in the media is not about news, or the reporting of facts. It is about deliberate MISINFORMATION about a targeted
group or religion with the intention of creating misunderstanding, mistrust, fear and hatred of a specific minority – in the case of South Africa (and the USA), by Christians – and to a lesser degree, Muslims. In many cases this is perpetuated also by many atheists and agnostics also, who may have been members of other religions, but who still carry that same misunderstanding of the targeted groups. SRA is at heart, religious warfare in print, audio and video media, in societal norms and civil conventions. The danger is that SRA creeps into legal, law enforcement and lawmaking aspects as is currently the case with the SAPS and its ORC unit. Together these all create fear and incite hatred against minority groups.

In South Africa, possibly the biggest SRA problem is uneducated journalists and editors, who simply DON’T KNOW the facts and eat up the SRA stew dished for them by self-proclaimed “occult experts” – frauds like former policemen who now run their own “warfare ministries” which specifically target religious minorities and who have such OBVIOUS BIAS it is surprising it has gone on unchallenged for so long. This sort of journalism simply perpetuates ignorant and presumptive viewpoints on the basis of “it comes from the experts, so it must be right”, without bothering to check facts, or consult with opposing viewpoints as a professional journalist SHOULD, and does in most other instances. Often the personal prejudices of the journalistic staff plays a role in how something is portrayed in the media.

What should occult-related community groups, subcultures and alternative religions look for in media and newspapers that ask for interviews with them? The following is a suggestion from the Vampyre Community news agency, SA Vampyre News:

“1) Judge the intent of the journalist/paper/media by the sort of questions they ask. Don’t answer leading questions that attempt to trick the interviewee into providing information that can or will be used to put the group/community in a bad light, or to imply that reason does exist to doubt sincerity or honesty on the part of the interviewee or the group/community.

2) Check on the sort of articles on this or similar topics done by the journalist in the past to verify that they write objectively. It is relatively pointless to do an interview with a “newspaper” that only posts SRA rubbish as “news" and “fact" – they will not change their sensationalist run just for you.

3) Many papers do restrict space for articles which are very controversial, or if they are biased, for the opposing viewpoint. If they only use small select portions you should be able to gauge their intent by whether they use tracts that work for you, or against you. If they don’t use your statements or interview material at all, it is more than likely that the content a) wasn’t sensational enough to boost their sales on the SRA ticket, or b) wasn’t what they were looking for anyway.” – From SAVN: http://savampyrenews.wordpress.com/2013/04/04/what-doesnt-make-it-to-the-papers-by-val/#more-1816
Example 1: The Analysis Of A Typical “Satanic Panic” News Article:

While in South Africa, the odd article appearing in community based newspapers – such as the one which appeared in Look Local Lowveld on March 8, 2013 – “Local pastor tells of Satanic murder trends - Learners sometimes kill their own families as a sacrifice” http://www.looklocal.co.za/looklocal/content/en/lowveld/lowveld-news-general?oid=7057943&sn=Detail&pid=null&Local-pastor-tells-of-Satanic-murder-trends.

Of particular importance are the following:

1) “A pastor who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of being victimised has revealed to the Herald that Satanic killings are rife in Randfontein among school children.” – As is typical in most similar articles, an “anonymous pastor” or other evangelical figure makes claims that cannot be proved in any court of law because no evidence exists to support his or her claims. Also, subsequent to the article being published, nothing further is heard about these claims, either in follow-up news reports, or police statements about arrests or investigations into these claims delivering evidence etc.

2) “This comes after the murder of Keamogetswe Sefularo (14) who was stabbed and killed by a schoolmate in a veld a few minutes away from Lukhanyo Secondary School.” – Reference is often made to actual cases which are currently being or were recently investigated, but which are in fact unrelated to the claims they make which are frequently vague and obscure. Often these cases themselves have not yet been resolved by police investigation or court action to deliver a definite outcome. Relevant to note in this case, the article is NOT about the case in which a teen was reportedly killed by “Satanists”, but appears to be about unfounded claims being linked by the journalist TO “Satanism” in a manner which can be best described as inciting fearfulness and intolerance. This is usually in an attempt to link them, by using the controversial nature of such cases to draw readership interest, at the expense of journalistic integrity, relevance and accuracy.

3) “He has refused to divulge the identities of those who are apparently involved in the group, even though he is adamant that he knows who they are.” – More often than not, they will not reveal their sources or informants who quite naturally, will fear for their lives – which should raise suspicion in the mind of anyone requiring some kind of actual evidence to support a claim that actual crimes are being committed. Further, this helps to create the impression that the target group is prone to violence and generates fearfulness and also sympathy for the cause of the apparent "victims".

4) “Possessed children tend to isolate themselves from other children and form their own groups.” – Normal teenage behavior is
misrepresented as evidence of “involvement in the occult” or as in this case, “possession”. “Normal”, presumably Christian teenagers of course would “never” form their own groups or want to isolate themselves from other children!

5) "Most children who are in this group are often not aware of what they are getting involved in." – Neither it would seem, are the adults making these claims. They demonstrate a clear lack of first-hand knowledge about the targeted group. Assumption is made that there is some kind of organized conspiracy, and as is typical with SRA allegations, there is no proof to substantiate such conspiracy. Accusations are made with no evidence or proof, but solely on the basis of rumor and anonymous claims of wrongdoing and on imagined connections with “the occult”.

6) “In most cases, they are lured by evil spirits cast upon them,” says the Pastor.” – Claims of supernatural influence which typically cannot be proven in any form, are applied liberally by accusers in an attempt to justify the claims that there is something untoward or suspicious going on. A secular legal and justice system – as exists in South Africa requires PROOF of crime. Suspicion is not proof, accusation does not confer guilt.

7) “Again they also tend to label themselves as Emo or even slit their wrists frequently,” says the Pastor.” – Benign fashions and styles are ignorantly conflated with preconceptions of “occult” or harmful behavior. This is the same fallacious nonsense that blames music or computer games for people going out on shooting sprees. Is there any evidence of self-harm i.e. “cutting”, or is it an assumption that because someone dresses according to a certain style or listens to a certain style of music that they automatically self-harm? In this way, other sub-cultures are maligned in parallel to a targeted religion, allowing the critics of diversity to kill two birds with one stone.

8) “He says that they sometimes kill their own families as a sacrifice.” “He adds that children go as far as killing their own parents and siblings at times in order to drink their blood.” “Randfontein SAPS spokesperson Captain Appel Ernst says that despite the pastor’s allegations, the police have not seen any evidence to support his claims. "We have seen no evidence of an active occult related group in Randfontein, or of any murders that could be related to rituals or the occult," says Ernst.” – Since there have been no confirmed media reports and no confirmed criminal convictions of that nature – or any evidence – to support such claims, even the police officer interviewed in this article denies that this is the case. As with most incidents of SRA, these usually turn out to be false or fabricated allegations based on nothing but ignorance and malicious and idle rumors.
There are so many recent examples of SRA reports in the media, where strange events and also allegations of crime are broadly alleged without so much as a thread of evidence or proof and loads of speculation. If these are spoofs or satirical pieces, then fine and well – but they are being presented as NEWS in which religious groups and subcultures are portrayed piece-meal as a dangerous threat that should be dealt with by the police!

These will often feature commentary from a well-known “expert” in “the occult” and “Satanism”, who will do nothing more than to fuel the curiosity and hysteria – and hostility for alternative religious movements often accused of “Satanism”.

Since most of these so-called "experts" make a living from their consultations (whether directly or indirectly) it is only in their best interests to reinforce the public perception that they are needed and necessary and that they serve a useful and vital purpose. Naturally, this means putting an "occultic spin" on every little detail of an alleged case of “Satanism”, even when the crime at hand is no more than a run of the mill criminal act where the religion of the perpetrator plays no part at all.

The public – and frequently also State officials, tend to forget Constitutional provisions for freedom of religion, and pretty soon there is a free-for-all in chat rooms, and in the comments threads of these articles, frequently condemning democratic human rights values, demanding the return of the death penalty – and often threatening vigilantism against perceived “Satanists” or witches.

Also a given in such media cases of SRA, is the tendency for journalists and editors to treat clerics making such outlandish and unproven claims as “reliable sources” without even considering for a moment the harm they are doing by perpetuating untruths and hearsay.

Consider replacing the word “occult” with “Jew” or the word “Satanist” in these articles with “Black” or “Christian” and you will understand where the violation of human rights enters the equation.

Often, media will interview or consult with well-known “experts” in “the occult” or “Satanism”, who frequently turn out to be frauds who actually do not know much about either, except from the very narrow scope of an evangelical crusader who has taken on the mantle of a self-proclaimed “expert” in a sub-culture or religious movement which he or she works against. Giving these people publicity and allowing them to use media as a platform to perpetuate their own misunderstanding and to disseminate disinformation of these maligned groups lends them credibility and encourages them even more.

Frequently this unfortunate tendency results in others not wanting to accept the explanations or attempts to educate of these maligned groups, because people dogmatically refuse to believe them on the grounds that the explanations conflict with what “Pastor X” (or the newspaper under the leaky fridge) says about Satanism. And yet, nine times out of ten, if you will – “Pastor X” has never ventured outside of his own religion, but has learned all
he knows about Satanism and the occult at Bible college, or from another pastor who held similar views – or in the case of the SAPS ORC unit operatives, a mere 5 day course under a former ORC agent – most of which now run their own “Warfare Ministries” who specifically target perceived occult religions and Satanism. Does this not spell bias? And these people call themselves “experts”? Where is the PROOF of the things they claim? Are they impartial? No. Are they fair? Are they constitutional? I think you can see for yourselves that they are not.

In recent South African history – in a time when oppression is supposed to be something of the past, blind eyes and deaf ears are being turned toward the deliberate demonization of individuals, and the impugning of their dignity based on their constitutional right to exercise their freedoms of religion, speech, association and expression.

Example 2: Michael Van Eck and the “Graveyard Murder”

“It was Danie Krügel who first called the Van Eck case a satanic killing. It should be noted that Krügel has ties to Auksano and to former occult-unit member Johan De Beer. Krugel called the Van Eck case one of the “most gruesome satanic murders”. Soon the press started focussing on any small link to supposed Satanism – it turned out to be a colossal waste of time focussing on “Satanism”. What did their beliefs have to do with motive? Conveniently, the press ignored the history of mental illness and other problems.

Some wheat among the chaff – This article was written by Johannes De Villiers during the media storm surrounding the Van Eck case. It takes a look at a particularly South African history of Satanism, especially the Christian myth of Satanism.

http://www.rapport.co.za/Weekliks/Nuus/Waar-is-al-die-sataniste-20110416

An attempt to answer Johannes de Villiers’ question regarding, “Where are all the Satanists?” follows. Their answer is the usual sensationalistic propaganda. Note how Jonker claims that all the top-satanists are either dead or in jail – convenient. Where was anyone convicted in a court of law where the “satanic” aspect actually played a significant role in the case? Where did supposed Satanism or occultism actually have anything to do with motive? In most cases, and as will be seen below all cases that were labelled as satanic or as “occult” in the media or by police merely had arbitrary signs, which wereinterpreted as “Satanism”. What exactly does Jonker classify as “signs”of Satanism? Based on his track record, including calling a hexagram, a “witchgram” and revealing metal music posters and Dracula Sherbet as potentially “satanic”(seen in Servamus), why should we trust his interpretations or the opinions of those who trained under him? They are all still Christian fundamentalists.
Plenty of the articles below also involved teenagers and the usual “legend tripping” aspects of “Satanism”. These perpetrators were the “tabloid prophecy fulfills” who tried to frighten and shock through the use of satanic trappings. It should be remembered that Jonker and the former occult-unit members, now with their own anti-occult ministries actually believe in the Christian satanic myth. They expect an organized and vast conspiracy of evil with none other than the devil himself at its helm. They cling to a mythic worldview where we in a war between “good” and “evil”. Evil exists in a literal form and seeks to tempt the youth away from Christ and damn their very souls. The Satanists in the myth usually have actual supernatural powers of the Hollywood kind.

Yet, all these cases labelled as “satanic” were isolated incidents and not evidence of a wider network of evil. As mentioned before, the connections to Satanism seem arbitrary. We should call a crime with a Bible near the scene a “Christian crime” then.


The Satanic Panic surrounding the murder of Michael Van Eck begins….


Some old background about Danie Krügel.

http://www.volksblad.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Technikon-studente-beloon-20100615

Here are some old articles about Auksano. It confirms the ties between Danie Krügel and the organization. Also note the “threatening letter” supposedly written by a “Satanist”. It looks more like the work of a child or young teenager who can’t even spell.


Soon the case spiraled out of control in the media and we can see how it elevated into a case of “satanic panic”. We can see how elements
within Christianity could use the myths that arose around this case to further their own agenda’s.

The devil is on the loose!

South Africa must be on its knees and turn back to the Christian God. Note how the case is labelled an “occult murder” and Van Eck suffered an “occult death”
http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Ma-wil-haat-na-okkulte-moord-20110422

The story surrounding the case becomes a “moral panic” with a specific purpose within a Christian context. The youth are turning their backs on God/Religion and should turn back or we will all suffer the consequences.

In comes Auksano with Barbara and Johan De Beer

The sensationalistic Beeld and Volksblad is desperate to find the Satanism/occult connection. They refer to the account of Lauren Stratford. Yet, Lauren Stratford is one of the debunked “occult survivors” mentioned above.

http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Vel-op-vermoorde-se-gesig-bestem-vir-rite-20110408

Ambiguities about Chane’s actual beliefs arose. She denied any connection to Satanism. We should also ask just what exactly did Chane’s beliefs have to do with anything. Clearly, it had nothing to do with motive and should not have played such a big role in this case and the media. The Sunday Tribune even called Chané the “Welkom Witch” (cannot find original article).
Beeld and other sources changed their tune.
http://www.beeld.com/Suid-Afrika/Nuus/Dis-nie-satanisme-20111123 Note how even Kobus Jonker testifies here that it is not Satanism. Of course he still has to make it clear that they may have experimented and dabbled.


Example 3: The case of the mutilated rabbit in Kempton Park and ASERAC

“F.H. Havinga’s comment about this case sparked an outrage amongst Witches and Pagans. Soon Havinga and ASERAC came with the usual nonsense that there was a rise in Witchcraft and Satanism in South-Africa and the public should be concerned.

http://www.looklocal.co.za/looklocal/content/en/kempton-park/kempton-park-news-general?oid=5856114&sn=Detail&pid=490119&Mutilated-rabbit-found–witchcraft-is-suspected
http://www.looklocal.co.za/looklocal/content/en/kempton-park/kempton-park-your-voices?oid=5903237&sn=Detail&pid=490115&Witches-offended-by-rabbit-article
http://www.looklocal.co.za/looklocal/content/en/kempton-park/kempton-park-your-voices?oid=6019226&sn=Detail&pid=null&Pagans-aren-t-Satanists
http://www.looklocal.co.za/looklocal/content/en/kempton-park/kempton-park-your-voices?oid=6143207&sn=Detail&pid=null&Think-before-you-speak

A reaction from within the Pagan community – Witchcraft had nothing to do with the case of the mutilated rabbit, by Damon Leff.
http://www.penton.co.za/?p=2453

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Lifeline steps in to defend themselves after the article about Occult and Satanic practices on the rise. They try to defend their position and their training by Aserac. Aserac’s website is still filled with biased information and outright misinformation along with Christian propaganda against other belief systems. The distinction made by the lay counsellor between “Satanism” as dark magic and Wicca or Paganism as “good” or “white” magic is still an oversimplification. Most real Satanists and most Witches, Pagans and Wiccans are still law-abiding citizens.


Example 4:

You might also find this interesting, coming from the ARF group (Francisco Fumarola):


The article above blames an occult group for an attempted act of terrorism. Yet, the article fails to mention that this “occult group” is in fact not an occult group at all but rather a right-wing Christian “Israel Vision” group. Among the men arrested was Gunther Jurgens Kotze the so-called “boer-viking”. He is the same person who had a run in with the law when he vandalized a monument with an obelisk he believed was the “penis of Satan”.

http://152.111.1.87/argief/berigte/citypress/2010/11/08/CP/8/Rapviking.html

Gunther does have a lot of information on what he calls Luciferianism (he includes Pagans and “hippies” under this term) and Satanism all over his Facebook pages (eventually removed due to reports). Yet, he believes that in the “last days” he will get to kill Pagans, Satanists and Witches as commanded by God. This clearly illustrates the incompetence of the police involved and of the media who called this
case an “occult” case. They found a random piece of paper with the word “Lucifer” and they call the group an “occult group”, the evidence they found was likely some of Gunther’s “research”.

The following articles confirm that Gunther was among the men arrested. No more mention of the Occult.

http://mdbp.org/perspektief/gunther-jurgens-kotze/


The media issued no apology or correction for pathetic and biased reporting.” – Francisco Fumarola

SRA Kills!

There are many newspapers in South Africa, and while most mainstream papers do not “overdo” it when it comes to reports on “cult-crime” or “Satanism”, there are those that do. Looking at their headlines, one can soon see a tendency to exaggerate and to feed the flames of hysteria and panic.

The Daily Sun is one paper that made a name for itself since 2002, by posting regular sensation-seeking articles about possession, paranormal events, “gay tokoloshe rapes”, the occult, hauntings, poltergeists, alleged cases of ‘vampirism’ - and of course, the ubiquitous "Satanism" - as though these were actual news items. Frighteningly, it seems most of the readership of this paper - claimed to be the most circulated in South Africa - take this sensationalized material seriously. As a prime example of SRA reporting, let’s look at the Daily Sun.

The paper claims that it is the “biggest daily newspaper” in South Africa. - http://www.dailysunads.co.za/dailysun/readership.htm

“Daily Sun is the biggest daily newspaper in South Africa. With over 336 318 (ABC Q3 2012) sales and a readership of 5 669 000 in Gauteng, Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga and Northwest Province, the national expansion of the paper to KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Northern Cape, Western Cape and Eastern Cape will add to the existing circulation. Daily Sun targets readers in and around the major urban centres of South Africa. These readers are predominantly black, English literate with a minimum high school education, working class earners - the economic core of South Africa.” – From News24: http://www.media24.com/en/newspapers/emerging-markets/daily-sun.html

This is a publication with a predominantly black readership, and it frequently runs features on “possessions at schools”, “tokoloshe activity”, “witchcraft”,

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“Satanism” and other fantastic and tall tales in the style known as “tabloid journalism”.

Free Online Dictionary defines “tabloid journalism” as follows:

“a newspaper about half the size of an ordinary newspaper, usu. heavily illustrated, and often concentrating on sensational or lurid news.”

Even the BBC calls it a “tabloid” – media code for a pejorative term, often implying a low-class sensation-seeking platform for unprincipled journalism.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/this_world/6045650.stm

To give you some idea, since it was first unleashed on an unsuspecting public in 2002, the Daily Sun has carried dubious stories like: "Terror of the gay Tokoloshe", “Satanists did it!” and so on.

To place this newspaper in the correct light, one needs to understand the way they present their content, and to broaden the outlook from more than just religion, but at other human rights issues – for example, as this article points out, the Daily Sun has been reported to the Human Rights Commission in the past for the manner in which it violates various journalistic ethics in the pursuit of sensationalism:

“The impact of such reporting shouldn’t be underestimated in the country as delicately poised as South Africa is these days. It cannot be seen as just another story by the newspaper middle class intellectuals love to poke fun at. We’re talking about South Africa’s most read newspaper; the one that has already been reported to the SA Human Rights Commission for its coverage of the 2008 xenophobic attacks. The Media Monitoring Project said it continued to call foreigners “aliens”, failed to condemn the attacks and accused it of legitimating the violence. “In essence, the reporting of the Daily Sun appears to make the xenophobic violence understandable and justifiable, rather than clearly condemning it as unacceptable,” it said.” – From the Daily Maverick: http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2012-11-21-daily-suns-journalism-and-human-rights-betrayal/#.UVSvOtZ51IA

In fact one can wonder if any of the material they publish which so overtly relates to paranormal fiction could even qualify as actual news. The point one should wonder about it, with the readership it has, and the sheer number of witch-hunts taking place primarily among the Black community – whether or not the Daily Sun itself plays a role in instigating or perpetuating this misrepresentation and continuing human tragedy?

“It should be remembered that far more people have been killed in the name of God than in the name of the devil or Satan.” – Francisco Fumarola.
Persecution Of Tolerance For Alternative Religions & Dissenting Voices In The Media:

There is a history of enforced religious intolerance within South African media, and especially in Afrikaans language publications. This statement is substantiated by the number of examples of homophobic, and hysterical anti-Satanist and anti-Pagan articles which have appeared since well before the new Constitution.

In 2007, well-known journalist Deon Maas was fired after writing a column in which he dared to challenge the prevailing stereotype.

"Writer fired after Satanism row 2007-11-15 20:05

Johannesburg - Afrikaans newspaper Rapport has scrapped writer Deon Maas's column after his piece on Satanism prejudiced the paper's commercial interests, its editor said on Thursday.

Following the appearance of the opinion piece on November 4, readers started an SMS campaign calling for a boycott of sales on Sunday, said Tim du Plessis in a statement.

"The campaign then targeted Rapport's distributors and agents. It prejudiced Rapport's commercial interests."

Scores of the newspaper's regular readers reacted and the newspaper took their points of view into account.

"Rapport is committed to media freedom, the free expression of opinions and robust debate. The orchestrated boycott campaign however altered the nature of the question from one of freedom of expression to one of commercial interests," said Du Plessis.

In his article Maas wrote that Satanism was "just a different philosophy".

"Satan does not necessarily represent evil, it is just a different philosophy. You still pray, but only to another god.

"If Muslims think they are having a hard time, they should look at Satanism. They really have a bad deal."

He said the Constitution gave people the freedom to practice the religion of their choice.

Du Plessis said the newspaper would explain its action in more detail on Sunday. - SAPA" - From News24:
In another article about the same incident,

“Outrage at journalist's axing - November 17 2007 at 11:45am
By Lynnette Johns

There is outrage at the firing of Rapport columnist Deon Maas whose column on satanism and religious tolerance prompted furious readers to organise a boycott of the newspaper.

The Freedom of Expression Institute has slammed Rapport for its stance, saying the decision to fire Maas just two weeks after it had hired him to great fanfare, was "typical" of the media placing commercial interests above journalists' freedom of opinion and conscience.

And the Press Council of South Africa said: "That an editor can sanction a journalist in favour of 'commercial interest' is shocking."

Maas, a controversial columnist whose work has appeared in Die Burger and Beeld, was fired by Rapport's editor Tim du Plessis on Thursday, after his first column was published under the headline "666 is net 'n syfer" (666 is just a number).

More than a week after it was published, an SMS campaign, apparently orchestrated by Christian groups, did the rounds saying: "Boycott Rapport because Deon Maas is writing a pro-satanism story."

But Maas said the piece was rather about tolerance and accepting other people's views.

Simon Delaney of the Freedom of Expression Institute said: "Whether it was satire or not, we can say what we like as long as it is not hate speech. We should be able to publish and be damned unless we break the law. Deon Maas's article is not illegal. The newspaper is not even interested in supporting his right of freedom of expression.

"Rapport has answered the question as to whether freedom of expression or commercial interest is paramount."

Delaney said the paper was betraying its ethics and raison d'etre by bowing to a percentage of readers who had threatened to boycott the newspaper.

"There was no evidence that the majority of readers would stop buying Rapport if Maas continued to write. Rapport has sold its soul for the sake of pleasing a few readers."

According to Friday's Die Burger, distributors were refusing to deliver the paper and a number of rural shops were refusing to sell it if Maas remained on the payroll.
In a statement, the paper’s editor Du Plessis said they had fired Maas after the SMS campaign had brought the commercial interests of the paper under threat.

"Rapport is committed to press freedom, the expression of opinion and robust debate. The orchestrated boycott campaign had however changed the nature of the issue from one of freedom of expression to commercial interest," he said.

In a radio interview on Cape Talk on Thursday, Du Plessis admitted he had read the column before it was published and had shown it to several other senior people at the newspaper and had decided to go ahead.

He said the campaign had hit him "like a train", which he had not seen coming.

The campaign started eight days after the column appeared.

Maas said on Friday he had never been fired before, and even though he did not agree with his dismissal, as a businessman he understood it.

The nature of his writing meant people loved or hated him and often they would hate him one week and love him the next - when he wrote something they agreed with.

On his religious views, he said: "I don't subscribe to formal religion, and I am not a satanist. The one thing I will do is to stand up for what I believe in.

"Everybody is entitled to their opinion as long as they can back it up.

"Opinion should be informed and should be respected, even if you do not agree with it."

His column for this week would have been on "the ANC is committing economic genocide against the Afrikaners".

Maas started as a journalist and went on to work in the music industry. He was a judge on Afrikaans Idols, is a radio host and owns a communications company in Johannesburg.

Rapport's decision was described as "shocking" by Bewyn Petersen, vice-chairman of the Press Council of South Africa. In a statement Petersen said: "A good journalist reports the news of the day accurately, and imparts opinion in a fair and balanced manner."
"He should create debate in society around issues which are of public interest, and ensure that the general public is kept informed of such issues as he may feel is important.

"Surely Mr Maas acted in terms of his constitutional right, and indeed in terms of his obligation to society?

"He has stirred debate, and as such, has done his job.

"Quoting Voltaire: 'I may not agree with what you have to say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it'."

Jovial Rantao, chairman of the South African National Editors Forum, speaking from Germany, said the matter between Maas and Rapport was not an issue the organisation would comment on. " - From Independent Online: http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/outrage-at-journalist-s-axing-1.379217#.UYpGr6LTxbp

According to Mr Maas, in an interview with Penton Pagan Magazine in December 2007,

"Penton: As an atheist, why did you choose to write an article on 'Satanism' for Rapport?

Maas: I am not an atheist. I just despise any form of organised religion because it forces people to conform to certain ideas in order to belong to the group. It comes down to undue peer pressure that minimizes free thinking and forming your own opinion. This includes Satanism. If you read the piece carefully (especially the original in Afrikaans and not all the translated ones floating around the web) you will see that it is not a piece about satanism, but one that encourages tolerance and encourages people to listen to other people's ideas, not necessarily agree with it, but understanding it.

The original Afrikaans piece has a lot of subtle word plays, satire and very dark humor in it. That went missing in the translations and obviously went over the head of the great protectors of Christian values in our society.

Penton: Did you anticipate the negative response from Rapport's readers? When and how did you first find out about the boycott against your article?

Maas: I have been writing for the Afrikaans media for a while. My columns always get a reaction, sometimes positive, sometimes negative. Because I do not follow or push a certain philosophy some people who love me this week, hate me the next week. I did anticipate a reaction and I got one. Unfortunately it was a small vocal minority that beat the shit out of a silent majority. If people agree with you, they don't send letters of congratulations, people who disagree do. I became
aware of it on Monday 12 November when one of my friends forwarded the sms to me. Shortly thereafter my phone started ringing with angry Christians spewing bile. Not a single one of them had actually read the article.

Penton: What do you think about the boycott being organised against Rapport by folks who feel that you were unfairly dismissed?

Maas: I really appreciate the effort and in these times it is great to know that there are actually people who will stand up for what they believe in. However I know that they will not even make a dent. In order for this kind of thing to work you have to be fanatical and very angry, scream hysterically and kick some nuts. It doesn't help to politely add your name to a Facebook page that most people over 25 (i.e. the decision-makers) don't even know about. The only way to change things is through direct action. The fundamentalist showed everybody how to bring about change.” – From “An Interview with Deon Maas, Journalist & Director of Meerkat Media”: Penton Magazine: Issue No. 39 December 2007

The paper for which Maas worked at the time, is a part of the Media24 franchise, which includes perhaps the biggest monopoly of news media publications in South Africa, if not the African continent. The company also controls some broadcast media, including (cable TV company) MNET and the South African franchise for DSTV (satellite).

To give an example of just what sort of bias we are looking at here, just a year later, a newspaper ALSO belonging to the Media24 franchise, the Sunday Sun, a tabloid, published the article “Call me names, but gay is not okay…” by Jon Qwelane. (http://www.fileden.com/files/2010/11/16/3017029/ARF%20Project%20Media/Call%20me%20names%2C%20but%20gay%20is%20not%20okay%20Qwelane%202008.pdf )

Link to articles about Qwelane:

http://d1825856.u351.my-hosting.co.za/showarticle.asp?id=133  
http://whoswho.co.za/jon-qwelane-37896  
http://constitutionallyspeaking.co.za/john-qwelane-homophobe-at-it-again/

Despite over 1000 complaints being sent to the Press Ombudsman about the content of the article, the Press Ombudsman found against the complaints – all 1000+ of them.
Simultaneous reports that Joe Thloloe (still the current Ombudsman) and Qwelane were acquainted also circulated at the time, not improving the embattled Press Ombudsman’s credibility one bit.

“While falling short of calling the article hate speech, Joe Thloloe, the Press Ombudsman, has demanded that the Sunday Sun apologise for John Qwelane’s recent controversial column.

Interestingly, the ruling by Thloloe, described previously by Qwelane as a "close friend and colleague," does not recommend any sanction against Qwelane himself.” – from Mambaonline.com 29 July 2008: http://www.mambaonline.com/article.asp?artid=2188

Gay community publication “Queerlife” posted the following in a report about the finding of the Press Ombudsman at the time:

“As the Johannesburg protestors gathered at the Media 24 buildings in Empire Road yesterday we were informed by Media 24 lawyers that the press ombudsman passed its verdict yesterday morning.

Conveniently for Media24 NONE of the Queer complainants at that stage have been informed of the fact and we only got notice late yesterday afternoon.

The Press Ombudsman’s verdict regarding Jon Qwelane’s Sunday Sun column seem rather rushed and ill researched. We show you why.

The original statement by the Press Ombudsman is highlighted in Blue while Queerlife’s comments to the statement is highlighted in Red.

Ruling by Press Ombudsman July 29, 2008
The office of the Press Ombudsman received nearly 1 000 complaints against the Sunday Sun for publishing a column on July 20, 2008 by Jon Qwelane under the headline Call me names, but gay is NOT okay.

The Joburg Gay Pride Festival, for example, described the column as “a piece that amounts to hate speech”.

The board of the festival also argues that the column “compares homosexual relations to relations between animal and man, and this means that the writer equates homosexuality with bestiality.”

The board says comment such as Qwelane’s could incite violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) South Africans.

Analysis
Section 2.4 of the Complaints Procedures provides that “the Ombudsman may, if it is reasonable not to hear the parties, decide the matter on the papers. That is the route I have decided to take because
the volume of the complaints and the public outcry call for speed in resolving this matter.

The thrust of the column is a call for a revision of the country’s constitution to take away the rights that gays and lesbians have won in the new South Africa.

This is the same type of debate as those on the death penalty and on proportional representation. Debates about amendments to the constitution are protected under the freedom of speech clauses of the constitution. Qwelane has the right to call for amendments.

QL Comment: Queerlife.co.za do not deny Mr Qwelane his right to call for an amendment to the constitution.

Hate speech?
In the process of arguing for the amendments he proposes, Qwelane does not hide his “serious reservations about the homosexual lifestyle and sexual orientation.”

He does go further to put down gay and lesbian people. He writes about “the rapid degradation of values and traditions by the so-called liberal influences of nowadays....” Even though he blames “liberal influences of nowadays for the degradation, the structure of the sentence tells the reader that for Qwelane this degradation is demonstrated in “men kissing other men in public, walking holding hands and shamelessly flaunting what are misleadingly termed their lifestyle and sexual preferences.

At another point Qwelane wonders “what it is these people have against the natural order of things.

Do these comments constitute hate speech?
The SA constitution says the right to freedom of speech does not extend to advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause harm”.

In this column Qwelane does not advocate hatred but merely states his views on homosexuality and is not calling for the harming of gays and lesbians.

It is robust language but not hate speech, as pointed out by Gender Equality Commissioner Yvette Abrahams in a letter published in Sunday Sun, “Qwelane stops just short of what would be considered hate speech under the law”.

QL Comment: Queerlife.co.za do not accept above section refering to Hate Speech in Mr Qwelane's column for the following reasons. In its rush to pass a verdict (We are still wondering about the timing but thats...
another debate) the Press Ombudsman conveniently forgot to check the so-called facts Mr Qwelane uses to illustrate his point of view.

In his column Mr Qwelane does not even get the historical facts correct when he refers to Britain's King Henry VIII's reasons for leaving the Catholic church.

As a 'newspaper' and not a novel, surely the Sunday Sun have a responsibility to keep its content as factual as possible?

Here is where Queerlife's Hatespeech allegation comes in. In his column Mr Qwelane use the following sentence: 'Why, only this very month - you'd better believe this - a man, in a homosexual relationship with another man, gave birth to a child.

At least the so-called husband in that relationship hit the Jackpot, making me wonder what it is these people have against the Natural order of things.'

Mr Qwelane ACTUALLY used the 'you'd better believe this' line in that part of his column which CLEARLY indicates his intent at Hatespeech. Why? Because that whole section in his column could not be further from the truth and it is clear that Mr Qwelane twisted this news event and turned it into a lie for his own purposes.

As everybody (especially those who watch Oprah) knows, the man who gave birth was NOT a homosexual man but a Transsexual man who's had a sex change and is now married to a straight woman.

We really cannot see the homosexual connection here at all and the man married to a man bit is a complete and utter lie. As to Mr Qwelane's statement on the natural order of things? Well, what can be more natural for Mr Qwelane than to blatantly lie. The mere fact that his statement contains blatant lies points to his real intent with this column. Hatespeech.

Section 2.1 of the Press Code, however, states: 'The press should avoid discriminatory or denigratory references to people's race, colour, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or preference, physical or mental disability or illness, or age.'

Qwelane moves from calling for an amendment to the constitution to expressing contempt for gays and lesbians and thus making denigratory references to them.

Bestiality
Does Qwelane equate homosexuality with bestiality? A careful reading tells me that he is not: What he does say is that after allowing gay marriages it will not be long before we legalise bestiality. He is not equating the two, but placing them on different rungs on a ladder, with
bestiality lower. By implication however he is placing heterosexuality higher.

The underlying meaning is that gays and lesbians are a lower breed and the column thus disparages them.

This part of the column and the cartoon are also in breach of Section 2.1 of the Code.

Violence
Can the column lead to violence against gays and lesbians? To me it appears most unlikely. There is nothing in the column that incites hatred and calls for the harming of homosexuals.

Columnists are protected by the constitution for as long as their comments don’t propagate war, incite imminent violence and advocate hatred that constitutes incitement to cause harm. Qwelane was well within the law but fell foul of the Press Code.

QL comment: How can Mr Qwelane have been well within the law when he so blatantly lied to illustrate his hatred of Gay and Lesbian people?

Sunday Sun
To the credit of the newspaper, it responded to the outcry with a poster about the lashing that Qwelane got from readers, a prominent flag on its front page about JQ taking a beating and a page of letters from angry readers condemning him and the newspaper. It still fell short of apologising.

In an editorial, Sunday Sun publisher Deon du Plessis argues: “Let Qwelane speak...as he did last week. Let those who disagree also speak...as they do this week. Hopefully we’ll learn more about each other along the way.”

These are noble sentiments in defence of freedom of speech, but there are rules of public debate that have to be followed, especially in the press.

QL comment: Well, hellooo, how noble of the Sunday Sun to invite us to debate the issue in their newspaper. Really boyz and girlz, do they think we are stupid to fall for this one? Why? Because the more we use the Sun as a debating tool the more money THEY make. Hell, they might even pay Qwelane a bonus. Queerlife want to know why Mr Qwelane and Media 24 don't want to defend their actions in South Africa's GLBT media.

Finding
Sunday Sun is in breach of Section 2.1 of the South African Press Code on three counts:
* Publishing denigratory references to people’s sexual orientation in the column by Qwelane;
* Implying that homosexuals are a lower breed than heterosexuals; and
* In the cartoon accompanying the column, which was also disparaging of homosexuals.

Sanction
The newspaper has already gone a long way to making amends for its offence. I will however rule that it complete the amends by publishing an appropriate apology, which will be provided by the Ombudsmans office.

Appeal
Within seven days of receipt of this decision, any of the parties may apply for leave to appeal to the chairperson of the Press Appeals Panel, Judge Ralph Zulman, and the grounds of appeal shall be fully set out.

Joe Thloloe
Press Ombudsman

QL Comment: Queerlife.co.za is wondering what purpose an appeal would serve and considering the blatant lies Mr Qwelane used to illustrate his point of view, what exactly it is that is preventing us from starting legal proceedings. Media 24, in its arrogance, will not get rid of Qwelane, so maybe, someone should start making them pay. Just a suggestion.” – From Queerlife.co.za: http://www.queerlife.co.za/test/out-there/community/1580-press-ombudsman-rush-through-qwelane-verdict.html

In stark contrast to Maas a year prior, Qwelane (who was employed by the same parent company) was never dismissed for his hateful commentary, despite threats by the gay community to boycott (some to this day state that they refuse to buy News24 publications), and in fact, the government with astonishing lack of tact and diplomacy, added insult to injury by offering this homophobic, racist and sexist bigot a job as South Africa’s ambassador to Uganda in 2010, and since that time has shielded him from attempts by the SA Human Rights Commission to prosecute this case in the Equality Court.

Furthermore, over time, this matter has NEVER been resolved, even up to 7 years later. Qwelane defied a summons to appear before the Equality Court on charges of hate speech. He was found guilty in absentia.

“Johannesburg - Former Sunday Sun columnist Jon Qwelane was found guilty of hate speech by the Johannesburg Equality Court on Tuesday.
The court found that a cartoon in his column amounted to hate speech, and that both his article and the cartoon propagated hatred and harm.

The article was published in the newspaper on July 20, 2008, under the headline: “Call me names, but gay is NOT okay”.

Qwelane was ordered to make an unconditional apology to the gay and lesbian community, and pay R100 000 to the SA Human Rights Commission.

Qwelane is currently South Africa’s ambassador to Uganda, where an anti-gay bill that would have imposed the death penalty for homosexual acts was recently shelved, following international condemnation. - From News24 (31 May 2011): http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Jon-Qwelane-guilty-of-hate-speech-20110531

Despite this ruling in 2011, the government supported Qwelane in statements, and refused to take any disciplinary actions against him. (http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Qwelane-wont-be-recalled-minister-20111109) The conviction was overturned on appeal also in absentia, with the SA Human Rights Commission being ordered to pay Qwelane’s legal costs. Qwelane remains the High Commissioner for South Africa in Uganda – a country seeming to be perpetually on the verge of passing legislation which will see gay and transgender people imprisoned or executed for their sexuality – yet another shining example of paradox for the South African government, appointing a person of such poor character and controversial reputation to represent the liberal and pro-human-rights constitution in our foreign policy in a country that wants to legalize the extermination of people he happens to despise. This disgraceful incident represents a bitter episode for human rights advocates in South Africa, and a dreadful lapse in human rights values espoused by the Constitution. It also indicates that not every group in this country shares in this “equality”.

**PARADOX:** This example creates a very interesting scenario, where Media24 newspapers have in one case fired a journalist for posting a piece which called for tolerance of diversity in beliefs and religion, and a year later refused to fire another journalist for expressing hatred against people on the basis of sexual orientation, race and gender.

What does that record say for Media24 and the Press Ombudsman?

**The Press Ombudsman’s Track Record With The Pagan Community**

Since 2008 the South African Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA) has approached the SA Press Ombudsman for assistance in clearing up matters relating to articles in the SA Press which violate provisions of the SA Press Code, Bill of Rights and numerous other legal and ethical guidelines.

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Since this time, SAPRA’s complaints and the complaints by Pagans against such biased reporting have been dismissed out of hand to the point where the Press Ombudsman now refuses to "entertains" any complaints at all in defense of Pagan religion being vilified in the Press – and in fact uses earlier complaints by SAPRA which were rejected by the Press Ombudsman, as a precedent to continue doing so. This continues without any chance of success at appeal via the SA Press Council, as this body simply – and inexplicably, finds no fault with the decisions of the Press Ombudsman.

According to a 2011 response from office of the Press Ombudsman, Joe Thloelo, to a Ms Martin who also complained about an offensive article publicized BY a newspaper,

""Over a considerable period, Mr Leff has complained against a number of publications – among them Die Burger, The Witness, Vaal Weekly, IOL, Dispatch Online - alleging that they defamed “self-styled witches”. The latest complaint is against Die Burger for an article by Marlene Neethling on March 25, 2009 headlined Kat dalk in heksedaad bedwelm.

This complaint follows the pattern of all the others. The articles he submitted to this office, from titles across the country, are from the web and not from actual newspapers. We can fairly infer that Mr Leff trawls the web looking for South African newspaper references to witches and uses his “hits” as bases for his complaints."

SAPRA’s complaints are therefore being dismissed on the somewhat nonsensical and illogical excuse that because printed or photocopied or scanned versions of the offensive articles BY NEWSPAPERS were not forwarded to the Press Ombudsman’s office, "Mr Leff trawls the web looking for references to base his complaints on" - therefore missing the point ENTIRELY.

However Thloelo sidesteps the point, these articles did indeed appear in print versions of these newspapers. Newspapers these days all have appear in print versions of these newspapers. Newspapers these days all have websites on which they make certain articles which also appeared in print copies of their papers as well. Even if the complainant does not have a printed copy of the article to send, the article is publicized BY a NEWSPAPER company and therefore falls under the authority of the Press Ombudsman - and what is offensive in printed form, is every bit as offensive as on a website belonging to the newspaper, as it stays visible for far longer. At what point does something not physically held or purchased by the complainant become offensive, illegal and libelous?

Either way, whether it is online or offline, if an individual is offended by the statements, claims or reporting by a newspaper or publication, then it remains the responsibility of the Press Ombudsman to deal with these complaints – and to do so in an unbiased fashion in accordance with the Press Code.
QUESTION: Is the Press Ombudsman appointed to serve the public trust, or to cover up the wrongdoings of the Press?

Furthermore, Damon Leff sent all correspondence to the Press Ombudsman using SAPRA letterheads, identifying the source of the complaints as being from a religion-based organization. Yet, all correspondence from the Press Ombudsman with the SAPRA and Mr Leff portrays the scenario that Mr Leff is somehow just a disgruntled religious fanatic looking for something to complain about and is essentially just being a nuisance to the almighty Press Ombudsman!

This is little more than a thinly veiled excuse for the Press Ombudsman to avoid doing his job to uphold the mandate for which the office of the Press Ombudsman exists!

To add insult to injury, Thloloe adds at the end:

"May I again repeat that this office will not be used to propagate your religion.

Within seven days of receiving this decision, you may request the chairperson of the Press Appeals Panel, Judge Ralph Zulman, to review it.

Regards,

Joe"

*All quotations are from copies of correspondence between SAPRA or SAPRA delegates and the office of the Press Ombudsman, linked to in this document and viewable on the ARF website.

QUESTION: At what point is abiding by the Constitutional protections against religious persecution, in keeping with the various guidelines including the Bill of Rights, "propagating" Pagan religion?

QUESTION: Does this continued refusal to address the concerns of Pagans – identifying with a legitimate religion in South Africa, not constitute a demonstrable bias on the part of the Press Ombudsman?

The complaints of citizens who find items publicized by the Press offensive are being reduced to a "nuisance" and "a waste of the Press Ombudsman's time" – and it seems from the number of complaints dismissed by the Press Ombudsman (8) versus the number of complaints settled in favor of Pagan complainants (0), that there is a definite TREND and BIAS against Pagans who complain about hate speech and inaccurate portrayal of their religion, religious identity or infringement of their right to dignity.

It therefore seems, according to this evidence, that the only complaints on religious grounds that WILL be entertained are not Pagan ones. This is NOT
in accordance with the mandate given the office of the Press Ombudsman, nor with the Bill of Rights or the South African Constitution. It is in fact ILLEGAL and discriminatory and can only be based upon religious prejudice.

It can only be assumed that Thloloe's excuses to not assist members of the public who are specifically Pagans offended by headlines and articles and defamatory or even harmful reporting in the Press, are at best nonsensical – and at worst, malicious.

**QUESTION:** Pagans – and in fact anyone who supports an open equal opportunity democratic society along with freedom of religion, should be asking WHY this individual is still occupying this position?

**SUGGESTION:** Perhaps the Press Ombudsman’s decisions should be reviewed by an independent commission?

**SUGGESTION:** The Press Ombudsman should be made to show statistics to demonstrate if ANY complaints about offensive press articles relating to Pagan, occult, Satanist or any other non-Christian religion have EVER been decided in favor of the complainants, along with dates, articles reported and numbers of complaints per article.

**To What Extent Are Laws Regarding Non-Discrimination Against Religion Applicable In Favor Of Minority Religious Groups In South Africa?**

In terms of the Press Ombudsman's office has a very poor image with a wide range of complainants, owing to unprofessional and extremely informal correspondence with complainants. Complainants take the trouble to mention what they found offensive and where, and even cite the appropriate passages of the Press Code, Act no 4 of 2000, or Bill of Rights which they feel have been violated, and they receive informal emails from staffers using informal greetings like "howzit" or "hallo there", and reflecting a complete lack of professionalism.

The same staffers of the Press Ombudsman's office also appear to be incapable of understanding simple and repeated explanations of what the complainants find offensive, and why - expecting the complainant to do all their work in preparing the argument for them - and then to top it all off, the Press Ombudsman himself refuses to engage with recognized Pagan representative bodies such as the SAPRA or Damon Leff, or in fact on ANY complaint thus far in which propaganda has appeared in the form of hate speech on religious grounds against Witches, Pagans or even Satanists.

An example below (after the complainant has already sent links and a quotation of the article in question and explained the reasons for objection) It is like the staffer didn't read his email:
"Hallo there

I am in receipt of the complaint you sent to the Press Council. I will be assisting you with your complaint. Please refer to our website, www.presscouncil.org.za for more information about the Press Code and let me know which aspects of the code the publication has not adhered to.

Also send me a copy of the article that you wish to complaint about.

Best regards

Latiefa

Latiefa Mobara
Public Advocate"

Again, on the SAME complaint, the complainant sent all the information he could find through, including a link to the offending article which appeared in the Volksblad and News24 on the websites of the publications AND copy-pastes of the article into his email. Once AGAIN this was not good enough, and he again received the same lack-luster response:

“Hallo there

You have lodged a complaint with the Press Council regarding an article that appeared in Beeld. Can you please send me a copy of the article that your complaint refers to?

Best regards

Latiefa Mobara”

In the above example, the complainant was given the run-around repeatedly. Numerous other complaints about this mal-administration exist, and not just from within the Pagan community, but also in the archives of gay rights organizations.

It appears that unless complainants mail them physical copies of newspaper articles cut out and placed in an envelope, it seems that the Press Ombudsman couldn’t care less about complaints by members of the public about offensive articles in the Press, but prefers to make the complaints process so tiresome and difficult that a complainant would sooner chew off his own leg than pursue these matters past this bureaucratic nightmare.

The Press Ombudsman basically expects YOU, the member of the public who has been offended, to do the work of a lawyer versed in Constitutional Law, completely negating the usefulness of the office of the Press Ombudsman and in fact, simply acts as an obstruction to the complaints process and justice.

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Another problem that is evident is that these staffers appear to be able to understand English language correspondence, but do not appear multilingual or capable enough to handle complaints in English dealing with Afrikaans language articles. This is a concerning shortcoming when complaints arise about Afrikaans articles.

The Press Ombudsman should be a resource which is competent to handle complaints about ANY article or publication in South Africa which utilizes ANY of the 11 official languages, even if it means having multiple staffers within their sum total conversant with all 11 languages. Should this not be the case, then the Press Ombudsman is not able to perform the task at hand – and would therefore be incompetent.

In 2008 when Jon Qwelane, a columnist with the Sunday Sun newspaper, penned and published an article “Call me names, but gay is not ok…”, there was a nationwide outcry against the blatant incitement to hatred and the removal of Constitutional protections of minorities in South Africa, and numerous complaints were lodged with the Press Ombudsman about it. The Press Ombudsman declined to handle the matter or to find against Qwelane.

Copies of the correspondence around these complaints and various appeals are attached to this document as ADDENDUM F.

In terms of the Pagan community and defamation in the SA press, the SA Pagan Rights Alliance has submitted 8 complaints to the office of the Press Ombudsman between 2008 and 2011 on matters relating to incitement to hatred, expression of hatred on religious grounds, distortion of facts etc, and of these complaints 0 have been concluded with satisfactory results. That’s 0 out of 8 over 4 years.

What does that record say for the Press Ombudsman?

CLARIFICATION: Due to the fact, that there is no chance of success for a Pagan complaint against unfair and inaccurate portrayal of Pagan religion in the Press submitted via the office of the Press Ombudsman, the SAPRA no longer bothers to send complaints about any Press related matters to the Press Ombudsman. They do not see any point, but instead approach the Editors of the offending publications directly.

Should the Press Ombudsman demonstrate definite bias or a refusal to engage with a minority group which is targeted in hate speech in the press, as is currently the case at least where the Pagan community and where gay rights is concerned, this would also cast serious doubt on the Press Ombudsman to perform its duties under the Press Code and in the light of all other applicable regulations and laws (Bill of Rights, Constitution of SA, Act No 4 of 2000 etc).
The answer to the question: “To what extent are laws regarding non-discrimination against religion applicable in favor of minority religious groups in South Africa?” Not applicable at all!

**Conclusion:**

**CONCLUSION:** The unique character of Satanism in South Africa as referred to by South African Christian so-called “occult experts” is **NOT REAL Satanism**, but **Legend Tripping**. That would be the **ONE SENTENCE SUMMARY** of this ENTIRE DOCUMENT.

Legend Trippers think of themselves as real actual Satanists because they do the things the police "occult experts" and the press say Satanists do, and live up to the expectations of a fooled public. (The CoS calls these people "devil worshipers".)

That is why when real, spiritual or religious Satanists present themselves and their "mainstream" version of Satanism to these "experts" – and correctly so as a non-criminal belief system, or accuse those who commit crimes in the name of Satan of being mentally ill or suggest that they are trying to evade the responsibility for their actions, they are discredited as liars or accused of "covering up" for the Legend Tripping faux Satanists.

**FACT:** The idea of a non-violent, non-criminal, and non blood-thirsty, non-human sacrificing Satanist just doesn't **exist** in the minds of most so-called Christian "occult experts" – because it goes **against** everything they are **taught** to believe in.

They are taught by their Christian mentors, that Satanism and anything that contradicts their religious doctrine amount to one and the same thing, and that Satanism is to be viewed in the strict biblical sense, deception, destruction, rebellion etc. Apparent "occult survivors" seem to confirm these views – precisely because they have been part of devil worship Legend Tripping rings themselves, run by deluded and dangerous people – and **NOT de facto Satanism**.

The problem comes in where "occult experts" who have never ventured out of the comfort of their own religions claim out of their well-entrenched positions of ignorance that anything where Satan is worshiped is "Satanism" – never mind what other Satanists, and even Satanist authority-figures say about it. This is an over-simplistic and completely irrational way of looking at this issue. By the same token, kids that kill people in the name of "Satan" are as much Satanists as those well-documented nuts that kill people because they believe their neighbors are evil 'vampires' or because "God" or "the voices" told them to are Christians.

To make the point of this Project, our mission is to promote and defend the right of individuals to self-identify according to their personal beliefs, to
associate with others who hold similar beliefs, and to exercise and practice their beliefs in accordance with the rights and protections enshrined in the SA Constitution.

Christina Engela, a human rights activist for the LBGTI community as well as for religious freedom, stated:

“People ask me why I get involved if "it doesn't affect me". I tell them, as long as one person or group can take away the rights of another person or group, it affects everyone.”

The human rights advocate, Damon Leff, while speaking for the Pagan community, said in 2007 while addressing the subject of still-ongoing witch-hunts in South Africa and the right of Pagans to self-identify as witches, to the South African government:

“Individual self-determination and self-identity (what one calls oneself and how one defines what one is) are not mutually exclusive principles. The individual and communal right to self-definition and self-determination is a cornerstone of the principles of freedom of religion and belief and is constitutionally enshrined through the notion of according and protecting human dignity to and for all equally.

The right to human dignity is based on the common assumption that all men and women have the right to have their “substantive essence” respected simply by virtue of their belonging to the human family. When the right to self-identity is with-held from either individual or group, the right to dignity is denied.” – Damon Leff.

The Regent of the South African Vampyre Alliance, stated recently on the matter of this project:

“The question "Do you support Satanism" is incorrectly phrased and essentially a "loaded" question. It isn't support of Satanism that is the issue – what is the issue here is the matter of advocacy which works to clarify and expose the conflation of religions such as Pagan religions, and subcultures such as the Vampyre subculture, or Gothic subculture with a mythical form of "Satanism" which is in turn created by people claiming to be "occult experts", law enforcement, the Dept of Education, other mainstream religions, and the media.

The issue is truth and the correction of untruth. The issue is not "we are not like 'those' people', it is 'those people aren't what you're saying they are either'. The issue isn't just 'you dont know what you're talking about', but 'you never asked us – or them any questions – or gave any of us a chance to lay your fears to rest'. So now we've had enough of the lies, the deception, the slander, the persecution, and the propaganda – and we're going to be heard no matter how critics try to shout us down.
The issue is not to disconnect only ourselves from the stereotype, but to debunk the stereotype itself.” – Octarine Valur.

What is the final motive of this Project?

The biggest single issue for Pagans, Satanists, Vampyres, and other occultists, is that non-participants i.e. Christians or Muslims are defining and setting the rules, definitions and parameters of what these religions or sub-cultures are according to what THEY believe about these religions and sub-cultures, and that these fraudulent “experts” are being consulted by outside sources and influence the public bias against them.

The solution for Pagans, Satanists and Vampyres and other occultists then, is to be allowed to define for themselves the parameters, rules and definitions of what makes up their religions or sub-cultures, and to be recognized for their own expertise in line with whatever religion or subculture they participate and/or represent, and to not be viewed as “unreliable”, or otherwise incredible simply because they ARE participant in these groups and are NOT Christians or members of other Abrahamic faiths.

We now move on to the sections dealing with the nature of various different religions.
List of Religions and Subcultures included (in alphabetical order):

- Paganism
  - Asatru
  - Druidry
  - Kemetic Tradition
  - Romano-Italic Tradition
  - Wicca

- Satanism
  - Atheistic Satanism
  - LaVeyan Satanism
  - Symbolic Satanism
  - Casual Satanism
  - Theistic Satanism
    - Palladists
    - Spiritual Satanism
  - Independent Satanism
  - Luciferianism
  - Atheistic Luciferianism
    - Monadic Luciferianism
  - Theistic Luciferianism
  - Non-theistic Luciferianism
  - “Tabloid SRA Prophecy Fulfillers”

- Traditional African Spirituality

- The Vampi(y)re Community
  - ‘Real’ Vampi(y)res
  - South African Vampyre Community
  - Roleplayers
  - Lifestylers
    - Ordo Strigoi Vii
  - Religions Within The VC
    - Ordo De Luna Draco Opacus
    - The Iron Temple
1. What is Paganism?

Paganism, or more precisely, Neo-Paganism, is a cluster of similar religions, beliefs and spiritualities which largely identify with Western Occult beliefs, and are voluntarily grouped together under the description of Paganism as an umbrella identity.

Since original Pagan religion in Western and Eastern Europe was wiped out by the actions of Christianity (and to a degree Islam) at the conquest of territories by Christian and Muslim forces, resulting in mass persecutions and extinctions of ethnic Pagan religions and cultures, no documented case of an original Pagan religion surviving this episode of religious intolerance is known today.

Thus, all modern Pagan religions are reconstructions of the originals, as closely as academics, scholars and theologians could trace from historical artifacts, remnants, archeology and other remaining original records. This practice is known as Reconstructionism, with reconstructed religions being referred to as “Reconstructionist”. The only exception to this is Wicca, which is a modern creation dating from early 20th century Britain. The most well-known form of Wicca is Gardnerian Wicca, which is named after Gerald Gardner, and which is well-known throughout the English-speaking world.

The public identifying symbol of Pagans in general in South Africa (although particular religions under the Pagan umbrella have their own symbols as well) is the pentagram. It is used by Pagan representative bodies such as the SA Pagan Council and SA Pagan Rights Alliance in their logos. In terms of Pagan religions however, the pentagram (upward pointing) is the symbol of Wicca, other Neo-Pagan Witches, and Wicca-derived Pagans (which seem to be the majority of Pagans). Asatruans and Druids, Romano Religion and Hellenism do not use the Pentagram at all.

Pagan religions in South Africa are represented by community bodies such as the SA Pagan Council (SAPC) and its affiliates, the SA Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA), and the Touchstone Advocacy group which advocates against
modern and currently ongoing witch hunts in South Africa, the rest of Africa, and the rest of the world.

“The words Paganism and Pagan come from the Latin paganus meaning ‘country dweller’. Neo-pagans hold a reverence for the Earth and all its creatures, believe that all life is interconnected, and strive to attune themselves to its manifestation by celebrating the cycles of Nature.

A Pagan is a person who feels a strong connection to Nature, who holds the Earth and all its creatures as sacred, and who seeks personal connection with the Divine through the celebration of the Cycles which rule and guide the all-embracing Everything. Traditional and Neo-Pagan religions are generally Nature-based religions and its custom and ways are based on religions that pre-date Christianity.

Modern Pagans are either Reconstructionists, Neo-Pagans or follow syncretic paths, and attempt to reconstruct the Old World Religions with the information available from Inquisition records, the writings of the Apologists, books and art of the era, as well as the teachings of the Greek, Roman and Egyptian philosophers.

Paganism encompasses the reverence of Mother Nature, the worship of the Divine in its myriad of forms, but particularly as an embodiment of natural forces. For this reason Pagans observe the seasonal cycles and undertake the personal quest for spiritual growth. Most Pagan Paths are pantheistic or polytheistic, celebratory faiths.” – From “An Introduction To Paganism” by Bronwyn Katzke.

CLARIFICATION: There is an enduring misunderstanding especially among evangelical Christians that the New Age movement is somehow part of Pagan religion, even to the extent that it may somehow be a “Pagan tradition”. This is false. The New Age philosophy is wholly separate from Paganism and is a stand-alone religion in its own right.

2. Deity in Paganism

The question of deities in Pagan faiths is an open one. Often the choice of which deities or even which pantheon to adopt is a personal one left to the individual. Though there are groups or covens or temples dedicated to the worship of one or several specific deities, there are also those which simply focus on the dualistic images of “the god and the goddess” rather than giving them specific names, leaving the choice of deity to the individual, especially where covens or groups include adherents of diverse deities in the same groups.

CLARIFICATION: While the Abrahamic “God”, Jesus Christ, and “the Trinity” are used by some Pagan (specifically Wiccan) groups (see the later section on Christian Wicca), the Abrahmic “Satan” (or ‘the Devil’) is not known to be
accepted by Pagans as a deity, while the persona of Lucifer is worshiped in some Italian-derived Witchcraft and in Italian religion as the God of Venus.

It should be made clear that Pagan religion is by and large not a forceful, dogmatic or dictatorial religion. Predominantly there is no “right” or “wrong” way to do things within the context of religious practice, but more a case of what is right or wrong for the individual.

“Modern Paganism seeks to venerate pre-Christian deities through the cultural and religious practices of the time. As such there are many ways in which deity is perceived in Pagan traditions.

The predominant view of deity is polytheistic, meaning that more than one god/goddess is venerated. Some Pagan traditions adhere to the deities of a specific pantheon, such as Hellenic Pagans venerating the gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece. Other Pagans may be eclectic, meaning they venerate gods and goddesses from multiple pantheons. And within the same polytheistic view, some Pagans view gods and goddesses not as literal deities, but as Jungian Archetypes within the human psyche.

Co-existing with polytheistic beliefs, there is the widely held belief in some Pagan traditions that all within the universe is connected. In this pantheistic view the various gods and goddesses are seen as being facets of a single deity that is neither male nor female and is the primary spiritual ‘force’ that permeates the universe.

Another view is that of animism, of which there are two views. The first is that everything in the universe is imbued with a ‘life force’ or spiritual energy that can be ‘tapped into’. The second view is that all natural things in the universe posses a spirit, one that is aware and can be communicated with.” – From “An Introduction To Paganism” by Bronwyn Katzke.

3. Pagan Ethics and Values

Many Pagans have argued with especially evangelical Christians who assert that without being a Christian, a person cannot be good or moral. This is an extremely one-sided and narrow view which indicates just how far maligned non-Christian religions are, and how warped the extremist Christian viewpoint is of the world that surrounds it.

There is no central Pagan “Bible”, and in fact this is often demonstrated as a feature of Pagan, especially Wiccan religion. Religions such as Christianity, Islam and Judaism (Abrahamic), and even some Eastern religions, are called “Book Religions” because they follow ideological or philosophical material laid down in books, and typically in a dogmatic fashion.
However while there is nothing similar in Paganism, or Wicca, there are a great deal of very diverse “how to” books, detailing energy work, healing techniques, spiritual guides, reiki, tarot, spell work, herbal guides etc, usually found under the “esoteric” label in book stores – and, it is worth noting, often not all of these books agree with each other, even on the same subjects.

Even so, while neither Paganism as a whole, nor any of its separate members has a central book, each of them does have some sort of code of ethics of its own.

“A common misconception is that Pagans have no morals or ethical basis because they have no central doctrine, but this couldn’t be further from the truth.

While each tradition will have its own values and moral codes, there is a common thread that weaves through most Pagan paths- personal accountability.

Most Pagan traditions teach their adherents to be ever aware of their actions and the effect they have on others, and to accept responsibility for the results of those actions. This principle is seen in the Wiccan ethos of, “An it harm none, do what ye will”.

And because many Pagan traditions are pantheistic in nature, they see everything as connected. Thus any harm done to the natural world or another living animal is seen as indirectly harming one’s self. This is also linked into the common belief of the Three-fold Law of Return, which states that whatever you do will be returned to you three times over. From this value we can see that acts of kindness, selflessness and nurturing are encouraged as they are believed to be returned in the future in one form or another.

Other traditions, like Asatru or Druidry, have a code of ethics or values lifted from mythology, ancient texts and lore central to the tradition. In the case of eclectic solitaries, they may form their own ethical code based on a variety of sources.” – From “An Introduction To Paganism” by Bronwyn Katzke.

The "Three-fold Law of Return" is specifically a Wiccan belief. Reconstructionists and Reconstructionist-derived Pagans generally do NOT believe in the Threefold Law, however each has their own internal belief structure which impresses upon adherents that their actions have consequences, although since Paganism is far less rigid than other religions, there is plenty of room for “cross-talk” which allows various traditions to “borrow” features from others.
4. Pagan Identity

Most who identify with Pagan religions call themselves “Pagans” or “Heathens”, while also identifying themselves by the name of their Pagan religion (or tradition) of choice.

“Both "pagan" and "heathen" have historically been used as a pejorative by adherents of monotheistic religions such as Judaism, Christianity and Islam to indicate a disbeliever in their religion; although in modern times it is not always used as a pejorative. [13] "Paganism" frequently refers to the religions of classical antiquity, most notably Greek mythology or Roman religion; and can be used neutrally or admiringly by those who refer to those complexes of belief. However, until the rise of Romanticism and the general acceptance of freedom of religion in Western civilization, "paganism" was almost always used disparagingly of heterodox beliefs falling outside the established political framework of the Christian Church.” - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paganism

“In a wider sense, it (Paganism) has been used as a label for any non-Abrahamic folk/ethnic religion. It was historically used as one of several pejorative Christian counterparts to "gentile" (גוי / נכרי) as used in the Hebrew Bible — comparable to "infidel" or "heretic". Modern ethnologists often avoid this broad usage in favour of more specific and less potentially offensive terms such as "polytheism", "shamanism", "pantheism", or "animism" when referring to referring to traditional or historical faiths.

Since the 20th century, "Paganism" (or "Neopaganism") has become the identifier for various new religious movements attempting to continue, revive, or reconstruct historical pre-Christian religion.[2]” - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paganism

Some Pagans prefer to identify as Heathens.

“Heathen is from Old English hæðen "not Christian or Jewish" (c.f. Old Norse heidi). Historically, the term was probably influenced by Gothic haiþi "dwelling on the heath", appearing as haiþno in Ulfilas' bible as "gentile woman" (translating the "Hellene" in Mark 7:26). This translation was probably influenced by Latin paganus, "country dweller", or it was chosen because of its similarity to the Greek ἔθνικός ethnikos, "gentile". It has even been suggested that Gothic haiþi is not related to "heath" at all, but rather a loan from Armenian hethanos, itself loaned from Greek ἔθνος ethnos.” - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paganism

Again, some Pagans prefer to identify as Witches. This identification does not necessarily indicate that those who do are part of the Wiccan tradition.
“Witchcraft (also called witchery or spellcraft) is the use of alleged supernatural, magical faculties. This may take many forms, depending on cultural context.” “Since the mid-20th century Witchcraft has become the designation of a branch of contemporary Paganism, most notably including Wiccan traditions, who claim to practice a revival of pre-Abrahamic spirituality.[3]” - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witch

“i) SAPRA is a designated religious organization representing South African citizens who identify as Witches and who identify Witchcraft as their religion. Witchcraft is not synonymous with ‘black magic’. Whilst the latter (black magic) constitutes a wholly separate historically documented belief system in which ritual practices identified as magic are said to be used to bring harm to others, the former (Witchcraft) constitutes an internationally recognized religious belief system.

Citizens who are Witches identify Witchcraft as a mystery religion belonging to the new religious movement of Paganism. Witchcraft is inspired by both pre- and post-Judaeo-Christian religion, philosophy and folk-lore.

Witches identify themselves as practitioners of a clearly defined system of sympathetic magic, involving the worship / veneration of the Ancestors, pre-Christian Gods and Goddesses, Nature-spirits and Spirits of Place. Witches engage in various forms of divination and specialize in clearly identified ritual (magical) practices which constitute acts of worship / veneration and spiritual development.

We (Witches) are a recognised religious minority in this country and we constitute the only minority in Africa that uses the terms 'witch' and 'witchcraft' with which to self-identify.

ii) Historically the term 'witchcraft' has incorrectly been applied to all non-Christian forms of religio-magical beliefs and practices. In contemporary South Africa, this misnomer is used to incorrectly identify traditional African religio-magical beliefs and adherents of traditional African religion.

Traditional healers who identify as iSangomas and iNyangas do not self-identify as Witches and do not identify traditional African ritual magical practices and beliefs as Witchcraft.” – From the SAPRA document of objection to the SAPS reformation of the ORC unit.

In general, Pagans tend to work to reclaim words such as “Witch” and “Witchcraft”, as part of their religious identities, to restore their original meanings, and to return these to a place of reverence and honor. Over time these words have been twisted to take on negative connotations, and have been maligned by 2000 years of Christian propaganda, the Inquisition, not to mention SRA hysteria. Not everyone who identifies as Pagan agrees with this practice.
“Re-appropriation – such as in reclaiming the word “Witch” – is a process by which a group or individual reclaims (re-appropriates), for example, terms that were previously used in a way disparaging of a specific group. But surely, anyone who professes to be reclaiming something must have had some ties or claims to it in the first place. Since contemporary Witchcraft in all of its forms is a modern construct, can contemporary Witches, and even other Pagans, really reclaim anything pre-dating the establishment of the modern Pagan movement and its practices?

Many contemporary Witches assert that by calling themselves Witches, they honour their “oppressed” forebears who survived centuries of intolerance – and that this identifies modern Witches more strongly with the “witches” of old. Except that it is more than likely that no contemporary Witchcraft practices are directly, or even remotely, related to any perceived “ancient witchcraft practices”. There are several versions of the basic story-line connecting modern Witchcraft(s) with ancient forms of “witchcraft” – Middle Age or otherwise. Isaac Bonewits sardonically referred to this as “the myth of the Unitarian, Universalist, White Witch-cult of Western Theosophical Brittany”.

Margaret Murray may have popularised the ancient “witch-cult hypothesis”, but she was not the first to come up with this hypothesis. In 1828 University of Berlin Prof Karl Jarcke proposed the idea that the witchcraft of European history was actually a degenerated form of pre-Christian paganism. (*Witchcraft Goes Mainstream* Chapter 6: Witchcraft for Real – Was There or Wasn’t There? by Brooks Alexander) Frenchman, Jules Michelet, an academic maverick who believed that Christianity itself had to give way to a new faith suited to a new age, and who toyed with the idea that the replacement religion should have a feminine focus, centered on the function of motherhood. In his 1862 treatment of “witchcraft” (“La Sorciere” – The Witch), Michelet, wrote that “witchcraft” was a surviving pagan religion of fertility and nature-worship, and he proclaim that the Renaissance had been produced when the wisdom preserved by the “witches” broke surface again to infuse members of the cultural elite.” – From “On The Origin Of Witchcraft” by Erebos: [http://w w.w.penton.co.za/on-the-origin-of-witchcraft-are-we-weaving-a-flawed-magical-strand/](http://www.penton.co.za/on-the-origin-of-witchcraft-are-we-weaving-a-flawed-magical-strand/)

How do Pagans view Life?

“To Pagans, life is seen as a school where souls have the chance to learn through the physical body; which is an invaluable gift that should be cherished, enjoyed and cared for. And it is not just our physical selves that deserve to be cherished. The various Pagan traditions usually share a belief that all within the universe is connected; therefore everything from plants and animals to the earth itself, is worthy of respect and protection.
From that same perspective, life is seen as something to be experienced fully, to be enjoyed and to be something worth celebrating. This is why within Paganism, worship is a joyous affair filled with celebratory tones. That sense of connection and an ethos of responsibility also sees many Pagan traditions focusing on ecological protection and conservation.

To Pagans, life is a sacred journey and no one life is greater or more important than the other.” – From “An Introduction To Paganism” by Bronwyn Katzke.

The Pagan Soul & Afterlife

Most Christians who query Pagans about their “soul” and the afterlife, and more to the point where they think they will spend their afterlives, rest upon their own understanding of monotheistic religion, God/Jehova/Yaweh/Jesus v/s the Devil/Satan/Lucifer, and good and evil.

Pagans do not believe in the Abrahamic “God” or Jesus Christ, nor do they believe in the Abrahamic “Satan” (or ‘the Devil’). Consequently, they do not believe in the Abrahamic concept of Heaven or of Hell as features of the afterlife.

“Within all Pagan traditions and paths, the concept of an individual possessing an eternal soul or spirit is evident. However, what is believed to happen to that soul after death varies from tradition to tradition; as do beliefs on why we have a soul.

The belief of reincarnation is common in Paganism; which is the belief that after death the soul is reborn into another physical body. Prior to rebirth there is the popular belief that the soul rests in a spiritual plane called the Summerlands. In this spiritual realm, the soul assesses important lessons from the physical life it left and prepares to be reborn into the physical world. Such beliefs are also commonly mingled with the belief in ancestors and the veneration of ancestral spirits.” – From “An Introduction To Paganism” by Bronwyn Katzke.

Note: “Summerlands” is the Wiccan term for the afterlife. Asatrualans and Druids have different names for the otherworld.

5. Pagan Community

Many Pagans consider themselves to be solitary practitioners of their faiths, especially Wiccans. For many, the idea of organized, structured religion with temples or church buildings, with hierarchies and committees and rigid policies on attendance, behavior and ritual, is simply off-putting. That is one reason why it is so difficult to get Pagans to stand together as a community, because there is an underlying fear that ‘someone’ will come along to try and
change Paganism into an ordered, structured and restrictive religious clone of a “book religion” like Christianity. Small groups do generally occur within the Pagan religions, and depending on their size (and sometimes on their relation to other groups) they are denoted as Covens, Circles, or Temples. There is no set policy on group denotation, and this is largely up to the members of the groups themselves to decide.

Taking this into account, there are currently no actual Pagan bodies within the South African Pagan society which govern the internal identity, religious principles and functioning of Pagan religions, but there are designated councils and other bodies which work to represent Paganism to external non-Pagan society, and where applicable, to protect the interests of Pagan citizens.

The South African Pagan Council (SAPC)

“SAPC IS THE FIRST PAGAN ORG LISTED AS AN OFFICIAL RELIGION IN AFRICA”

“The SAPC was inaugurated in 2006 as a unifying body of like-minded Pagans with a vision of co-operative unity. With this in mind, we encourage the cross pollination of groups and individuals, always remembering to respect each others traditions without attempting to enforce our own.

The Pagan Council is formulated on the Arthurian round table principle, all members therefore have equal rights, retaining autonomy and self-definition at all times. The guiding principle of the Council is “Live and let live”. The Council is largely representative of solitary Pagans and affiliates with groups who share the same vision. Paganism is defined by the SAPC as a polytheistic and pantheistic religion, generally nature based, and as a syncratic or genuine revival/reconstruction of national ethnic cultural belief. Pagans are those who worship Pagan Gods.

The SAPC is an ardent supporter of Earth based Religions, as such the SAPC promotes ecology and the principle of interconnectedness. To this end the Forum has started “Project Spinning Wheel” for ideas related to ecology.

The SAPC is actively involved in the reclamation of “Witchcraft” as a formal Pagan Religion. “Project Hypatia” is related to this subject.

The SA Government has instituted the “Moral Regeneration Movement” – SAPC encourages all SA Pagans to participate in this worthy cause.

SAPC is a registered Religious Organisation with SA Home Affairs and SA Revenue Services. For enquiries regarding a designated Pagan Marriage Officer in your area, please see the “Services” page.”

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
The South African Pagan Rights Alliance

This is an activist body within the SA Pagan community. It addresses matters regarding education on Pagan religion, correction of misinformation, SRA in the media, and also advocates for government and public action on the ongoing witch hunts in South Africa.

“The South African Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA) was formed in 2004 as a faith-based (Pagan) human rights activist alliance.

SAPRA currently fulfills several important functions in line with its constitutional mandate, namely, to promote the guaranteed liberties and freedoms enshrined for all South African Pagans in the Bill of Rights and assist South African Pagans, whose constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms have been infringed due to unfair discrimination, to obtain appropriate redress.

Several successive Executive Committees have executed their mandate in a number of ways, including addressing and challenging media prejudice against Paganism, promoting positive media coverage of Paganism in general, challenging institutional and legislative prejudice against Witchcraft, and offering non-legal assistance to Pagans seeking advice or assistance in dealing with incidences of discrimination.

In February 2008 the South African Department of Home Affairs approved an application submitted by SAPRA for designation as a religious organisation in terms of section 5 (1) and (2) of the Civil Union Act (Act 17 of 2006). According to section 5 of the Civil Union Act SAPRA now appoints Pagan religious marriage officers who may solemnise both same-sex and heterosexual marriages. SAPRA was the first South African Pagan organisation to be granted this designation.”

These two organizations work very closely together within the Pagan community, and also within issues affecting Pagan equality and religious freedom.

It is worth noting that the SAPS has perpetually snubbed and ignored ANY and ALL attempts by either of these entities to engage in debate with them on issues which affect the Pagan community, especially wrt to SAPS material which is filled with libelous and insulting SRA misinformation, and also on the Occult Related Crime (ORC) unit.

6. Pagan Holy Days

As in most religions, there are days of significance, otherwise known as holy days.
The Wiccan Wheel Of The Year

“Holy days differ from tradition to tradition, but the most commonly celebrated are the Wiccan Wheel of the Year.

- Samhain (30 April)
- Yule (21/22 June)
- Imbolc (1 August)
- Ostara (21/22 September)
- Beltane (31 October)
- Litha (21/22 December)
- Lughnasadh (2 February)
- Mabon (21/22 March)” – From An Introduction To Paganism by Bronwyn Katzke.

Samhain (30 April-1 May - Southern Hemisphere, 31 Oct-1 Nov - Northern hemisphere)

“Samhain is a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year. Most commonly it is held on 31 October–1 November, or halfway between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice. Along with Imbolc, Beltane and Lughnasadh it makes up the four Gaelic seasonal festivals.

Samhain is mentioned in some of the earliest Irish literature. Many important events in Irish mythology happen or begin on Samhain. It was the time when cattle were brought back down from the summer pastures and when livestock were slaughtered for the winter. In much of the Gaelic world, bonfires were lit and there were rituals involving them, as at Beltane. People and their livestock would often walk between two bonfires as a cleansing ritual, and the bones of slaughtered livestock were cast into its flames. Samhain (like Beltane) was seen as a time when the "door" to the Otherworld opened enough for the souls of the dead, and other beings, to come into our world. Feasts were had, at which the souls of dead kin were beckoned to attend and a place set at the table for them. It has thus been likened to a festival of the dead. People also took steps to protect themselves from harmful spirits, which is thought to have led to the custom of guising. Divination was also done at Samhain.

It was popularized as the "Celtic New Year" from the late 19th century, following Sir John Rhys and Sir James Frazer.[3] It has been linked with All Saints’ Day (and later All Souls’ Day) since the 9th century, when the date of that holiday was shifted to November 1. Both have strongly influenced the secular customs of Halloween.[4]
Samhain is still celebrated as a cultural festival by some (though it has mostly been replaced by Halloween) and, since the 20th century, has been celebrated as a religious festival by Celtic neopagans and Wiccans. Neopagans in the Southern Hemisphere often celebrate Samhain at the other end of the year (~30 April–1 May).

Wiccans celebrate a variation of Samhain as one of the yearly Sabbats of the Wheel of the Year. It is deemed by most Wiccans to be the most important of the four "greater Sabbats". Samhain is seen by some Wiccans as a time to celebrate the lives of those who have died, and it often involves paying respect to ancestors, family members, elders of the faith, friends, pets and other loved ones who have died. In some rituals the spirits of the dead are invited to attend the festivities. It is seen as a festival of darkness, which is balanced at the opposite point of the wheel by the spring festival of Beltane, which Wiccans celebrate as a festival of light and fertility.

Wiccans believe that at Samhain the veil between this world and the afterlife is at its thinnest point of the whole year, making it easier to communicate with those who have left this world.

Yule (21-22 June – Southern Hemisphere, 20-22 December Northern Hemisphere)

“The most universally celebrated festival is that of Midwinter. It has been recognized as a significant turning point in the yearly cycle since the late Stone Age. The ancient megalithic sites of Newgrange and Stonehenge, carefully aligned with the solstice sunrise and sunset, exemplify this. The reversal of the Sun’s ebbing presence in the sky symbolizes the rebirth of the solar god and presages the return of fertile seasons. From Germanic to Roman tradition, this is the most important time of celebration.

Practices vary, but sacrifices, feasting, and gift giving are common elements of Midwinter festivities. Bringing sprigs and wreaths of evergreenery (such as holly, ivy, mistletoe, yew, and pine) into the home and tree decorating are also common during this time.

This liminal festival marks the last month of the old year and the first month of the new year and is followed by eleven days of extended celebration in Germanic tradition. In Roman tradition additional festivities take place during the six days leading up to Midwinter. The celebration of Christmas during approximately the same time is the result of early Christianity’s adaptations of popular festivals concerning
Imbolc (1 August – Southern Hemisphere, 1-2 February Northern Hemisphere)

“As the first cross-quarter day following Midwinter, this traditionally marks winter’s end and spring’s start. It is time for purification and spring cleaning in anticipation of the year’s new life. It was historically a shepherd’s holiday[11] and among Celts associated with the onset of ewes’ lactation, prior to birthing the spring lambs.[12][13]

The festival is strongly associated with Brigid, daughter of The Dagda and one of the Tuatha Dé Danann.[13]

Among Reclaiming tradition Witches, this is the traditional time for pledges and rededications for the coming year[14] and for initiation among Dianic Wiccans.[15]” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheel_of_the_year

Ostara (21-22 September – Southern Hemisphere, 21-22 March Northern Hemisphere)

“The vernal equinox, often called Ostara, inaugurates the new year on the Zodiacal calendar. From this point the day overcomes the night. It is widely recognized by many mythologies as the time of rebirth or return for vegetation gods (e.g. Attis) and is celebrated as a time of great fertility.[13][16]

Egg decorating is a very common tradition in vernal celebration throughout Europe.[13][16]

The holiday is strongly associated with fertility goddess Ostara (the eastern star). She is notably associated with the fecund symbols of the hare and egg. Her teutonic name may be etymological ancestor of the words east and Easter.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheel_of_the_year

Beltane (31 October – Southern Hemisphere, 30 April-1 May Northern Hemisphere)

“Traditionally the first day of summer, the earliest celebrations appeared in pre-Christian times with the festival of Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers, and the Walpurgis Night celebrations of the Germanic countries. It is also strongly associated with the GaelicBeltane (bright fire).[21]

Since the Christianization of Europe, a more secular version of the festival has continued in Europe and America. In this form, it
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is well known for maypole dancing and the crowning of the Queen of the May.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheel_of_the_year

Litha (21-22 December – Southern Hemisphere, 20-22 June Northern Hemisphere)

“Midsummer is one of the four solar holidays, and is considered the turning point at which summer reaches its height and the sun shines longest. Among the Wiccan sabbats, Midsummer is preceded by Beltane, and followed by Lammas or Lughnasadh. Some traditions call the festival Litha, a name occurring in Bede’s Reckoning of Time (De Temporum Ratione, 7th century), which preserves a list of the (then-obsolete) Anglo-Saxon names for the twelve months. Ærra Liða (first or preceding Liða) roughly corresponds to June in the Gregorian calendar, and Æfterra Liða (following Liða) to July. Bede writes that “Litha means gentle or navigable, because in both these months the calm breezes are gentle and they were wont to sail upon the smooth sea” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheel_of_the_year

Lughnasadh/Lammas (2 February – Southern Hemisphere, 1 August Northern Hemisphere)

“Lammàs or Lughnasadh (/luːnəsə loo-nəs-a/) is the first of the three Pagan autumn harvest festivals, the other two being the autumnal equinox (or Mabon) and Samhain. Wiccans mark the holiday by baking a figure of the god in bread and eating it, to symbolize the sanctity and importance of the harvest. Celebrations vary, as not all Pagans are Wiccans. The Celtic name Lughnasadh[23][24] is used in some traditions to designate this holiday. Wiccan celebrations of this holiday are not generally based on Celtic culture nor centered on the Celtic deity Lugh, however. This name seems to have been a late adoption among Wiccans. In early versions of Wiccan literature the festival is referred to as August Eve.[25]

The name Lammàs (contraction of loaf mass) implies it is an agrarian-based festival and feast of thanksgiving for grain and bread, which symbolizes the first fruits of the harvest. Pagan rituals may incorporate elements from either festival.[23][26]” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheel_of_the_year

In historical reference, Lammas, or Lughnasadh is a harvest festival:

“Lughnasadh (pronounced loo-na-se; Irish: Lúnasa; Scottish Gaelic: Lùnastal; Manx:Luânistyn) is a traditional Gaelic holiday celebrated on 1 August. It originated as a harvest festival, corresponding to the Welsh Calan Awst and the English Lammas.
In Irish mythology, the Lughnasadh festival is said to have been begun by the god Lugh (modern spelling: Lú) as a funeral feast and sporting competition in commemoration of his foster-mother, Tailtiu, who died of exhaustion after clearing the plains of Ireland for agriculture. The first location of the Áenach Tailteann gathering was at Tailtin, between Navan and Kells. Historically, the Áenach Tailteann was a time for contests of strength and skill and a favoured time for contracting marriages and winter lodgings. A peace was declared at the festival, and religious celebrations were held. The festival survived as the Tailten Fair, and was revived for a period in the 20th century as the Telltown Games.[7][8]

A similar Lughnasadh festival was held at Carmun (the exact location of which is under dispute). Carmun is also believed to have been a goddess of the Celts, perhaps one with a similar tale as Tailtiu.[8]

Lughnasadh celebrations were commonly held on hilltops. Traditionally, people would climb hills on Lughnasadh to gather bilberries, which were eaten on the spot or saved to make pies and wine.[10] It is thought that Reek Sunday—the yearly pilgrimage to the top of Croagh Patrick in County Mayo in late July—was originally a Lughnasadh ritual.[11] As with the other Gaelic seasonal festivals (Imbolc, Beltane and Samhain), the celebrations involved a great feast.[12] In the Scottish Highlands, people made a special cake called the lunastain, which was also called luinean when given to a man and luineag when given to a woman. This may have originated as an offering to the gods.[13]

Another custom that Lughnasadh shared with the other Gaelic festivals was the lighting of bonfires and visiting of holy wells. The ashes from Lughnasadh bonfires would be used to bless fields, cattle and people.[14] Visitors to holy wells would pray for health while walking sunwise around the well. They would then leave offerings; typically coins or clooties (see clootie well).[15]

In Gaelic Ireland, Lughnasadh was also a favored time for handfastings — trial marriages that would generally last a year and a day, with the option of ending the contract before the new year, or formalizing it as a lasting marriage.[7][16][17][18]

Modern Lughnasadh customs
In Ireland, some people continue to celebrate the holiday with bonfires and dancing. The Catholic Church in Ireland has established the ritual of blessing fields on this day. In the Irish diaspora, survivals of the Lúnasa festivities are often seen by some families still choosing August as the traditional time for family reunions and parties, though due to modern work
schedules these events have sometimes been moved to adjacent secular holidays, such as the Fourth of July in the United States.[7][16] – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lughnasadh

**Mabon** (21-22 March – Southern Hemisphere, 21-23 Sept Northern Hemisphere)

“The holiday of the autumnal equinox, Harvest Home, Mabon, the Feast of the Ingathering, Meán Fómhair or Alban Elfed (in Neo-Druidic traditions), is a Pagan ritual of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth and a recognition of the need to share them to secure the blessings of the Goddess and the God during the coming winter months. The name Mabon was coined by Aidan Kelly around 1970 as a reference to Mabon ap Modron, a character from Welsh mythology.[27] Among the sabbats, it is the second of the three Pagan harvest festivals, preceded by Lammas / Lughnasadh and followed by Samhain.”

**Sacrifice As A Pagan Practice**

The matter of animal and human sacrifice has been a bone of contention for many years, and is a particular favorite of SRA accusers.

“Offerings of food, drink, various objects, the lives of animals, etc. have been central in ritual propitiation and veneration for millennia. The most notorious of these, ritual slaughter and sacrificing of animals has historically been common in any major settings that allowed for it, as blood sacrifices were known to be the most potent of all offerings.

However, its use has always been tenuous and modern Pagan practice strongly avoids sacrificing animals in favour of grains, herbs, milk, wines, incense, baked goods, minerals, etc. The exception being with ritual feasts including meat, where the inedible parts of the animal are often burned as offerings while the community eats the rest.[34][35]

Sacrifices are typically offered to gods and ancestors by burning them. Burying and leaving offerings in the open are also common in certain circumstances. The purpose of offering is to benefit the venerated, show gratitude, and give something back, strengthening the bonds between humans and divine and between members of a community.[34][36][37] – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheel_of_the_year

**Determining Dates Of Festivals**

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“The precise dates on which festivals are celebrated are often flexible. Dates may be on the days of the quarter and cross-quarter days proper, the nearest full moon, the nearest new moon, or the nearest weekend for secular convenience.

The festivals were originally celebrated by peoples in the middle latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. Consequently, the traditional times for seasonal celebrations do not agree with the seasons in the Southern Hemisphere. Pagans in the South often advance these dates six months to coincide with their own seasons.” – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheel_of_the_year](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheel_of_the_year)

**Pagan Holidays In South Africa**

No Pagan holy days are celebrated as general public holidays in South Africa, although Pagan Freedom Day is celebrated annually by Pagans of all traditions on April 27 which is a general public holiday (Freedom Day) anyway, appearing on the calendar as “Heritage Day”.


Since its inception, Pagans across the country have willingly embraced the ideal of Pagan Freedom Day, namely to encourage Cooperative Community building amongst Pagans and between Pagans and non-Pagans. It is hoped that by fostering a positive and holistic South African Pagan identity, we can promote understanding and tolerance amongst Pagans and between Pagans and non-Pagan South Africans.

Regional Communities have been formed to facilitate these ideals and to foster both Pagan identity and consolidate cooperative community building. Diverse Pagan individuals and groups have rallied together under the banner of Freedom and Unity in Diversity.” – An Introduction To Paganism by Bronwyn Katzke.

**SRA Misinformation About Pagan/Witches Holy Days**

There has been a great deal of misinformation about the holy days of Witches (and Occultists and Satanists), mostly at the hands of SRA pundits. The gap between the kind of misinformation about Pagan ritual and holy days presented in SRA – and the reality, is staggeringly huge.

Doing the rounds among evangelicalist organizations, specifically so-called “warfare ministries” which target Satanism and Pagan religions, there is
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material which can only be described as hysterical non-factual SRA propaganda.

Among these, is an item claiming to be an “occult calendar” which is exceedingly popular with such groups. This item is strikingly similar in effect to the equally fictitious and wholly fabricated “Homosexual Agenda” hysteria of the 1970’s, which claimed that gay rights activists had a hidden and destructive agenda – which incidentally, was based totally on a satirical article written by a gay rights activist at the time.

There are several variations of this calendar floating around cyberspace, though these are worded in very similar fashion, which tends to indicate a commons source. One such variation can be found on Forbidden Knowledge: http://www.theforbiddenknowledge.com/hardtruth/satanic_calendar.htm This example openly conflates “mythical Satanism” with Pagan religions, by including dates and names of festivals from the Wiccan Wheel of the Year among the “Satanic dates”.

The image below is taken from the magazine of a Christian extremist “warfare ministry” called Auksano, run by a former SAPS ORC (Johan de Beer, former Captain in the SAPS, was the Coordinator of the Occult related crime units (SAPS) in the Free State. He founded Auksano in 1997 in order to assist the victims of “destructive subcultures”).


This supposed “occult calendar” makes no distinction between Satanism and Paganism but liberally makes use of the term “Witch”. Not only are these two religions very different from each other, neither of them promotes harming another or engaging in violent or criminal activity. This is yet another manifestation of Christian evangelicalist ignorance about other cultures, or of

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the Christian extremist view that there is no difference between Satanism, Paganism or any other occult group.

**Debunking The SRA “Occult Calendar”**

The origins of this “occult calendar” as explained in a lengthy article on the topic, lie in the fields of fiction and religious extremist political activism. The calendar itself was devised by far-right religious extremist Christian author/publisher David Balsiger in an item entitled "1988 Witchcraft/Satanism Ritual Calendar".

“David W. Balsiger is a former writer and photographer for the Anaheim Bulletin and twelve other Southern California newspapers. He was a frequent "Debate Page" columnist for USA Today. He worked for a while as the Public Relations Consultant for the Melodyland Christian Center belonging to evangelist Morris Cerullo. He went on to become a major source of literature on "occult crime."” – From Witch Vox: [http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=cabc&c=whs&id=4347](http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=cabc&c=whs&id=4347)

Much information about the background of David Balsiger is available through indirect sources, such as commentary and analysis of his books, which have been condensed in this article, which includes details of his faking of photography alleged to be of the finding of Noah's Ark, and which also happens to address his “occult calendar”.

“Balsiger has authored 18 non-fiction books, including: In Search of Noah's Ark (Sunn-New American Library), The Lincoln Conspiracy (New American Library) and Beyond Defeat (Doubleday).

Both In Search of Noah's Ark and The Lincoln Conspiracy were later made into feature films. Balsiger later admitted to faking the photography for the film "In Search of Noah's Ark", which was purported to be a real account of the finding of Noah's ark.” – From Witch Vox: [http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=cabc&c=whs&id=4347](http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=cabc&c=whs&id=4347)

Balsiger’s political activism is definitely conservative and ultra-right, and focused on religio-political “king-making” in very much the same way as James Dobson and his Family Research Council and Focus on the Family enterprises.

“Balsiger is a founding member of Christian Voice, formerly the steering committee for the right wing Coalition on Revival. He is also the founder of the National Citizen's Action Network (NCAN) in Costa Mesa, California. NCAN publishes a newsletter called "Scoreboard Alert". NCAN is the parent for three further organizations and publishes three magazines, as follows:

1)RAMBOC (Restore A More Benevolent Order Coalition), a right wing networking organization. Balsiger is the founder/president. He calls this "United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests" Version 01.00
a "human rights advocacy group" and claims it is composed of 285 organizations, none of which he names.

2) Biblical News Service.

3) Writeway Professional Literary Associates.

4) Scoreboard Magazines, which include:
   a) Family Protection Scoreboard.
   b) Candidates Biblical Scoreboard.
   c) Presidential Biblical Scoreboard.

A 1987 special issue of Balsiger's Scoreboard magazine was entitled "South Africa: A Nation on Trial". In it Balsiger supported the apartheid policies of the former South African government. It was subsidized by $300,000 worth of advertising paid for by the South African government's tourist agency, SATOUR, and this issue was later handed out by the South African consulate. Balsiger was also the exclusive U.S. distributor of The Aida Parker Newsletter, a pro-apartheid magazine written by an agent of the Bureau of State Security (BOSS) in South Africa.” – From Witch Vox:

http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=cabc&c=whs&id=4347

Both the candidates and presidential “Biblical scoreboards” were aimed at gauging the performance or rating of political candidates for the office of President on Christian fundamentalist principles. Balsiger appears to be yet another “moral values” campaigner pushing for Christian fundamentalist control or influence in government of his country, of the same ilk as James Dobson and Paul Cameron.

The 1972 book "The Satan Seller" by Michael Warnke is often credited with starting the current hysteria about an international Satanic conspiracy, which can be directly traced to this book. It is also referred to as an authoritative source of information by SRA pundits. Although purportedly an autobiography about the life of Michael Warnke, it was a collaborative effort between Warnke, David Balsiger and another writer, Les Jones.

The Satan Seller (1972) is further debunked later in the same article on Witch Vox.

On the matter of Balsiger’s “1988 Occult Calendar”, which was apparently made available as a book, Kerr Kuhulain writes:

“His one page introduction lumps Witchcraft and Satanism together. He then lists 95 ritual dates plus 4 weeks devoted to "kidnapping, holding and ceremonial preparation of person for human sacrifice (sic)" for a total of 123 days a year (i.e.: 33.7% or a third of the entire year).
Many of the dates on Balsiger's calendar are simply dates of the different phases of the moon as well as the dates of solar and lunar eclipses. The calendar's 95 ritual dates call for 13 animal sacrifices, 24 human sacrifices, 6 blood rituals and 12 sexual orgies, as well as miscellaneous mutilations and dismemberments. Surely this much activity would be noticed by someone? One also wonders how someone could keep a full time job and find time for all of this activity?

The rest of the calendar is inaccurate and absurd. Dates that Balsiger lists include:

1) "January 1-New Years Day. A Druid feast day."

2) "January 20-St Agnes Eve. Divination practiced. "This is a date in British folklore considered to be a good day for divination. Women were supposed to be able to use various forms of divination to determine what their future husband would look like. This is probably on the list due to its connection with divination, which is prohibited in the Bible.


4) "January 26- Grand Climax. Five weeks and one day after winter solar solstice. Da Muer ritual. Oral, anal and vaginal sex. Human sacrifice-female or child."

5) "February 1-Candlemas Eve. Welcoming spring." Would Satanists do a ritual to welcome spring?

6) "February 14-Shrovetide. "Shrovetide is the day three days before Ash Wednesday and is a Christian observance. It also happens to be St Valentine's Day in 1988, which isn't a Satanic celebration either.

7) "March 24-Feast of the Beast: Sixteen year becomes Bride of Satan in marriage ceremony (sic)."

8) "March 31-Maundy Thursday, Unholy Thursday... April 1. Good Friday, Day of Passion. Mocks death of Christ. Animal or human sacrifice-male only... April 2. Easter Eve day. Human sacrifice- male or female... April 3. Easter Day, Unholy Sunday... Human sacrifice- male, female, or child. Followed by three days of fasting and chanting."

9) April 25-Grand Climax. Five weeks and one day after Spring Equinox. Da Muer ritual. Sexual activity-oral, anal and/or vaginal sex. Female child sacrifice. The sacrifice can be a child.

10) "May 13: Friday the thirteenth... Samhain. Old celebration date until 8th century. "The fact that this date happens to be Friday the thirteenth is of no religious significance whatsoever. Balsiger is only partially correct about Samhain. Samhain has always been observed on
October 31. It is the Christian "Feast of All Souls" that used to be on May 13. It was moved to November 1 by the Church in the 8th century CE in order that it would coincide with Samhain and give the people a Christian alternative to Samhain.


12) "June 20-Summer Solstice... June 23- Midsummer's Eve, St John's (the Baptist) Eve. Invokes the sun at the height of its strength. "Obviously Balsiger doesn't understand that the "summer solstice" and "midsummer" are the same thing.

13) "July 10- Unholy Day of the Palladium. Reading of the old Satanism ritual books." The Palladium was a statue of Pallas Athena, the Greek Goddess of justice, that was said to have stood in the city of Troy, upon whom the safety of the city depended. It later came to be used to refer to any statue of Athena, or to any safeguard of a city or institution. There was no ancient Greek or Roman festival on this date, and it was not a date sacred to Athena, so it is hard to imagine what Balsiger is on about here. July 10 was a festival of the northern European Goddesses Holda, Hela and Skadi, all underworld deities. Balsiger might be including this date because of this connection, but he makes no indication that this is the case.

14) "August 24: St Bartholomew's Day. Fire Festival ceremonial meeting. "In ancient Rome this was the date of the Mania, a festival acknowledging the Manes, deified spirits of ancestors. It was also St Bartholomew's day, Bartholomew being the patron of butchers and tanners. It was never a fire festival. St Bartholomew's day is traditionally considered to be a weather marker day as witnessed by the old rhyme: "If Bartlemy's Day be fair and clear, Hope for a prosperous autumn this year."


16) "October 22-29. Sacrifice preparation."

17) "October 29... October 30. Satanist High Holy Day. Related to Halloween. Human Sacrifices."

18) "November 24. Thanksgiving Day. Usually Wiccan celebration. "

25) "December 29. St Thomas Day. Fire festival or ritual ceremony... Thursday after Christmas." A few of the dates, names and expressions used in Balsiger's calendar were drawn from the 15th Century document the Malleus Maleficarum or "Hammer of Witches." Another source is Montague Summers, a translator of the Malleus Maleficarum and the author of several sensational books on "witchcraft" and Satanism. Summers was a self-proclaimed "Monsignor" in the Old
Catholic Church and a paedophile who fed his imagination on information gleaned from Inquisitional records.

Next, oddly, Balsiger includes a copy of a 1980 ritual calendar from the Egyptian Fellowship of Isis, which is reasonably accurate as far as Egyptian Paganism is concerned, and has no mention of ritual sacrifice at all. He does not explain what it is doing in his book or why the dates in it are at variance with those in his supposed ritual calendar.

On July 9, 1988 I sent a list of corrections and Pagan festival dates to Balsiger. I received a short but courteous letter dated July 27, 1988 thanking me for bringing this to his attention. Yet I spoke to a friend of mine in the third week of March 1989 who said that they had written to Balsiger about his awful calendar too. This source said that they had just been asked by Balsiger to supply him with correct Pagan festival dates. The one previously sent by me was not mentioned. To the best of my knowledge these calendars were never subsequently revised by Balsiger."

Thus, David Balsiger demonstrates quite profoundly how attempts at correction from Pagan and other occult sources are disregarded in toto by him. The question that should be presenting itself by now is “who should know best what goes on in a religion – an external critic hostile to the religion, or someone who has been a participant for years and years?”

The article on Witch Vox was written by Kerr Cuhulain, a long-time fixture in the international Pagan community. His “about” section features below each of his articles and on the article quoted above.

“Kerr Cuhulain the author of this article, is known to the mundane world as Detective Constable Charles Ennis. Ennis, a former child abuse investigator, is the author of several articles on child abuse investigation that appeared in Law & Order Magazine. Better known to the Pagan community by his Wiccan name, Kerr Cuhulain, Ennis was the first Wiccan police officer to go public about his beliefs 28 years ago. Kerr is now the Preceptor General of Officers of Avalon. Kerr went on to write four books: The Law Enforcement Guide to Wicca (Horned Owl Publishing), Wiccan Warrior and Full Contact Magick: A Book of Shadows for the Wiccan Warrior, (Llewellyn Publications), as well as a book based on this series: Witch Hunts: Out of the Broom Closet (Spiral Publishing)."

Sad to say, warfare ministries (and the SAPS/ORC unit) refer to sources such as Balsiger’s “Occult Calendar” and “The Satan Seller” as something akin to “absolute authorities”, also never making corrections to any of these documents – or this “occult calendar” – mainly because if they did, there probably would be NO “occult calendar” left, and certainly no more reason to encourage people to run around flapping their arms in hysterical little circles screaming “the Satanists are coming!”
Accusations of Kidnap & Human Sacrifice

To add to the insanity, claims that people will be “sacrificed” and “kidnapped for sacrifice” – without providing any kind of proof for these allegations. Since these claims have been made for years now, there should be some kind of statistical evidence to substantiate these, such as “X amount of people were kidnapped by Satanists/Pagans/Witches in 2012” or “X amount of people were found murdered as ‘Satanic/Pagan/Witch sacrifices in 2011’”.

**CLARIFICATION:** To date, not one case in which someone was convicted of kidnap or murder relating to “Satanic sacrifice” claims where Paganism or Witchcraft or Satanism as a religion played a definitive role in establishing motive for the crime, is known to have occurred in South Africa.

According to the Sub-cultures Alternatives Freedom Foundation in the UK:

“The first thing to bear in mind is that there are NO days in the satanic or pagan calendar when sacrifice is required - it just doesn’t happen, is not required in any liturgy and is not included in any books on Satanism or Witchcraft, hence the entire precept of Police claims are counterfeit and based on mediaeval lies by Christian witch-hunters which have been regurgitated by modern Christian witch-hunters.” – http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/winebald.htm

With the frequency that “human sacrifice” appears on this “calendar”, and with the supposed “radical growth” of “Satanism” in South Africa as claimed by hysterical evengelicalists, one would surely expect SOME kind of evidence to have shown itself by now that there really was some kind of great secret occult society kidnapping people and sacrificing them to Satan every other day.

**CLARIFICATION:** South African police would be buried hip-deep in sacrifice victim’s bodies by now, were any of these claims true!

It is concerning that people whose core business is the gathering of evidence seem to swallow claims like this wholesale, without apparently considering the lack of evidence to substantiate them. In a field where objectivity and impartiality are paramount in the pursuit of criminal justice, one would think that allowing religion to cloud judgment to the degree where contradicting evidence presents itself so voluminously and persistently, is ignored in favor of belief in an improvable “Satanic conspiracy theory” is both unprofessional and hazardous to the civil and human rights of citizens – and also contrary to the Constitution.

It is simply common sense that these claims are at best bogus, and worst, being nothing more than blatant lies and propaganda intended to incite fear and loathing against people perceived to be Pagans or Satanists or otherwise participants in the occult.
The SAPS spokes-cop made a “clarifying” statement in 2012 on the topic of the ORC to the effect that the ORC’s would be looking at muti-related crimes in South Africa, in which people were kidnapped or killed to obtain body parts for traditional African spiritual rituals. This cannot be the basis for these falsehoods presented in this calendar as not one mention of any traditional African practice is made. Every item is intended to be viewed as relating to Western occultism, including Paganism, Witchcraft and Satanism – which are all of Western origin.

The Relevance of Sex, Drugs & Rock ‘n Roll

Further, there is repetitive mention of “sex orgies” and “satanic drinking parties”, also without relying on any supporting facts. The purported role of alcohol in the occult is strangely important to SRA pundits who appear to believe this, despite the plethora of information circulated by occult, Pagan and Satanic groups, which advocates that clarity of mind and sobriety is desirable when performing any ritual or magical workings.

Of course, taken to the extreme argument in legal terms, it is not illegal to host parties or events where alcohol is consumed, even copiously, and even in private – provided of course other laws, such as noise regulations and disturbance of the peace, are not violated. This is not 1920’s America, where Prohibition made alcohol in any form, illegal. At least, not yet.

The omission of any reference to drug abuse in this alleged “occult calendar” is striking, as typical SRA material desperately tries to link alternative religions with drug-taking and “sex orgies” in order to discredit or vilify them in the eyes of their supporters. It is plain propaganda without any basis in fact.

Again, not one mention of “X amount of Satanists/Pagans/Witches were arrested/witnessed while partying, drinking and having sex at a secret venue in 2012” has been made in the Press, or has been provided in statistics by those making such claims. Statements such as this are nothing more than hearsay and not evidence of anything other than how gullible some people are, and willing to believe anything, even the worst in people.

Fictitious “Un-Holy Days” Projected Upon Pagan Religion

Samhain: The “occult calendar” refers to Samhain [“Samhein”] as a time of animal and human sacrifice. It also refers to February 02 as a time of animal and human sacrifice, under the names “Maria Lignis”, “Candle Mass”, and “Witches Sabbath”.

Though in history, farming communities would slaughter an animal at such a time, perhaps in honor of a deity, these were also consumed as food. Portraying this sort of tradition as some kind of abuse or harmful practice is tantamount to giving the same treatment to Christmas or Thanksgiving, because of the type of food traditionally consumed, and often slaughtered for
the occasion. Killing and eating a turkey at Thanksgiving is not evidence of a ritual crime, nor Satanism, no matter what animal rights activists claim. In the Wiccan Wheel of the Year, February 02 is the festival of Lughnasadh also known as Lammas, which is a harvest celebration and also a day which is favored for handfastings. Historically speaking, and especially when referring to modern Neo-Pagan religions, this statement is fraudulent.

The mention of November 1 as “unholy day” is suitably vague enough to mean anything, though it clearly matches nothing in the Pagan calendar. Presumably this made up name also refers to Samhain in the northern hemisphere, or its corresponding holiday in the south, being Beltane. No further explanation of why November 1 is supposed to be “unholy” is provided, though the anonymous drafter was thoughtful enough to provide mention of human sacrifice again – which further discredits this claim since human sacrifice does not play a role in modern Paganism or Witchcraft.

Candle mass: “Candle mass” as used in this “occult calendar” could be one of several things, but as a little simple research demonstrates, it is NONE of the things its creator claims. According to the site Project Britain,

> “2nd February is Candlemas Day. This ancient festival marks the midpoint of winter halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox.

Candlemas is a traditional Christian festival that commemorates the ritual of purification of Mary forty days after the birth of her son Jesus. On this day, Christians remember the presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple.” "It was the day of the year when all the candles that were used in the church during the coming year were brought into church and a blessing was said over them - so it was the Festival Day (or 'mass') of the Candles." “Candlemas Day also has two other names. One is the ‘Presentation of Christ in the Temple’. The other is the ‘Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary’. Both these names come from special events in the life of baby Jesus." – From Project Britain: [http://projectbritain.com/year/candlemas.html](http://projectbritain.com/year/candlemas.html)


Careful reading of both information resources will reveal NO mention of human sacrifice, or sex orgies as part of this festival.

**Candlemas Day is therefore a Christian holy day or festival** which is being maligned by extremist evangelical Christians. It is possible that the “satanic connection” is made because the ritual or ceremony would have started out as Catholic and continued under the Church of England, and these are often viewed with suspicion and hostility by evangelicalists.

A second use of the reference “Candle mass” is found in the name of a Swedish metal band, Candlemass:
“Candlemass is an influential Swedish doom metal band established in Stockholm 1984 by bassist, songwriter and bandleader Leif Edling. After releasing five full-length albums and touring extensively throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Candlemass disbanded in 1994, but reunited three years later. After breaking up again in 2002, Candlemass reformed in 2004 and have continued to record and perform since then.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candlemass

It is unlikely that a Swedish metal band would somehow be involved with the “occult calendar”, and aside from the references to its existence in Wikipedia, there are no other traceable references to any alleged “Satanic” or occult celebration under that name!

**St Winebald’s Day:** (Also misspelled as “Wincbald” in some versions) This Christian festival is anything but what these “occult calendars claim it is – in fact, they can’t even get the date right:

“St Winebald’s day is December 18th, NOT January 7th as the police keep on insisting.

In Chambers’ scholarly Book of Days (1864) which is one of the most reliable sources of ancient festivals, December 18th is shown as being sacred to “Saints Rufus and Zozimus, martyrs AD 116 and St Gatian, first bishop of Tours, confessor, about AD 300.” After these comes the obscure "St Winebald, abbot, and confessor, AD 760..."

**JANUARY 7TH:**
The information being circulated to police is in error. There's no festival or celebration on January 7th connected with Winebald. In the old Gregorian calendar it was considered St Distaffs day. January 7th has nothing to do with Winebald. According to Chambers’ Book of days January 7th is the " Feast Day: St. Lucian, of Antioch, priest and martyr, AD 312. St. Cedd, bishop of London, 7th century. St. Thillo, AD 702. St. Kentigerna, widow, AD 728. St. Aldric, bishop of Mans, AD 856. St. Canut, AD 1171.” BUT NOT WINEBALD.

There’s LOTs of festivals and celebrations on January SIXTH of course, being the last day of Epiphany or Three King's Day. All of these celebrations around Christmas are the Church’s attempt to monopolise/usurp Saturnalia, which was the original pagan feast celebrated at this time for thousands of years before Jesus.

Epiphany originally ran from 25th Dec. to Jan 6th. Saturnalia marked the turning of the year for the Winter Solstice (21st Dec) and originally spanned seven days from December 17th until December 23rd. There is absolutely no record of any human sacrifice occurring or being required at the Roman Saturnalia.
The atmosphere for Saturnalia was one of licentiousness and revelry; enjoyment and fun. Most all of the 'enjoyable' bits of Christmas, yule logs, carolling, christmas trees, feasting, mince pies, xmas puds, etc., are derived from the pagan winter festivities.

The Northern Pagan Tradition has the Yule Festival which began usually on December 17th and lasted 13 days until December 30th. There is therefore no possibility of December 18th being a day of sacrifice.

Thus there is no combination of dates and events which, even in error, equate with what the Met. have accepted.

Whichever way you look at it the information given to the MET is WRONG. It is either factually in error or purposefully obfuscated.” – From the Sub–culture Alternatives Freedom Foundation: http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/winebald.htm

“The Da Muer Ritual”

CLARIFICATION: References to “the Da Muer ritual” appear to be arcane at best, and at worst, a total fabrication by Balsiger. No references to this term can be found in actual occult resources, or anywhere else other than in Balsiger’s “Occult Calendar” and its many populist derivatives in SRA literature, and all over the internet where these are discussed and referred to. Translation programs also do not recognize the language of origin, so even a translated meaning cannot be found. Further, inquiries into the Satanist and Pagan communities have also provided no solution other than the obvious: Balsiger simply made these terms up in order to fit some convenient dates and existing rituals in diverse religions in order to “demonize” them.

Kerr Cuhulain discusses “Da Muer” as an alleged “ritual” of human or animal sacrifice in another article which also addresses a similar “Occult Calendar” to Balsiger’s, and possibly based upon his. He describes a possible meaning for the term as “Good Great/Large” in Cornish. (http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_article.html?a=cabc&id=4740):

“The term "Da Muer," which appears twice in this calendar, is probably derived from the Cornish "Da" ("good") and "Vuer"/"Muer" ("large" or "great"). It seems to be a reference to the Great Rite in British traditions of Wicca. Of course these Great Rites are neither orgies nor sacrificial rites.

• "DATE: June 21, CELEBRATION: Feast Day (Summer Solstice), TYPE: Orgies, USAGE: Oral, Anal, Vaginal, AGE: Any age (male or female, human or animal)."(15)

NOTE: This is indeed the Summer Solstice, but none of the rest of the activities described by this calendar will be familiar to Pagans. Wiccans call the Solstice Litha or Alban Heruin. This is a "Lesser Sabbat" in the Wiccan calendar. It was originally a Saxon celebration incorporated
into the Wiccan calendar as a celebration of the first fruits of the season. In some traditions, this day is celebrated as the Sacred Marriage of the Goddess and God. In others it is celebrated as the victory of the Lord of the waning year over the Lord of the Waxing year, to mark the point from which the days will shorten. None of these celebrations require orgies.

- "DATE: July 1, CELEBRATION: Demon Revels, TYPE: Blood, USAGE: Druids sexual association with demons, AGE: Any age (female)."\(^{(16)}\)

NOTE: I have been unable to find any religious group, including the Druids, who celebrate anything on July 1. July 1 is Canada Day. Perhaps Frattarola is suggesting that Canadians are Satanic?

- "DATE: Sept. 7, CELEBRATION: Marriage to the Beast Satan, TYPE: Sexual, USAGE: Sacrifice, Dismemberment, AGE: Infant to 21 (female)."\(^{(18)}\)

NOTE: These last two entries, August 3 and September 7, are days which no religious group seems to claim for a festival, including Pagans.

- "DATE: Sept. 20, CELEBRATION: Midnight Host, TYPE: Blood, USAGE: Dismemberment (hands planted), AGE: Infant to 21 (female)."\(^{(19)}\)
- "DATE: Sept. 22, CELEBRATION: Feast Day (Fall Equinox), TYPE: Orgies, USAGE: Oral, Anal, Vaginal, AGE: Any age (male or female, human or animal)."\(^{(20)}\)

NOTE: These last two entries are certainly related to the Fall Equinox. Wiccans call this day Mabon, after the Celtic deity Mabon, son of Modron ("mother"), who is mentioned in the story of Culhwch and Olwen. His name translates simply as "son". It is also known as Alban Elved. Mabon is a "Lesser Sabbat" which is the third and last harvest festival of the Wiccan calendar. It is a time of thanksgiving for the bounty of the earth which will sustain the people through the Winter. Pagans do not have orgies or dismember people on this or any other date."

**Walpurgis Nacht:** The association by SRA pundits of “Walpurgis Nacht” with Satanism is also demystified in the same article:

“Because Beltaine, a Celtic festival, traditionally occurs on April 30, some people today use the term Walpurgis to describe it. The association of witches with Walpurgis eventually led to the belief that Walpurgis was a Satanic holiday. For example, Anton LaVey names
Walpurgis as one of the Satanic festivals in his *Satanic Bible.*” - [http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_article.html?cabc&id=4740](http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_article.html?cabc&id=4740)

Wikipedia describes Walpurgis Nacht thusly:

*Walpurgis Night* (Walpurgisnacht) is a traditional spring festival on 30 April or 1 May in large parts of Central and Northern Europe. It is often celebrated with dancing and with bonfires. It is exactly six months from All Hallows’ Eve.

The current festival is, in most countries that celebrate it, named after the English missionary Saint Walpurga (ca. 710–777/9). As Walpurga was canonized on 1 May (ca. 870), she became associated with May Day, especially in the Finnish and Swedish calendars.[1][2] The eve of May Day, traditionally celebrated with dancing, came to be known as *Walpurgisnacht* ("Walpurga’s night"). The name of the holiday is *Walpurgisnacht* in German and Dutch” – [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walpurgis_Night](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walpurgis_Night)

Walpurgis Nacht is yet again, another Christian holiday or festival being maligned and portrayed as something it is not, by ironically enough, Christians themselves.

The “Grand Climax”

As presented in the occult calendar, Balsiger wrote: “April 25-Grand Climax. Five weeks and one day after Spring Equinox. Da Muer ritual. Sexual activity-oral, anal and/or vaginal sex. Female child sacrifice. The sacrifice can be a child.”

**According to the Church of Satan:**

“April 30 is the grand climax of the spring equinox and Halloween was one of the times of the great fire festivals among the ancient Druids.” – From the Church of Satan: [http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/ChaplainsHandbook.html](http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/ChaplainsHandbook.html)

**CLARIFICATION:** Presumably, this is where the reference to “the Grand Climax” used in so-called “occult calendars” comes from. Taken in this context, it is anything but intended to be taken as a sexual innuendo unlike the manner it is presented in the Balsiger’s “1988 Occult Calendar”. As seen in its original context, “grand climax” (small letters) refers to the highpoint of the spring equinox, at April 30 in the northern hemisphere.

“In *The Edge of Evil* "Grand High Climax" is said to be a major holiday celebrated by Satanists on December 24. Evangelical Christian author Jerry Johnston says in this book that it is a celebration meant to juxtapose the Christian holiday of Christmas Eve, when the birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated. However this goal to blaspheme is not always prevalent.[4]
He claims that Grand High Climax is traditionally celebrated with a *Black Mass*, followed by great excesses of food, drink, sex, and merriment, but a rite called "Grand High Climax", and the details of the activities involved, is not a rite acknowledged by all Satanic groups. It was once part of the [Satanic panic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanic_holidays) and beliefs about the *Witches' Sabbath*.” – From Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanic_holidays

### An Example Of The Calendar In Action:

As an example of how this material is used in journalism which results in essentially an SRA article, below a quote from a newspaper reporting on the alleged ritual killing of a horse in Cornwall, UK in 2012:

"Although apocryphal in origin, Satanists have adopted ‘St Winebalds Day’ as an occasion of ‘blood rituals, dismemberment, animal or human sacrifice’.

It features in a number of ‘Satanic Calendars’, and cops are considering the theory a group of sadists chose the occasion, together with that of the full moon, to strike.” - From the Cornwall Community News: [http://www.cornwallcommunitynews.co.uk/2012/01/10/the-work-of-the-devil/](http://www.cornwallcommunitynews.co.uk/2012/01/10/the-work-of-the-devil/)

Another striking example of how ordinary (typically Christian) people are affected by the sheer lunacy (and genius) of this propagandistic device, can be seen on personal blogs such as this one: [http://lyzete.blogspot.com/2012/09/the-occult-calendar.html](http://lyzete.blogspot.com/2012/09/the-occult-calendar.html) where it is clear the deception has been swallowed hook, line, sinker – all the way up to the fisherman’s boots.

What is clear is that wherever this material is cross-posted, it is like the rumor that moves from one end of a line of people to the other. By the time it reaches the other end, it has been altered, added to and modified. The above example also includes claims that celebratory fireworks displays (using images of the Olympic Games as an example) to claim that the masses are “being led to worship Satan with fire”.

Each site that posts their own copy of the calendar seems to add its own spin to it. For example, this site mentions the following making a reference to a conspiracy theory popular among a fringe group of fundamentalist Christians:

"NOTE: Those dedicated to bringing in the Luciferian one-world Global Government know that much bloodshed is needed to bring about the necessary "spiritual vibrations" (cooperation of devils) to bring in the New Order. This bloodshed is accomplished by way of ritual killings; planned terrorist events, planned disasters and wars; catastrophes caused by weather modification (ie. Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy); abortion; [suicide; euthanasia; killings in foster care](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suicide), and every
conceivable way of causing death -- especially on a large scale.” – from Liberty To The Captives:
http://libertytothecaptives.net/ritual_calendar.html

This material spreads, adapts, is added to, and is molded to resemble truth. In effect, the lie is perpetuated and repeated ad nauseum, to the extent that it becomes seen as manifest truth.

This sort of SRA material is also used to great effect in convincing law enforcement officials around the world that there is a vast underground conspiracy of child kidnapping and sacrificing “Satanists” just under their noses. The case below is quoted from an article detailing how UK police were given presentations on “Satanic Ritual Abuse” in the 2000’s:

“Satanic Calendars Drawn Up By Satan Hunters

Apart from fundamentalist dictionaries of supposed occult-symbols and satanic personality profiles so loose that 90% of the population would find themselves in clink, chief amongst those things which were designed by fundamentalist witch-hunters to ensure a maximum net catch was a Diary of Satanic Festivals. Surprise, surprise, there was almost one 'Satanic Festival' for every day in the year, ensuring that whenever anything mysterious happened it would always fall on a 'Satanic Festival' and could therefore be blamed on them.

To illustrate this, the 'lecturers' at the Met's December 2005 Satan Seminar focussed on the 'Satanic Festival' of St Winebald's Day which conveniently fell in that month. In interviews in the press and broadcast media the Satanic significance of St Winebald's Day was emphasised as though beyond challenge and it was claimed with utmost certainty that it was a day when Satanists would Sacrifice animals and humans!” – from Sub-culture Alternatives Freedom Foundation (SAFF):
http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/winebald.htm

Items such as the “occult calendar” serve the purpose of allowing (or causing) law enforcement officials to draw connections between secular crimes and alleged occult or Satanist activity in order to further pressure religious minorities by the predictable affect of further fueling SRA and hence creating increased support for SRA “occult experts”.

**CLARIFICATION:** By perpetuating this sort of propaganda, Aucksano and other warfare ministries instill fear and incite hostility against other religions, poisoning the minds of their audiences against innocent people based simply on conjecture, assumption, lies, and ignorance – and not on facts.

**CLARIFICATION:** Were another religion, say the Jewish faith the target of such an orchestrated disinformation campaign, there would be a swift outcry – why is this standard good for one religion, but not for others?
Endorsing a fabrication says a lot about the integrity of this group, or their ability to tell truth from fallacy. The frightening part is how many of their supporters, and other Christians – and presently serving police officials – actually believe this fabrication.

To conclude: For these reasons, this article’s claims of human sacrifice, kidnapping and rape are without basis and discriminate against Pagans and Satanists alike. Those who read this item should be left thinking that Pagans, Satanists and Witches are obsessed with year-round sex orgies, and animal and human sacrifice!

Consequently, somewhere, there must be at least a few solitary Christians in the midst of all this SRA nonsense, left wondering why they never seem to hear of any actual victims of such kidnappings, dismemberment and ritual sacrifices being named in TV or print news, or in ‘in memoriam’ listings in the smalls saying “R.I.P Joan Smith, decapitated and sacrificed to Satan on Walpurgisnacht 2012”?

The “Occult Calendar” is often referred to by unsuspecting journalists, investigators and ordinary citizens as factual, when it is nothing but the conflation of fiction and misassociated factoids presented as a conspiracy.

7. Pagan Jargon

The following are Wiccan terms which are in general use in the South African Pagan community:

- Merry Meet: This is a greeting that equates to, ‘nice to see you’.
- Blessed Be: This is a farewell greeting that basically wishes good things to you.
- So Mote it Be: This a phrase used at the end of rituals and spells in the same way as Christians use ‘Amen’.
- An it harm none, do what ye will: The Wiccan Rede is about personal accountability, thinking before you act, and above all else, not doing harm to another.” – “An Introduction To Paganism” by Bronwyn Katzke.

Merry Meet,” “Blessed be,” and “So mote it be” are all used by Wiccans, other Neo-Pagan Witches, and Wicca-derived Pagans, and are generally NOT used by Reconstructionists and Reconstructionist-derived Pagans. "So mote it be" is derived from Freemasonry.

"‘So mote it be” is a ritual phrase used by Freemasons, in Rosicrucianism, and more recently by Neopagans. It means "so may it be", and may be said at the end of a prayer in a similar way to
"amen". The phrase appears at the end of the 14th century Halliwell or Regius Manuscript, the earliest known Masonic document.[1]

The phrase has been taken up by neopagans and they use it in a similar way in their ceremonies and rituals.[2] – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/So_mote_it_be

8. Pagan Traditions

Paganism is divided into different groups, just like Christianity. Christians describe these groups as Churches and Denominations. In Paganism, we speak of Traditions and sometimes Paths. Although there are many more, these are the most well known Pagan traditions which should serve as ideal examples of Pagan traditions. There are two dissimilar groupings in Neo Paganism, being Wicca, other Neo-Pagan Witches and Wicca-derived Pagans – and Reconstructionists.

“Reconstructionists differ from Wiccans, other Neo-Pagan Witches, and Wicca-derived Pagans, whose beliefs and practices are derived primarily from the Western occult tradition. The Western occult tradition does have ancient pre-Christian roots, in the ancient Roman empire, but was filtered down through Jewish and Christian sources and then, to one extent or another, re-Paganized in the late 1800's and 1900's.

See, for example, the history of Hermetics here:

http://gnosis.org/hermes.htm

Similarly, another important part of the Western Occult Tradition is Kabbalah, i.e. Jewish mysticism, which was influenced to some extent by ancient Greek philosophy. Both Hermetics and Kabbalah were used heavily by 1800's occultists, including the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, whose system has heavily influenced all subsequent occult systems including Wicca, other forms of modern Pagan Witchcraft, and Wicca-derived forms of eclectic Paganism.

On the following page of my Theistic Satanism site, I have a lot of links to info about the Western occult tradition and its history:


Let us examine some modern Pagan traditions:

Asatru:
“Ásatrú is a modern religion which is part of the Reconstructionist branch of Paganism, i.e. it tries to reconstruct, as faithfully and accurately as possible, what little is known about the ancient Norse religion. As you are aware, reconstructionists generally try to reconstruct the religion of some particular ancient culture based on scholarly archeological and historical sources.” – Diane Vera.

“Germanic neopaganism,[2] also known as Heathenry, Ásatrú, Odinism, Forn Siðr, Wotanism, Theodism, and other names, is the contemporary revival of historical Germanic paganism.[3] Precursor movements appeared in the early 20th century in Germany and Austria, and a second wave of revival began in the United States, Great Britain, Iceland, Australia, and other places in the late 1960s. Dedicated to the ancient gods and goddesses of the North,[4] the focus of Germanic neopagans varies considerably, from strictly historical polytheistic reconstructionism to syncretist (eclectic), pragmatic psychologist, occult or mysticist approaches. Germanic neopagan organizations cover a wide spectrum of belief and ideals.[5] “The pantheon comprehends various gods divided traditionally into three "races", the Æsir, the Vanir, and the Giants or Jötuns. Every Germanic neopagan tradition uses different names for the gods based on the particular ethnic culture they are drawing from. The Æsir mostly pertain to the sphere of human society, they govern the arts, force, law, wisdom, et cetera; on the other hand the Vanir embody elements and forces of nature, such as fertility, water, beauty. The Jötuns are the gigantic, elemental, primordial chaotic forces which the gods interact with and sublimate in their creative action of shaping reality.[6][10] The different divine races often overlap in domain and function.

Germanic Neopaganism has a strong leaning towards animism. This is most apparent in the worship of Álfar (or Elves), land-spirits, the various beings of folklore (Kobold, Huldufólk), and the belief that inanimate objects can have a fate of their own. – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanic_neopaganism

“Q: What is Asatru / Heathenry anyway? 
A.
Asatru (literally, “faith in the gods”) is a modern reconstruction of the religion that the Germanic tribes practiced in Northern and Central Europe before their forced conversion to Christianity. Heathen is from the Old English term; hæðen – meaning “not Christian or Jewish”. Historically, the term was probably influenced by Gothic haimi “dwelling on the heath”. It has even been suggested that Gothic haimi is not related to “heath” at all, but rather a loan from Armenian hethanos, itself loaned from Greek ἔθνος ethnos. We use the term heathen to differentiate us from more mainstream pagans that have jumped on the new-age bandwagon and we focus more on historic reality than modern fantasy. The terms; Asatru / Odinism / Wotanism / Forn Sidh / Germanische Heidentum – are all intrinsically different but for the purpose of this Q&A share enough similarities to be grouped together.

Q: What do you mean by “Germanic”? I thought Thor, Odin, and so forth were Viking gods!
A.
“Germanic” is a collective name for many of the ethnic groups that live in Northern Europe. It is NOT a racial term, but refers to the culture and languages of these social groupings. The Germans and the Scandinavians are the most obvious of the Germanic culture group but also include the Swiss, Frisian, English and Dutch and several other ethnic groups that have died out or intermarried over the centuries, such as the Afrikaner. Most of these groups believed in the deities as we now know as the “Norse pantheon”. However, people think of them as Norse because Scandinavians wrote most of the surviving myths and folk beliefs down in the middle-ages.

Q: Is Asatru / Heathenry related or connected to any other religion?
A.
No. At least not in the sense of “borrowing” other religions’ gods or teachings outright as many New-Age belief-systems have done. Asatruar may have some shared basic beliefs in common with other pagans, or with religious people in general; but Asatru is NOT an offshoot of any other faith – In particular, Asatruar are not “devil worshippers” as they do not believe that a devil exists nor are they proponents of New-Age or Occult movements like Wicca or Thelema. Asatru also involves ancestor worship as we believe that we will meet our ancestors when we die one day and that we can help our descendants by becoming their ancestors.

Q: How does Asatru differ from other more mainstream religions, like Christianity? We often hear that Jesus died for our sins, so will our souls still need saving?
A.
Asatru is unlike the better-known religions in many ways. The main differences being;

1) We are polytheistic. That is, we believe in a number of deities, including a varied pantheon of Goddesses as well as Gods. There are no singular Gods, trinities, prophets or martyrs. We
also believe in land- and sea-spirits and the power of our ancestors.

2) We do not accept the idea of “original sin,” the notion that we are tainted from birth and therefore born intrinsically “bad” – thus, we do not need “saving” – as Christians understand it. Concerning the “saving” of souls; the idea that Jesus was a universal sacrifice for the sins of the whole world was a theological construction of Paul, when viewed secularly, in Paul’s many writings, he never indicates any awareness of the life of Jesus or his teachings – so why are we then made subject to a dogma that we have no interest in? We believe that a person is great or good by the deeds they accomplish for their kith and kin. There is no judgement on a scale in the afterlife as is found in ancient Egyptian and Abrahamic (Judaean-Christian) belief.

3) We do not claim to be a universal religion, a faith for all of humankind. Not in the slightest. In fact, we don’t think such a thing is in fact truly possible or even desirable. We believe each culture should in theory practice their ancestral religion. The differing branches of humanity have always had different ways and approaches of looking at the world, each of which is valid for their ancestral group. It is only good and right that they have differing religions and that all these religions should tolerate one another.

Q: In South Africa, especially amongst the Christian community, it is usually said that if you are not Christian then you must be a Satanist, especially if you follow any religion that can be interpreted as “pagan”. What do you say to that?
A. Asatru or any other non-Christian belief that can be identified as pagan in a broad sense which eventually is lumped up into what organised Christianity thinks of as Satanism (mainly by xenophobic clergymen) is a perpetuation of faulty christian dogma that can only be countered by the lifting of the veil of pious ignorance.

Asatru does not define itself through opposition to some other established religion’s God, as Satanism does – Satanism is actually anti-Christianity whereas heathenry is nothing of the sort. There are many sites now that basically describe Asatru as a kind of Satanism, which is completely false, as Satan does not exist in the Germanic heathen religion.

To truly believe in the existence of the Satan figure, first requires the belief in the existence of the Hebrew God Yahweh – who created Lucifer in the first place, as well as Yahweh’s alleged son Jesus, and their holy ghost.

"United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests"
Version 01.00
One cannot seriously claim without immense ignorance to be a Satanist as well as claiming to be Asatru, which are mutually exclusive allegiances. Satan is a Christian myth for the Christian ethos and worldview and as true heathens we simply don't believe any of them existed at any time – this does not mean that we are as intolerant of Christians as Christians are of other non-christian faiths.”

“Q: Do Asatruar consider their gods to be the only true ones, do they reject other religions as being false like Christianity does?
A. No. Asatruar, as a rule, don’t seek to convert the rest of the world – largely because they don’t see it as the one right religion for everybody. If a non-Asatru pagan wants to worship Diana or Cernunnos, that is perfectly acceptable; if a Christian wants to remain Christian, that is acceptable. The Norsemen generally didn’t belittle other people’s gods, or claim that those gods didn’t exist. Even in the late Viking Age, the attitude towards foreign religions was; “You stick to your gods and I’ll stick to mine”; that attitude has carried on into the modern Asatru revival.

Q: I’ve noticed that many Asatruar / Heathens practice magic (especially rune magic). Is this a requirement?
A. Magic is real and acceptable and many people do indeed come to Asatru through an interest in working with the runes. However, this does NOT mean that everybody is expected to study or practice magic. Spells and rune-working does not play as strong a role in Asatru as it does in other pagan belief-systems (like Wicca, to name the most obvious example) – and if it is practiced, then it is in individual privacy by one who knows the lore associated with it. Those that do practice rune magic in some form without following the Asatru religion should be very familiar with the Germanic gods, myths and symbolism as well as using the runes in their cultural context – since if they don’t then they are pandering to New-Age fantasy.

Q: I’ve heard Asatru called a “nature religion”, does that mean that you really worship the earth, trees, and so forth as gods?
A. Asatruar do believe that the natural world is sacred and living. The sun, moon, and earth are personified as deities; there are also local nature spirits (dwarves, elves and landvaettir – land spirits). But “nature” in that sense is only a part of Asatru; the gods are no more one-dimensional than we are. Thor, for instance, may be a thunder god; yet he is also a protector of man and the social order. Frey may be a fertility figure, yet he is also a god of peace and kingship. People are as much a part of “culture” as they are of “nature” – why would the gods be any different?
Q: Why choose to follow the Germanic/Norse gods at all? Aren’t they just aspects of a universal whole—or even of the worshipers themselves?
A. Some religions do indeed teach that all deities are one; Asatru, however, does not. The gods are distinct and individual and exist independently of their worshipers’ minds. A Hindu might call Odin an emanation of the Brahman; a Wiccan might call him an aspect of the Father God; and a Jungian psychologist might call him a Norse version of the Wise Old Man archetype. To an Asatruar, Odin is ODIN: as unique and individual as his followers, not an aspect of any other god, and definitely not “all in the mind”.

Q: Isn’t Asatru sexist? The lore does show a definite slant toward male deities and heroes.
A. The Germanic tribes were no more patriarchal or sexist than any other pre-Christian society in Europe; neither was their belief-system. Strong, independent women (and goddesses) do appear in the stories that survived—and were lauded for their steadfastness. There is evidence that the tribes had some matriarchal and goddess-centred groups—but some scholars have romanticized or exaggerated their importance. (The matriarchs and goddess worshipers were not totally peaceful, nor were the patriarchs and god-worshipers totally violent.) Ancient Germanic religion didn’t glorify either gender over the other, and the modern revival doesn’t either—it is not your gender that matters, but your deeds.

It is also worth noting that amongst the Germanic tribes, women were seen as equals in most if not all ways. Spiritually, politically and domestically, the women of pre-Christian Europe enjoyed more freedoms than in other pre-Christian societies and the female ancestors (disir) form a special part of the belief-structure of heathenry.

Q.: Isn’t Asatru racist? I’ve seen US government organizations associate Norse and Asatru symbols and tattoos with racist prison gangs.
A. The lore does not show any semblance of racial hate—so the answer is a resounding NO. Those that profess racial ideology and claim to be Asatru usually were racist before they came to use Asatru as their speaking platform.

Our Northern European cultural heritage is ancient, and we, like any other culture should be proud of it. The idea that we belong to a “white race” is recent and is not worthy of pride or even respect from Asatruars. People need to learn to distinguish culture, which is not genetic, from biological traits, which are. If heathenry and Asatru in itself were genetically inherited traits, conversion would have been impossible and reconstruction wholly unnecessary.
Every culture should be proud of their heritage and every culture should strive to instil this pride in their kith and kin, but using our race as a weapon by proliferating hate brings dishonour.

Q: But isn’t Asatru / Heathenry anti-Semitic, Violent and Fascist in Nature? After all, Nazi’s claimed to believe in “Nordic” gods, and used Germanic pagan symbols as part of his political agenda.
A.
No, that is a readily spread and often repeated inaccuracy. That is not a reflection on those true to the old ways. Hitler himself was raised as a Christian and was himself a devout Catholic, and never actually believed in any of the Germanic gods. If anything, his beliefs most resembled those of the so-called “identity Christians”, extremists who use a warped interpretation of the Bible to justify racism and male dominance. The Germanic symbolism was used mainly because it appealed to the nationalistic feelings of the depressed masses – and even then, its meaning was perverted into something wholly different to what the pagan tribes would have recognized or accepted and essentially to what we are doing in these modern times. These extremists do not represent all Asatruar / Heathens, just as the Crusades were not representative of all Christians, and some groups blowing up civilians do not represent all Muslims. We are not violent by nature but we do promote the arts of self-defence and the use of regulated combat and competitiveness in the settling of disputes – we do not advocate violence against others.

Q: Why did Asatru die out if it was the right religion for Europeans? Why didn’t it persist?
A.
Asatru was subjected to a violent campaign of repression over a period of hundreds of years. Countless thousands of people were murdered, maimed, and exiled in the process. The common people (your ancestors!) did not give up their cherished beliefs easily. Eventually, the monolithic organization of the Christian church, bolstered by threats of economic isolation and assisted by an energetic propaganda campaign, triumphed over the valiant but ultimately unsophisticated tribes. This led to many of the heathen beliefs being incorporated into Christianity – often in the guise of folklore and Holidays (E.g. Eostre, Yule, Mayday etc.), as well as the days of the week – proving that our own native religion appeals to us in a fundamental way. Now, a thousand years after its supposed demise, it is alive and growing. Indeed, so long as there are kith and kin of European descent, it cannot really die. It springs from the soul of our people.

Asatru isn’t just what we believe, it’s what we are.

We are Heathen and proud."
“Q: How literally do you take the myths and sagas? For instance, do you actually believe that a huge, red-bearded man with a hammer is driving a wagon through the sky when it thunders?
A.
On the one hand, Asatruar definitely believe that the gods are real and that they have power over the world. On the other, they admit that all myths contain some symbolic language: The Norsemen described Thor as a huge, red-bearded man with a hammer because that’s the best way they could understand him. (As example; How many Christians, after all, believe that they are actual sheep and that Jesus is an actual shepherd? Not many – but they still accept that Jesus exists and takes care of his followers.)

Q: I’ve read that the Norsemen sacrificed animals and even humans as part of their religion. Is this still part of modern Asatru?
A.
Human sacrifice is definitely NOT part of modern Asatru practice.

Some groups, however, still do practice animal sacrifice; these groups tend to live in areas where farm or game animals are often killed for “mundane” reasons such as for food or for skins anyway. They see the sacrifice as a vital part of the religion, acknowledging that their food comes from living creatures and consecrating its death to the gods, spirits or ancestors – Unlike some cultures’ version of animal sacrifice, which destroyed the whole offering by fire, the Germanic version was essentially a sacred meal: the edible parts were blessed and shared by the worshipers, and the rest was used or thrown away as it would normally have been.

For the most part, however, modern Asatruar make only a “symbolic” animal sacrifice (consecrating an edible image of an animal, or a piece of meat) if they make one at all. Some reserve that practice for only the most important rituals; many more do away with the sacrificial animal altogether, offering only a drink.

Q: I remember reading that the Norsemen believed that only fallen warriors lived with the gods after death – that everyone else was doomed to end up in the cold expanse of Hel. Is this true, and do modern Asatruar still believe this? (If they do, there’s not much point in following Asatru unless you’re on active duty in the military or police force!)
A.
The idea of an “either/or” afterlife (one place good, one place bad, and no other possible destination) is common in Middle Eastern Abrahamic faiths like Islam, Christianity and Zoroastrianism.

The Germanic concept of the afterlife was not “either/or”. Valhalla was reserved for Odin’s chosen warriors, true; yet Valhalla is not the only divine residence in Asgard. Half the battle slain are destined for Freya’s field of Volkvangr — so not all battle-slain are destined for...
Valhalla in the first place. The other gods have homes and halls of their own, and there is some evidence in period texts that the dead could end up living with some deity other than Odin.

As for Hel, the horrifying images in the Prose Edda were probably influenced by descriptions of the underworld in non-Germanic religions – Christian, Greco-Roman, or both. (Snorri Sturluson, after all, was a Christian with a classical education; and he did live at least 100 years after Iceland was converted.) Other sources (the Eddaic poem; Baldr’s Dreams, and some folk tales from present-day Germany) show Hel as a quiet place of rest for the dead, but not a place of torture or sadness. Only one poem, in fact, mentions an afterlife of torture as part of Germanic belief – and that poem describes Nastrand (“Dead Man’s Shore”) as a separate place from Hel.

Who ends up in Nastrand after they die?

Murderers, oath-breakers, thieves, people who lie to seduce others – in other words, the “bad place” is reserved for people who commit heinous crimes and have not salvaged their honour in the eyes of their kith and kin.

This basically means that modern Asatru shouldn’t be seen as a “warriors only” religion, and that people who can’t die in battle shouldn’t feel “doomed” for missing Valhalla as there are many other splendid halls and dwellings in the hereafter.

Q: OK – So I don’t have to be a warrior or a magician to practice Asatru / Heathenry; and I haven’t done anything horrible enough to send me to Nastrand. Does that mean that I can do anything I want; as long as I believe the Germanic gods are real?

A. NO! This cannot be stressed strongly enough!

Simple belief will not guarantee you anything. The Germanic tribes still believed that right and wrong existed, and that actions have consequences – oftentimes fatal. Even the gods are limited and have made mistakes – and they had to pay the price for those mistakes. As Asatruar we take oaths to honour our people, our kith and kin – and if those oaths are broken then we lose our honour and any respect that we may have earned. Asatruar live by the Nine Noble Virtues, gleamed from the folklore: Courage, Truth, Honour, Fidelity, Discipline, Hospitality, Self Reliance, Industriousness and Perseverance and our Gods and Goddesses hold us accountable for our deeds, as well as our Ancestors and our Kith and Kin.

The mythical texts we have may not say that the gods are totally good, or that the slightest mistake leads to eternal torture. They do, however, teach the value of honour and a good reputation: a person (or a god) should be judged on their actions, not merely their words or beliefs.
Q: You mentioned certain standards of behaviour taught in Asatru. What are these?
A.
besides the nine noble virtues: Courage, Truth, Honour, Fidelity, Discipline, Hospitality, Self Reliance, Industriousness and Perseverance. Other qualities we hold in high regard are strength, joy, honour, freedom, loyalty to kin, realism, vigour, and the revering of our ancestors. To express these things in our lives is virtuous, and we strive to do this. Their opposites – weakness, cowardice, adherence to dogma rather than to the realities of the world, and the like – constitute our vices and are to be avoided.

Proper behaviour in Asatru consists of maximizing one’s virtues and minimizing one’s vices.

This code of conduct reflects the highest and most heroic ideals of us as a people and culture.”

“IN SUMMATION:
In the 7th Century, Christian missionaries in Frisia had done well. Radbod, the Heathen king, had agreed to accept the new faith amongst mounting economical and social pressure exerted by the missionaries upon his people. As the day of his baptism drew near, the king voiced one nagging doubt; “What had become of all my ancestors who had died without recourse to Christ?”. Swift and emphatic came the monks reply; “All your heathen ancestors are then writhing in hellish agony.” The king showed then that noble and proud heathen blood still flowed through his veins and responded; “Then I would rather be suffering there in your hell with my honoured kin than ascend to your heaven with a parcel of beggars.” – From Heathen Ramblings, by Karl Andresson: http://www.penton.co.za/asatru-q-a/

Druidry:
“Neo-Druidism or Neo-Druidry, commonly referred to as Druidry by its adherents,[1][2][3] is a form of modern spirituality or religion that generally promotes harmony and worship of nature, and respect for all beings, including the environment. Many forms of modern Druidry are Neopagan religions, whereas some are instead seen as philosophies that are not necessarily religious in nature.[4][5] Originating in Britain during the 18th century, it was originally a cultural movement, only gaining religious or spiritual connotations in the 19th century.

The core principle of Druidry is respect and veneration of nature, and as such it often involves participation in the environmental movement. Another prominent belief amongst modern Druids is the veneration of ancestors, particularly those who belonged to prehistoric societies.

Arising from the 18th century Romanticist movement in Britain, which glorified the ancient "Celtic" peoples of the Iron Age, the early Druids aimed to imitate the Iron Age priests who were also known as druids. At the time, little accurate information was known about these ancient priests, and the modern Druidic movement has no direct connection to them, despite contrary claims made by some modern Druids.[6]

In the first half of the twentieth century, modern Druids developed fraternal organizations modeled on Freemasonry that employed the romantic figure of the British Druids and Bards as symbols of indigenous British spirituality. Some of these groups were purely fraternal and cultural, creating traditions from the national imagination of Britain. Others merged with contemporary movements such as the physical culture movement and naturism. Since the 1980s some modern druid groups have adopted similar methodologies to those of Celtic Reconstructionist Paganism in an effort to create a more historically accurate practice. However, there is still controversy over how much resemblance modern Druidism may or may not have to the Iron Age druids.[7]" - From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-druidism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-druidism)

**Hellenistic Paganism:**

“Hellenic Paganism refers to pagans devoted to the Olympian deities. An ancient tradition, it was originally practiced in classical Greece.
The public practice of the Greek religion was made illegal by the Emperor Theodosius I in the fourth century of the current era, and this was enforced by his successors. The Greek religion, stigmatized as "paganism", the religion of country-folk (pagani) survived only in rural areas as Europe entered into the Dark Ages.

Many adherents of Hellenic paganism, like Panagiotis Marinis from the group Dodecatheon in Greece, claim that the religion of ancient Greece has survived throughout the intervening centuries. Marinis claims he was raised in a family that practiced this religion.

Greek polytheist author Vlassis Rassias has written a popular series of books on "Christian persecutions against the Hellenes," and the "Church of the Hellenes" organization goes so far as to call for the wholesale extermination of Christianity,[1] while the Athens based group Ellinais emphasizes "world peace and "the brotherhood of man.""

"Hellenic polytheists worship the ancient Greek Gods, including the Olympians, nature divinities, underworld deities and heroes. Both physical and spiritual ancestors are honored. It is primarily a devotional or votive religion, based on the exchange of gifts (offerings) for the gods' blessings. The ethical convictions of modern Hellenic polytheists are often inspired by ancient Greek virtues such as reciprocity, hospitality, and moderation.

There is no "dogma" or central "ecclesia" (church) nor hierarchal clergy, though some groups are beginning to offer training in that capacity. Individual worshipers are generally expected to perform their own rituals and learn about the religion and the Gods by reference to primary and secondary sources on ancient Greek religion and through personal experience of the Gods. Information gained from such personal experiences is often referred to in Hellenic groups as "UPG" (Unverified Personal Gnosis), a term borrowed from Ásatrú.

Hellenismos has no moral or behavioural imperatives or commandments; there is no single text believed by worshipers to signify the word of the Gods. Instead, theological beliefs and practices are based on multiple sources:

- Works of Homer, Hesiod, and others.
- Individual experience and inspiration.
- Scholarly research.

The main value of Hellenism is eusebeia, often translated as piety. This implies a commitment to the worship of the Hellenic Gods and action to back this up. Other core values are hospitality, self-control and moderation." – From Pagan Wikia: http://pagan.wikia.com/wiki/Hellenic_Paganism

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“Hellenismos, or Hellenism, is the Hellenic religion, a traditional polytheistic religion and way of life, revolving around the Greek Gods, primarily focused on the Twelve Olympians, and embracing ancient Hellenic values and virtues.” "Hellenic Reconstructionism exists in Greece and in other countries. Leaders of the movement claimed in 2005 that there are as many as 2,000 adherents to the Hellenic tradition in Greece, with an additional 100,000 who have "some sort of interest".[1] No official estimates exist for devotees worldwide.” – From Wikipedia:

Most forms of "Hellenistic Paganism" are either Reconstructionist or Reconstructionist-derived. Most Hellenistic Pagans would NOT describe their religion as an "ancient tradition" (i.e. they neither have nor claim any direct lineage from ancient times). Rather, the Reconstructionists try to reconstruct ancient Greek religion as faithfully as possible based on scholarly history and archeology, whereas the more eclectic Reconstructionist-derived Hellenic polytheists use a combination of historical/archeological sources and personal spiritual experience.

Googling "Hellenic polytheism," the first five sites that come up are:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenic_polytheism
http://www.hellenion.org/
http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/pagantraditions/p/Hellenism.htm
http://www.religionfacts.com/neopaganism/paths/hellenic.htm

Kemetism:

“Kemetism (also Kemeticism; both from km.t, the native name of Ancient Egypt) is a term for Egyptian neopaganism, i.e. neopagan revivals of Ancient Egyptian religion which developed in the United States from the 1970s onwards. There are several main groups, each of which take a different approach to their beliefs, ranging from eclectic to polytheistic reconstructionist.

- Pan-Africanist or black nationalist: The Ausar Auset of Ra Un Nefer Amen is a syncretic approach targeted at the African diaspora. The Ancient Egyptian Order (a.k.a. "Nuwaubian Nation
of Moors" and other names) was a black supremacist cult led by Malachi York.

- Kemetic Wicca (also Tameran Wicca, from t3 mry "land of two riverbanks", another native term for "Egypt") is an eclectic approach combining Ancient Egyptian elements with Wicca.

- Kemetic Revivalism and Reconstruction, a reconstructionist, which include academic approaches informed by Egyptology, notably Kemetic Orthodoxy of Tamara L. Siuda and Kerry Wisner's Akhet Hwt Hwr

- Neo-Atenism is a neopagan revival of the monotheistic faith introduced under Akhenaten in the Amarna period (r. 1353–1336 BCE)” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kemetism

**Romano-Italic Tradition:**

“The Roman Way to the Gods is a revived religion and way of life, revolving around the reverence and worship of Roman gods (in order to keep alive or reestablish the pax deorum, the balance between men and gods and the order of the cosmos), including household gods such as the Lares, the Penates and, for some, may include the veneration of ancestors, as well as the embracing of traditional Roman values and virtues of the mos maiorum – although adaptations to these values may occur to make allowances for changed social realities.[1]

Contemporary pagans practicing Roman religion may also venerate gods that are non-Roman in origin[2] – usually gods who were venerated within the Roman empire. Such gods include those that are indigenous to the Greeks, Celts, Germanic tribes, Egyptians and peoples of the near east. When this occurs the interpretatio Romana may in some instances be used to identify or conflate non-Roman gods with Roman deities.[3] For example, the Germanic gods Tyr, Wodan and Thor may be identified as Mars, Mercury and Jupiter respectively.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_neopaganism

**Wicca:**

“Wicca originated in the early twentieth century, when it developed amongst secretive covens in England who were basing their religious beliefs and practices upon what they read of the historical Witch-Cult in the works of such writers as Margaret Murray. It was subsequently popularised in the 1950s by a number of figures, namely Gerald Gardner, who had been initiated into the Craft - as Wicca is often known - by the New Forest coven in 1939. Gardner's form of Wicca, the Gardnerian tradition, was spread by both him and his followers like the High Priestesses' Doreen Valiente, Patricia
Crowther and Eleanor Bone into other parts of the British Isles, and also into other, predominantly English-speaking, countries across the world. In the 1960s, new figures arose in Britain who popularised their own forms of the religion, including Robert Cochrane, Sybil Leek and Alex Sanders, and organisations began to be formed to propagate it, such as the Witchcraft Research Association. It was during this decade that the faith was transported to the United States, where it was further adapted into new traditions such as Feri, 1734 and Dianic Wicca in the ensuing decades, and where organisations such as the Covenant of the Goddess were formed.

From the 1970s onward, books began to be published by such figures as Paul Huson, Scott Cunningham, and Stewart and Janet Farrar which encouraged self-initiation into the Craft, leading to a boost in the number of adherents and the development of traditions.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Wicca

“Wicca is a diverse religion with no central authority or figure defining it. It is divided into various lineages and denominations, referred to as "traditions", each with its own organisational structure and level of centralisation. Due to its decentralized nature, there is some disagreement over what actually constitutes Wicca. Some traditions, collectively referred to as British Traditional Wicca, strictly follow the initiatory lineage of Gardner and consider the term "Wicca" to apply only to such lineaged traditions, while other eclectic traditions do not.

Wicca is typically duotheistic, worshipping a god and goddess traditionally viewed as a mother goddess and horned god. These two deities are often viewed as facets of a greater pantheistic godhead. However, beliefs range from "hard" polytheism to even monotheism. Wiccan celebration follows approximately eight seasonally based festivals known as Sabbats. An unattributed statement known as the Wiccan Rede is the traditional basis of Wiccan morality. Wicca involves the ritual practice of magic.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicca

Christian Wicca (also called Trinitarian Wicca)

Hard as it may be to believe, there is a sect among Wiccans which adopt the Christian pantheon, or Trinity in the practice of their religion. However, they do not consider themselves Christians, but Wiccans.

“Christian Wicca is a term coined in reference to Trinitarian Wicca, established in 1999. Since then, Christian Wicca has become the umbrella term for a
variety of magickal Christian sects that began evolving in the ChristoPagan movement. Trinitarian Wicca is based on the merging of (Alexandrian and Dianic) traditions, forming their pantheon from the Kabbalah, Gnosticism, and Ancient Christianity. Working within traditional Wiccan ritual structure, they observe the 8 sabbats, 13 esbats, and the Wiccan Rede without any concern for the dogmatic trappings of patriarchal Christianity. They have a devout reclaiming approach to a Goddess-inclusive Trinity, best described as Tritheist or Social Trinitarians.

The term Christian merely reflects the pantheon best associated with the Trinitarian tradition, comparable to the term Celtic among Celtic Wiccan traditions. Despite the initial confusion, Trinitarian Wiccans consider themselves Wiccans not Christians, as their views of Christology was deemed heresy by the Catholic Church in the 3rd Century C.E. Trinitarian Wicca is not a blended path; they are a MesoPagan polytheistic reconstructionist tradition.
9. Symbols Associated With Pagan Religions

Many evangelicals tend to associate various symbols with the occult – sometimes correctly, and sometimes incorrectly - and also with Satanism, without apparently knowing the facts.

In many cases, symbols of religions which have NOTHING to do with Satanism, are mistakenly portrayed as “satanic” symbols.

As an example, the site linked to (The Nazarite Site – “Sect of the Nazarines and Followers of the Way” http://www.nazarite.net/satanic-symbols.html) displays just such ignorance about this and several other symbols, creating a convenient mix of fact and fiction, leaving those who accept their erroneous assumptions as "fact", confused – and liable to perpetuate these misunderstandings.

In many cases people are forming associations between symbols and groups that use them, with Satanism that actually have nothing to do with Satanism as a religion at all.

The (Upward-Pointing) Pentagram:

![Pagan pentagram](image1.png)

What the Pagan pentagram represents:

Each point of the five pointed star represents an element, i.e. earth, air, fire, water and spirit. When encircled as shown in the image above, it is called a pentacle. It is often mistaken for the symbol of the Satanists, but while some Satanists may use the same design, the Pagan symbol as seen above has one point of the star pointing upwards, while the Satanic symbol differs by pointing downwards.

“The point-down pentagram is often described as "inverted," but that doesn't really make sense historically. All possible orientations of the pentagram (point up, point down, and point sideways) are ancient symbols in their own right, with many different meanings.
over the millennia. (For example, a point-down pentagram was used by the ancient Greek Pythagoreans.) There is no historical basis for the idea that one orientation of the pentagram is the original orientation and the other is an inversion thereof.” – Diane Vera.

CLARIFICATION: There is no historical basis for the idea that one orientation of the pentagram is the original orientation and the other is an inversion thereof.

Pentagram and Pentacle:

The pentagram represents 5 elements: Spirit, Earth, Air, Water, and Fire. The pentacle is all of that, with a circle of protection around it, making it a symbol of protection. Neither is used to represent anything evil or harmful. When pointing downward, it stands for putting the elements above spirit which represents materialism, not evil.

Varying Designs:
Pagan symbols like the pentagrams in the pentagles above usually display a flowing nature-focused appearance and a post-modern Celtic influence in their design, unlike the Satanic versions, which are either strikingly plain, or in the case of graphics, displayed with variations of the Sigil of Baphomet (goat’s head) or very dramatically, wreathed in flames, etc. Of course, it is difficult to read context and origin in something that can be made or used by virtually anyone.

Basically a pentagram is a 5 pointed star. The direction in which the star is pointed (one point or two points up) appears to be significant between differing religious groups. For example, 1-point-up pentagrams are used to symbolize Pagan religion, while 2-points-up is used to symbolize Satanist religion.

However, as a geometric form, this 5-pointed star has been used as a symbol in many apparently secular designs in history, including military insignia, badges, gangland emblems - and also as, or part of - religious symbols.

"The five-pointed star appears in the flags of 35 countries, and also appears commonly in the heraldry of the United States, and stands in contrast to the vexillologically rarer seven-pointed star. The five-pointed star occurs in conjunction with a crescent in the flags of several countries to symbolize Islam, appearing for example as part of the symbol of the Ottoman Empire. In philately (stamp-collecting) the five-pointed star signifies stamps that have not been postmarked."

"A pentagram (sometimes known as a pentalpha or pentangle or a star pentagon) is the shape of a five-pointed star drawn with five straight strokes." - From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram)

"While a solid five-pointed star is found on many flags, the pentagram is relatively rare. It appears on two national flags, those of Ethiopia and Morocco and in some coats of arms. According to Ivan Sache, on the Moroccan flags, the pentagram represents the link between God and the nation.[36] It is also possible that both flags use the pentagram as a symbol of King Solomon (see Seal of Solomon), the archetypal wise king of Jewish, Christian and Muslim lore, although the six-pointed Star of David is a more common and more widely accepted symbol. In either case, the pentagram is a traditional symbol of both the Moroccan and Ethiopian peoples, and, within Morocco, is also a symbol of the Alaouite dynasty." - From [Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram#Satanism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram#Satanism)

**CLARIFICATION:** The pentagram was also once used by Christians to represent “the five wounds of Jesus”.

"Pentagrams were used as an important religious symbol by the Babylonians and by the Pythagoreans in ancient Greece. Pentagrams are used today as a symbol of faith by many Neopagans, akin to the use of the cross by Christians and the Star of David by Jews, and may..."
be found in jewelry incorporating the symbol. Several faiths also associate the pentagram with magic. Christians in the past commonly used the pentagram to represent the five wounds of Jesus,[1][2] and it has associations with Freemasonry.[3]" - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram

The pentagram is also used by numerous modern religions today, including Neo-Paganism and Bahá’í. Oddly enough, practitioners of the Bahá’í faith — which uses the upright pentagram as its official symbol — are not accused of being Satanists (or Pagans) because of their symbolism. The Zion Christian Church of South Africa (ZCC), an African syncretic religion, also uses an upward pointing 5-pointed star as one of its symbols.

**CLARIFICATION:** Additional to Pagans, Satanists, Freemasons (and Christians), the pentagram is also used by other existing modern religious movements, such as the Bahá’í.

"The Bahá’í Faith (pron.: /bəˈhæɪ/)[1] is a monotheistic religion founded by Bahá’u’lláh in 19th-century Persia, emphasizing the spiritual unity of all humankind.[2] There are an estimated five to six million Bahá’ís around the world in more than 200 countries and territories.[3][4]" - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_Faith

"While the five-pointed star is the symbol of the religion,[1] being used to represent the human body and Messengers of God, more common symbols include the nine-pointed star, the Greatest Name, and the Ringstone symbol, representing perfection, and the Messengers of God." "The five-pointed star, or haykal (Arabic: temple) is the symbol of the Bahá’í Faith as mentioned by Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá’í Faith: "Strictly speaking the 5-pointed star is the symbol of our Faith, as used by the Báb and explained by Him."[1] The five-pointed star has been used as the outline of special letters or tablets by both the Báb and Bahá’u'lláh.[2]

Haykal is a loan word from the Hebrew word hēyḵāl which means temple and specifically Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem. In Arabic, the word also means the body or form of something, particularly the human body.[3] In the Bahá’í tradition, the haykal was established by the Báb — the person who told of Bahá’u’lláh’s coming — who represented the haykal as a five-pointed star representing the human body as a head, two hands, and two feet." - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_symbols

The five-pointed star is the official symbol of the Bahá’í Faith.[19][20] In the Bahá’í Faith, the star is known as the Haykal (Arabic: "temple"), and it was initiated and established by the Báb. The Báb and Bahá’u'lláh wrote various works in the form of a pentagram.[21] - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram#Satanism

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It is perhaps ironic, but extremely important to note the association of the pentagram with Christianity as mentioned in the example above. Additionally the references made to Jewish mysticism by associating the symbol with Solomon, who was a known occult practitioner who lies at the root of many modern occult traditions. This serves in its simplest form to indicate that symbols can be made to mean almost anything, and that there are usually multiple (and often historic) meanings to every symbol - not just the one meaning being applied to it by the detractors of any religious movement - but also, and more importantly - that people tend to jump to conclusions about things they see or perceive as threatening, and then often react with hostility towards things about which they may be mistaken.

The Triquetra:

Above are 3 different styles of triquetra the middle and right designs are referred to as “Celtic” designs, while the leftmost design is considered a standard triquetra.

This symbolizes the goddess in her three aspects of Maiden, Mother and Crone. It is very similar to the later symbol adopted by Christianity to mean the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

According to various sources, this is an ancient Celtic Pagan symbol whose design is used in various modern religions, including Neo-Paganism and also Christianity.

“Triquetra (pron.: /trəˈkwɛtə/; Latin tri- "three" and quetrus "cornered") originally meant "triangle" and was used to refer to various three-cornered shapes. Nowadays, it has come to refer exclusively to a particular more complicated shape formed of three vesicae piscis, sometimes with an added circle in or around it. This has been used as a religious symbol of things and persons that are threefold.” – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triquetra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triquetra)
In Christianity:

Three different designs of Christian triquetra, with the circular version at right. The regular triquetra form is visible as an inset part of the circular version.

“The symbol has been used by Christians as a sign of the Blessed Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), especially since the Celtic Revival of the 19th century. When modern designers began to display the triquetra as a stand-alone design, it recalled the three-leafed shamrock which was similarly offered as a Trinity symbol by Saint Patrick. Some have also suggested that the triquetra has a similarity to the Christian Ιχθύς symbol. The triquetra has been used extensively on Christian sculpture, vestments, book arts and stained glass. It has been used on the title page and binding of some editions of the New King James Version.

A very common representation of the symbol is with a circle that goes through the three interconnected loops of the Triquetra. The circle emphasizes the unity of the whole combination of the three elements. It is also said to symbolize God's love around the Holy Trinity.”

“The Trinity Knot holds major significance in neopaganism in that it is believed to represent the three stages of the Triple Goddess (Maiden, Mother, and Crone).” – From Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triquetra

Mother, Maiden, Crone:

The "Triple Goddess" symbol of the waxing, full and waning moon, representing the aspects of Maiden, Mother, and Crone.
“While many Neopagans are not Wiccan, and within Neopaganism the practices and theology vary widely,[42] many Wiccans and other neopagans worship the "Triple Goddess" of maiden, mother, and crone, a practice going back to mid-twentieth-century England. In their view, sexuality, pregnancy, breastfeeding — and other female reproductive processes — are ways that women may embody the Goddess, making the physical body sacred.[43]

- The **Maiden** represents enchantment, inception, expansion, the promise of new beginnings, birth, youth and youthful enthusiasm, represented by the *waxing moon*;

- The **Mother** represents ripeness, fertility, sexuality, fulfilment, stability, power and life represented by the *full moon*;

- The **Crone** represents wisdom, repose, death, and endings represented by the *waning moon*.

The triple goddess sign is identified with Greek moon goddesses:

- **Artemis** - the Maiden, because she was the virgin goddess of the hunt;
- **Selene** - the Mother, for she was the mother of *Endymion*’s children and loved him;
- **Hecate** - the Crone, as she was associated with the underworld and magic, and so considered to be “Queen of Witches”.

Helen Berger writes that "according to believers, this echoing of women’s life stages allowed women to identify with deity in a way that had not been possible since the advent of *patriarchal* religions."[44]"

The Triple Goddess symbol in varying designs:

Two stylized examples making use of the symbols of the Sun and the Moon, and to the right, the symbol as combined with a Pentagram/Pentacle.

This symbol is Pagan and associated more with Wicca as a Pagan religion, and is in no way associated with Satanism.
10. Symbols Incorrectly Associated With Paganism

The Downward Pointing Pentagram

The downward pointing pentagram, which is used primarily by Satanists and/or other Left-Hand-Path groups.

This image from the Sub-culture Alternatives Freedom Foundation site: [http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/shepentagram.jpg](http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/shepentagram.jpg) provides a good example of how the downward pointing pentagram is used in SRA to conflate Paganism and Witchcraft with Satanism, and to defame Pagans and Witches (and Satanists) alike.

It also reveals the complete ignorance behind the journalism evident, which can only be described as unprofessional.

SRA reporting can in such cases be described best as “the power of assumption made real”.

The Sigil Of Baphomet
The Sigil of Baphomet, which is a Satanic symbol, and is also the logo of the Church of Satan, and has been since its founding in 1966. It has NO ties with Pagan religion whatsoever.

**The Star of the Zion Christian Church (ZCC)**

This symbol is widely used by members of the ZCC church, though the more typically seen version is a plain metal star with a green ribbon backing pinned to the wearer’s clothing.

**11. Pagans And The Law**

While according to the South African Constitution (1996) South Africans are accorded freedom of religion, and this includes Paganism, in practice however, Pagans are still experiencing a great deal of discrimination and persecution both directly and indirectly.

“The Witchcraft Suppression Act
South African law currently presumes that the practice of ‘witchcraft’ may be used to commit or justify the commission of criminal activity. This presumption is based in part on the untested belief (not evidence) that

a) so-called muthi murderers, criminals who murder their victims whilst harvesting body parts for sale to rogue traditional healers for use in magic, are complicit in the practice of ‘witchcraft’, and in part on the historical belief that

b) all black (malevolent) magic is "witchcraft”, and

c) traditional African religions and magico-religious practices are ‘witchcraft’.

The lack of corroborating evidence to link the practice of real Witchcraft (or actual self-identified Witches) to these criminal acts however, obfuscates all legal imperative for legislative suppression of Witchcraft, and South African Witches have been campaigning for the repeal of the 1957 Witchcraft Suppression Act (Act 3) since 2007.

In February 2007 this Alliance submitted a formal appeal to the South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) to have Act 3 repealed on the grounds that it contradicts several sections of Chapter 2 of the Constitution, including the right to freedom of belief and religion.

SAPRA argued that Act 3 “must be declared unconstitutional and invalid to the extent to which this legislation identifies one group of persons (Witches), on the grounds of belief alone, to be prohibited and criminal”. The appeal was supported by the South African Pagan Council and the Traditional Healers Organization in September 2007.

In July 2008 the South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) agreed to conduct a preliminary investigation in order to determine whether or not Act 3 undermines the constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and rights of an existing religious minority (Witches) by deliberately criminalizing and prohibiting the right of Witches to exist and to practice their religion (Witchcraft). SALRC considered the inclusion of a Review of the Witchcraft Suppression Act 3 of 1957 and the Mpumalanga Witchcraft Suppression Bill (2007) on 1 August 2009. The Commission recommend that the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development approve the inclusion of this investigation in the Commission’s research programme.

Act 3 was originally drafted with the intention of suppressing indigenous African practices, practices incorrectly identified by previous (and current) regimes as ‘witchcraft’. In support of the South African Pagan Council’s (SAPC) submission to SALRC, Dr. Dale Wallace of the University of KwaZulu Natal wrote —When this legislation was promulgated in South Africa, it was consistent with the approach taken by colonial administrators across Africa, and modeled on the anti-witchcraft laws in Britain, that were repealed in 1950. They arose from a specific worldview by which, “in the colonies”, African indigenous
religious forms fell victim to the colonial propensity to distinguish between religion and 'superstition', and by which distinction it was relegated to the latter category. This Act can be seen as an extension of the colonial approach to witchcraft beliefs and practices; namely that witchcraft is a superstition that could be overcome through education and economic advancement."

Traditional Healers have themselves submitted that they have never, and do not, identify their traditional religious and magical practices as Witchcraft.

Whilst the Act criminalizes South African citizens who do self-identify as Witches and who do practice Witchcraft as a religion simply by prohibiting anyone from professing to be a Witch or to having knowledge of Witchcraft, it also criminalizes identified practices associated with and practiced by both Traditional Healers and Witches, including the use of sympathetic magic, the making of magical charms, enchantments or conjurations, and divination.

"This criminalization of witchcraft that focused on both indigenous practices and practitioners was grounded epistemologically on the discourse of the witch as a heretical diabolist. The development of the witch as one who makes a conscious pact with the devil, had become a religious narrative that incorporated and developed mythologies that had arisen in church history, particularly during what is known as the witch-craze of the medieval period. This discourse, that linked the witch with Satanism, and which informed South African religious history from the late nineteenth century, was supported at the highest level by the apartheid government…" "…In the equalities entrenched in the post 1994 SA Constitution, the practices that are listed in the Act as an offense, have to be seen as discriminatory and prejudicial. The belief in, and practice of, magic, is common to countless religious and spiritual traditions in South Africa, and practices listed as prohibitive are linked with ‘evil’ only through the lens of those carrying the self-certainty of exclusive truth. The practices of divination, charms, and the practice of fortune telling (amongst others), are, for instance, at the heart of Hindu practices, and are given salience in their sacred texts." – Dr. Dale Wallace

Whilst the Act has not yet been used to imprison self-identified Witches who have publicly declared their religious affiliation, its existence continues to stigmatize actual Witches in general as "criminals in potential". It does this by reinforcing negative and harmful stereotypical bias against Witchcraft (and Witches) which serves to indirectly encourage witch-hunts against suspected alleged Witches.

In practice and as a rule, witch-hunts themselves target non-Witches, individuals who deny practicing Witchcraft and who do not self-identify
as Witches. In much of Africa it is ordinary citizens, women, men and children who bear the burden of prejudice and hostile discrimination born from centuries of bias against Witchcraft.

Dr. Wallace writes — “Witchcraft violence in South Africa has been noted to escalate during times of social and political change and is particularly prevalent in certain provinces in the country. During the time of transition to a democratic government in South Africa, witchcraft violence escalated in many African communities and was given renewed attention by academics, in fundamentalist Christian churches and in the African Initiated Churches. It is through talk of witches and witchcraft that most Africans articulate their notions of human evil and, through it, seek explanation for illness, misfortune and death that are otherwise attributable to ancestral wrath.

Outside of these contexts, witchcraft discourses have been used to political ends, as a tool across economic, social and educational boundaries, and gained new function in relation to the AIDS pandemic in the country.”

Attempting to suppress the widespread belief in the agency of Witchcraft as a cause for misfortune, harm, disease, murder and death won’t stop some people from continuing to believe that Witches are malevolent and must be murdered. Prejudicial beliefs about Witchcraft won’t change overnight, but changing them must start with education, not with the suppression of access to the truth.

In September 2010 the South African Law Reform Commission informed this Alliance that Project 135: The Review of Witchcraft Legislation was approved by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. In March 2012 the South African Law Reform Commission confirmed that a lead researcher and Project Leader has been designated for Project 135. An Issue paper is currently being developed in order to stimulate debate on issues arising from the legislation and request for review requested by SAPRA in February 2007. The Minister of Justice will appoint an Advisory Committee to guide the research in the near future.” – From the SAPRA document of objection to the SAPS reformation of the ORC unit.

The current issue affecting freedom of religion in South Africa is the recent reformation of the SAPS so-called “Occult Related Crimes unit”, in contradiction to the SA Constitution, and despite the fact that the original unit had been disbanded a decade earlier BECAUSE it was deemed unconstitutional. It is for all intents and purposes, the SAME unit, using the SAME ethos and even being trained by the SAME people. Further, the grounds for Pagan argument against the existence of such a unit in the SAPS is provided below by the SA Pagan Rights Alliance, submitted to the SAPS in 2012 in its formal objection document.

“It is the opinion of this Alliance that the given investigative mandate for the establishment of new provincial Occult Crime Units, in particular,
certain 'categories of crime' as mentioned on pages 2 and 3 of said memorandum (and listed below), contravene internationally recognized policing ethics and conduct related to a) jurisprudence in the identification and verification of evidence, and b) respect for religious diversity and belief.

**Law of Evidence**

The SAPS memorandum states: “For a crime to be considered a harmful occult related crime, the elements of legality, conduct and unlawfulness and culpability have to be present and the motive must be rooted in the supernatural.”

The term ‘supernatural’ is generally defined as something above or beyond the laws of Nature. In a strictly scientific context, the belief in the supernatural agency of a non-corporeal entity (spirit, fairy, demon, God) cannot be proven using the law of evidence in any Court of Law, and therefore cannot be submitted as evidence of anything other than faith in the unknown. Since the courts will not accept evidence of the supernatural on principle, the ORC detectives will be wasting valuable time and effort investigating para-psychological phenomena.

This Alliance is of the informed opinion that SAPS special unit detectives should not be considering the role of alleged supernatural occurrences in the commission or investigation of crimes. A belief in the existence of the supernatural is not, and cannot be viewed as proof of the supernatural. The SAPS must deal in matters of verifiable fact, not religious or cultural belief. The SAPS should not be fulfilling what should remain the role of religious or psychology specialists.

This Alliance objects to the inclusion of unexplained and un-provable supernatural and paranormal activities, as such matters are best left to para-psychologists and spiritualists, not police detectives.” – From the official SAPRA document of objection to the SAPS ORC reformation: [http://www.paganrightsalliance.org/documents/SAPRA%20objection%20to%20SAPS%20Religious%20Crimes%20Unit.pdf](http://www.paganrightsalliance.org/documents/SAPRA%20objection%20to%20SAPS%20Religious%20Crimes%20Unit.pdf)

Thus despite the legal protections afforded to Pagans and other minority religious groups by the Constitutional rights to self-identify, freedom of religion, association and expression, the SAPS has apparently assumed the role of a moral protector of public interests and moral values against the perceived “evils” of the religions beliefs of these minority groups and religious movements, without apparent consultation with its superiors, and without verifying its fact-base with authority figures within those movements, but solely basing its operations on the formulations produced by biased members who have proven track-records in entities which are openly hostile to alternative religions and/or cultural diversity.
Modern Persecution Of Pagans

Despite this legally protected right of individuals to self-identify as Witches or Pagans, people are still being accused of “witchcraft” (as though it were actually a crime to be a Witch) without any evidence whatsoever, and often murdered on that suspicion alone. Those being killed or persecuted are NOT Witches and have no ties to the religion of Witchcraft or any other Pagan religion, and further, not even ties to traditional African magical practices.

This forms the INDIRECT form of persecution: Witches are viewed as “evil” and the religion of Witchcraft is viewed as something that warrants the death of its practitioner or adherents. It is indirect because the people that are actually killed by rural mobs and vigilantes and so-called traditional “witch finders” are NOT Witches at all, nor are they guilty of any provable crime, nor have any of them been found guilty of any crime relating to the charges upon which they are accused or murdered.

Graphic videos for modern witch hunts in Africa:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5qYhmf-boE
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsDtsw5J5ibE
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33h_h7mtoN0
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_NPtikQOvM
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fq1EEnXS6e4
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nReX8W6U-k

In Nigeria, there is a Christian pastor (Helen Ukpabio) who has made it her mission in life to hunt so-called “child witches” – and many children falsely accused of being “possessed” or being “witches” have been displaced or killed as a result of her religious zealotry. Nigeria has even passed a law against the labeling or accusation of children as “witches”.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbdw0-K9cPk
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbGzFNNal
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ba2_T4O6mio
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5kI7Kretsw
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d82BZKzPPVE
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2aU9kI4Ww
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvRo77zvwP

This is persecution of self-identified Witches because it makes those who identify as such, and modern Pagans, fearful of the consequences of their being known as Pagans. While there are no known examples of openly identified Witches or Pagans being killed or seriously assaulted on the grounds of their religious beliefs, it is the intimidation factor, the living in fear of identifying with ones faith in the same way that others do, which disadvantage people unfairly and impairs their right, among others, to dignity.
“Witches Advocacy against witch-hunts
Since 2007 this Alliance has been actively engaged in advocating against accusations of witchcraft (witch finding) and witch-hunts (witch purging). SAPRA, under the banner of Touchstone Advocacy, is the only non-governmental organization in South Africa engaged in such advocacy.

The '30 days of advocacy against witch-hunts' campaign was launched in March 2008 by SAPRA, under the banner of 'Touchstone Advocacy', in response to ongoing accusations of witchcraft and brutal witch-hunts in South Africa and elsewhere on the African continent.

Since 2008 the South African Pagan Rights Alliance has repeatedly appealed to all Commissions for Human Rights internationally to encourage all governments to:

a. halt the persecution of suspected or accused witches,
b. uphold and strengthen a culture of human rights for all equally,
c. respond appropriately and humanely to incidences of accusations of witchcraft,
d. make the eradication of violence against suspected witches an international priority,
e. train local police to manage witchcraft accusations and violent witch-hunts in a way that affirms the dignity and humanity of those accused of practising witchcraft,
f. create victim support units to facilitate reintegration and conciliation of those accused,
g. adopt comprehensive public education and awareness programmes aimed at eradicating the real causes of witchcraft accusations, and
h. reform legislation that currently seeks to suppress witchcraft or criminalize accused witches.

In March 2011 the South African 'Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities' (CRLRC) publicly announced its support for this annual campaign as a result of successful lobbying by SAPRA

Murders of people accused of witchcraft - Issued by Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (29 Mar 2011)

In January 2012 the CRLRC, at the request of this Alliance, publicly condemned “the ongoing violent victimisation and the killing of elderly persons labelled as witches” and called on Traditional leaders, community councils and government departments to “assist in deepening peace, friendship, tolerance and respect for human dignity and communal cohesion among all the people of South Africa in pursuit
of social justice and equality, irrespective of suspicions that would not be proven in the court of law.”

The CRL Rights Commission condemns the killings of alleged witches in Ntuzuma, KwaZulu-Natal (13 Jan 2012)

The CRLRC launched 2012's '30 days' campaign in Maupye (Limpopo), one of four identified refugee villages occupied by South African citizens who have been falsely accused of either being witches or of engaging in witchcraft.

[Touchstone Advocacy – http://www.paganrightsalliance.org/30_days.html
An initiative of the South African Pagan Rights Alliance]

The DIRECT form of persecution of Pagans comes in the form of abuse of power of state officials, up to and including the unconstitutional SAPS ORC unit, which blatantly operates on the mere assumption that Paganism is the same as any other occult belief, even part of Satanism, and that the Satanism they are led to believe in, is the embodiment of every evil they fear and consequently hate. Christian evangelical churches and Warfare Ministries preach intolerance for other religions, including Paganism, charging their followers to show no tolerance for adherents of what they blatantly identify as “the enemy”.

State bodies, such as the SAPS, have consistently refused to engage with recognized community based Pagan representative bodies (such as the SAPRA) when attempting to correct errors in their perception of Pagan religion or libelous material being propagated by the SAPS which portrays Pagan religion in a negative, criminal and hostile light. The SAPS’s silence indicates that no matter how dissatisfied Pagans become with how they are maligned by state authorities, their objections will not be acknowledged or addressed. On the few occasions that SAPS officials have engaged with Pagan activists, usually after clarifying that they are NOT doing so in their “official capacity” these have implied the view that the SAPS’s own experts “know better” what Paganism (i.e. “Satanism”) is than what actual Pagans do, that Pagans/Satanists will not be trusted to tell the truth when attempting to “clarify” any misconceptions!

The media often picks up on this SRA mentality when dealing with the SAPS on articles or cases, and frequently portrays the same image in the press, perpetuating the SRA fallacy in public view, further generalizing the SRA stereotype.

The repercussions are tangible. Pagan religion is linked with “evil” and “Satanic practices” in the typical SRA sense. Pagans are suspected by ordinary people, neighbors, friends, family and colleagues, of doing harm to others – simply under the influence of mis-association, misinformation and ignorance – and the power of assumption!
Despite the laws prohibiting unfair discrimination or prejudice, even on the grounds of religious beliefs, Pagans find themselves prevented from opening shops in shopping complexes and malls because of the religious prejudice of either the property owners or the property managers, or based on pressure of other existing business tenants.

Businesses have increasingly begun to identify as “Religion-Businesses”. By this is meant that if the owner of a business happens to be a fundamentalist Christian, then the ethos of that business becomes fundamentalist Christian as well, and is regarded by the owner as over-riding to any secular laws or constitutional provisions wrt discrimination against those regarded as enemies of his or her form of fundamentalist Christianity. For example, a Christian business owner recently barred the owners of an esoteric Pagan shop from entering his “Christian restaurant” as clients. Also, there is a tendency among Christian fundamentalists to support “Christians-only” business networks, or choosing to support only other similar Christian businesses or suppliers.

Children in public schools – note PUBLIC, not private – are thoroughly overwhelmed with religious material in the school ethos, despite the fact that religion is not considered by the South African Constitution to be central to the system of public schools and education.

Due to a lack of secular public schools, or even Pagan-centered schools, Pagan parents are forced to send their Pagan children to public schools where they are systematically brainwashed and forcibly indoctrinated into Christian religion, and where any signage, symbology or hint of Pagan religion is discouraged, frowned upon and slandered by the school and its internal workings which perpetuate the SRA hysteria.

Thus, public schools and the Department of Education, by supporting this system, both contribute to the abuse of children under their care in the name of institutionalized religious prejudice!

CLARIFICATIONS:
1. While all Witches are Pagan, not all Pagans are Witches; just as not all Pagans are Wiccan.
2. Paganism is a religion protected under the South African Constitution.
3. Most Pagans are polytheistic, meaning they believe in multiple deities; but the Christian Satan isn’t one of them.
4. Only very few Pagans actually worship in the nude (skyclad); the majority worship in robes or everyday clothes.
5. Ancient religions (Christianity included) practiced animal sacrifice – modern Pagans simply don’t.

Sources and further reading on Paganism:

a) South African Pagan Council (SAPC) - [www.pagancouncil.co.za/](http://www.pagancouncil.co.za/)
d) Penton Pagan Magazine – [www.penton.co.za](http://www.penton.co.za)
e) The Sub–culture Alternatives Freedom Foundation: [http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk](http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk)
SATANISM

While there are very few openly known self-identifying Satanist groups, there are a great many accusations leveled at people or groupings, that they are “Satanic” or “Satanist” in nature. Mostly such accusations will be leveled by Christians or people influenced by Christianity based on the belief that Satanists worship the Judeo-Christian Devil, otherwise believed by them to be a conflation of various occult or supernatural figures and references to entities including Satan, Lucifer, Belial, Leviathan, Baphomet etc.

What is glaringly obvious to Satanists and also to other participants in occult religions, is the fact that most people don't know anything at all about the topic. They base their opinions on what they hear or read in the media said by people claiming to be "occult experts", and then go right on to repeat what they've heard, most of the time never bothering to check up on the facts.

More often than not, accusers fall prey to material containing Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA) hysteria propaganda, and while their zealotry and religious piety are admired and supported by their fellows, this is based wholly on ignorance and negates any likelihood of objectivity, perpetuating a great deal of harm upon innocent people on the basis of spiritual belief alone.

Typically, SRA (the material and its creators and promoters) remain wholly ignorant of the workings of real Satanism, or the multitude of starkly different kinds of religions within the description of “Satanism”, and create a wholly fictitious religious entity which is sinister, threatening and embodies the fears created by their own religious dogma – and which also exists only within their fears and SRA material.

Through the workings of these SRA materials and actions, the mythical Satanism created by SRA itself is then conflated by them with real Satanism into public perception, so that in the public eye, Satanism comes to mean exactly what the SRA pundits say it is. Further, the SRA myth also creates a class of ignorant “myth fulfillers” who adopt the mythical form of “Satanism” and act out the rituals and misinformed practices in the misguided hope of being “true Satanists".

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
The actions of these “myth fillers” then creates an opportunity for SRA promoters and supporters to feel justified and to “prove” that “Satanism is growing and a threat to society” etc.

This is the legacy of SRA, or “Satanic Panic”. Few people who buy into SRA really know that there are many different forms of religious belief and practice which self-identify and self-describe as Satanism.

1. What Is Satanism?

When those speaking of “Satanists” or “Satanism” – particularly those who speak of this religion as threatening or dangerous – refer to this religion, what are they speaking about? Who are they referring to? WHO are the Satanists who present such a “clear and present danger” to the world, its way of life and civilization, that has these people in such a panic?

What do (or should) we understand by the term “Satan” or “Satanist”?

“Satan (n.)
proper name of the supreme evil spirit in Christianity, Old English Satan, from Late Latin Satan (in Vulgate in Old Testament only), from Greek Satanas, from Hebrew satan “adversary, one who plots against another,” from satan “to show enmity to, oppose, plot against,” from root s-t-n "one who opposes, obstructs, or acts as an adversary." In Septuagint (Greek) usually translated as diabolos "slanderer," literally "one who throws (something) across" the path of another (see devil (n.)), though epiboulos "plotter" is used once.

In biblical sources the Hebrew term the satan describes an adversarial role. It is not the name of a particular character. Although Hebrew storytellers as early as the sixth century B.C.E. occasionally introduced a supernatural character whom they called the satan, what they meant was any one of the angels sent by God for the specific purpose of blocking or obstructing human activity. [Elaine Pagels, “The Origin of Satan,” 1995]

Satanist is attested from 1550s, applied by their enemies to Protestant sects.” – From the Online Etymology Dictionary: http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?allowed_in_frame=0&search=Satanist&searchmode=none

CLARIFICATION: Thus, while the term “Satanist” may be traced back to the 16th century, it’s origin in usage appears first AMONG CHRISTIANS to describe EACH OTHER on the grounds of difference in dogmata’s! Thus it was NOT first employed as a term of self-identification by actual Devil worshipers or Witches, nor by others as a term used to identify actual worshipers of Satan.
For centuries, all comprehension of “Satanism” or Devil worship in the minds of the populace was shaped and guided by the image of “devil worshipers” and “witches” as portrayed in legends and historical accounts of the Inquisition – which were mainly preserved in Church records, forming what can only be described as a very large sum of pre-modern SRA propaganda.

Whether or not any activities actually resembling organized modern religious Satanism today existed in those times at all is a matter of conjecture. Fraternal organizations such as the Freemasons did exist, although not at the height of the Inquisition, and while there are (and have been since their founding) many claims that these groups are intimately connected with modern Satanism, these groups for the most part have existed openly while preserving their inner traditions in secret. (Modern Freemasonry was founded in 1717, and myths about this organization can be read as debunked here: http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/debunking-common-myths-about-freemasonry.html)

Broadly speaking, modern Satanism as a stand-alone religion or religious identity is a relatively NEW religion, no older than 1966 CE, and inspired by the works of various prior philosophers and occultists.

According to most sources, accusations of “Satanism” appear to have been made through a Christian viewpoint, which perceived certain heretical acts or beliefs, being contrary to the views of the church as being “evil” or “Satanic”, being compared with the scary tales of the Christian figure of “Satan”.

Most accusations pertaining to “Satanism” today, as in the distant past refer to acts involving magical practice or occultism. In pre-Christian times, these would have been common place, forming an intimate part of Pagan religions, and even to a degree in Judaism. The occult practices of King Solomon are well-known even today, and form a significant portion of modern Western esotericism and occult thought and practice. Of course, with the rise to power of Christian religion, any such indulgence was strongly discouraged.

In the Middle Ages, scientific thought was conflated (especially by the RCC) with Alchemy, which was to a large degree, seen as also a part of the occult. (A lot of material was written about magical interactions with angels in this time, presumably as a way to put off the Inquisitors.) But still, whether or not any of this could be identified as outright organized “Devil worship” or pre-modern Theistic Satanism is a matter of conjecture.

Even in the time of the Holy Inquisition, evidence abounds to suggest that Inquisitors used torture to extract confessions of victims being “in league with the Devil”, “witchcraft” etc. Of course, one could extract confessions for just about anything using torture – it still doesn’t make any of these confessions true. It doesn’t take much intelligence to realize that in days when there was no real system of justice or laws of evidence, and with confessions being extracted via torture, it was easy for someone to be accused of “witchcraft” by someone who bore them ill will (especially if the RCC stood to gain from their estates) and under the conditions of the time, anyone accused stood very,
very little chance if any, of survival. In fact, even today people who have no connection to the occult in any manner are falsely accused of “witchcraft” or “Satanism” and are killed on these charges by hysterical mobs looking for someone to blame for their ills. Like modern victims of witch hunts, victims of the Inquisition were most typically not “witches”, “Devil worshipers” or “Satanists” at all.

In those days, the term “Satanism” did not exist, but the notion that people were worshiping the Devil in secret and hatching all kinds of ill boding schemes against the “good people” was very prevalent. This notion and mindset was fostered by the Roman Catholic Church of the time, and frightening tales of what “witches” would do to them in the name of the Devil were used to great effect in the very same way as SRA propaganda is used by Christian churches and evangelicalist ministries today – with the intention of frightening ignorant congregants into filling their pews and their coffers.

In the time of the Crusades, the military order of the Templar Knights (who were also clerics or monks in the RCC) were accused of witchcraft, worshiping the Devil, arrested and burned at the stake. Aside from the political motives (the French king owed them vast sums of money, and the Templars were essentially Europe’s first major international bank and a political power in their own right) there are some very good reasons to understand that at the time, Christianity was at war with Islam. Islam was seen by Christians as worship of Muhammad, who was equated with the Christian Devil. Thus, at the time, it makes a lot of sense that (as today) some Christians – and Christian authorities, viewed other religions as outright Devil worship – or what today would be accusations of “Satanism”.

Origins:

The belief in a broad conspiracy of organized “Satanists”, however, as can be seen in many fringe groups who make claims about the Illuminati and Freemasonry etc, appears to be a relatively modern invention, one which seems to have first originated toward the end of the 19th century.

According to the Online Etymology Dictionary,

“Satanism (n.)
1560s, "satanic disposition," from satan + -ism. Meaning "worship of Satan" dates from 1896, with reference to France, where it was said to be active at that time." – From the Online Etymology Dictionary:

However, prior to 1966, there simply was NO Satanic religion perse’: 

“Satanism became a socially recognized phenomenon with the advent of The Satanic Bible [1969] and The Church of Satan. Prior to this, concepts or ideas of Satanism were used as religious propaganda by the church for witch hunts. The only evidence for the existence of
organized Satanism in history is found in the 20th century.” –
From Conservapedia: http://www.conservapedia.com/Satanism

“A Crash Course History of Modern Satanism

"The Origin of Satanism is traced back thousands of years in various false forms. In some literature Satanism is regarded as a literal worship of various Demons and Deity's, other times it shows up as Witchcraft where practitioners make pacts with Satan and are thus granted their powers. Yet in other forms, Satanism is akin to Voodoo or Necromancy, and even ancient Pagans were regarded as Satanists who again were given powers by "Satan.” Nearly all of these cases are incorrect and had nothing to do with the true term Satan or Modern Satanism.

Modern Satanism can only be traced back to 1966 when Anton LaVey shaved his head, performed a ritual and declared the formation of the "Church of Satan." The religion (or anti-religion if you will) was composed as an answer to organized western religion and culture's repression of natural instincts and desires.

Major influences of the Satanic Philosophy are as follows:

The Magick of Aleister Crowley, and the works of the Abbey of Thelema.
The Cynical anti-theistic viewpoints and writings of Friedrich Nietzsche
The Objectivism philosophy of Ayn Rand
The brutal reality of Ragnard Redbeard's writings.
The Comical and Social viewpoint of people like P.T. Barnum" - From An introduction to modern Satanism by Rick Rinker: http://www.ahftu.net/satanism.html

While the Church of Satan is today the publicly recognized “face of Satanism”, and the largest Atheistic Satanist group, in the Theistic side of the community we find the Temple of Set, which represents a religion which deifies Set, an ancient historical god which is conflated with Satan as the Christian Devil, and viewed as an aspect of Satan.

The Temple of Set was founded by Michael A. Aquino in 1975. The ToS appears also to have its origins in the Church of Satan, resulting from a schism within the organization.

“The Temple of Set was reconsecrated in Santa Barbara, California during the summer solstice night of 21 – 22 June 1975, by Michael A. Aquino, in a "greater black magic" ritual that resulted in what believers regard as an inspired text titled The Book of Coming Forth by Night. Aquino later stated that the name of the text is an "evident negation" of the name of the Ancient Egyptian Book of Coming Forth by Day, also known as the Book of the Dead.[1]
This Working became necessary when many Satanists, along with the majority of the Priesthood of the Church of Satan,[2] left that organization because of administrative and philosophical disagreements with its founder Anton Szandor LaVey.[2] The Temple of Set was incorporated in California that same year as a nonprofit church.[3]

**Clarification:** Therefore, the two largest Atheistic and Theistic Satanist religious organizations in the world today are closely related in terms of origin, and so neither formalized Theistic or Atheistic Satanism in the modern sense should be presumed to predate 1966.

**Clarification:** There is NOT ONE Temple or organization known to the modern Satanist community today, currently in existence, or in history, which identifies as Satanist and whose founding predates the start of the 20th century.

**Uniformity Of Ideology: The Delusion That All Satanists Believe The Same Thing:**

Do Satanists all hold the same beliefs? Do they all read from the same scriptures or holy book (or Unholy book as the case may be)? Do they all agree on a common doctrine, or hold a common “world-view” as the evangelicals would put it? More to the point, and of particular interest to this Project, do “Satanists” all practice the same rituals – and do they all live up to the claims of the hysterical fear-mongering politicians and evangelicals who have (now and in the past) brought media campaigns to bear on their group AND on others whom they willingly or unwittingly associate with Satanism? Do they all uniformly and categorically deserve to be blamed for the paranoia and insecurity of those doing the blaming? Do they all deserve to be given the Satanic Panic work-over?

The answer is a swiftly forthcoming “No!”– since many other Satanic traditions exist in addition to the Church of Satan, each with their own philosophies, traditions, and ideologies, this is unlikely – and the more one delves into the sheer amount of independent research into the religion, the less likely it appears to be.

Further, while many people can tell that in their own religious or sub-cultural groupings, there are liberals, apathetics and extremists, they should also understand that the same truth holds in every group – and that each religion holds its own number of extremist adherents. Some of these extremists may on occasion commit illegal and even shocking and tragic acts, they are by far a minority and do not by their actions or their extremism, represent the larger number of adherents of the same religion, or who go by the same identity-label.

**Clarification:** As an example, not all Christians burn people whom they think are Witches, or hate gay people; not all Muslims fly planes into buildings
or blow themselves up in crowded areas – and conversely, not all Satanists are what SRA propaganda says they are.

2. Deity In Satanism

When one approaches the topic of deity in Satanism, one needs to be wide awake and objective. When one looks at more well known and understood religions such as Christianity, Islam or Judaism, we understand that each of these has different sub-sects and factions which have their own ideas about who their primary deity is, and even if there are differences in how they identify, worship or name these deities, they are still consistent in the principle that there IS a deity which forms the center of their religion, worship and adoration.

Satanism on the other hand, is extremely fluid and diverse. Each faction or sub-sect of Satanism has its own concepts, philosophies, and beliefs, some of which are completely in conflict with each other, up to the point where they do not all worship the same deity, or even worship any deity.

The two main divisions within the Satanism umbrella group is between Theistic and Atheistic Satanists. Within each of these, there are different sub-groups again, with their own ideologies about deity, ritual practice etc.

Among Theistic Satanists (those who believe in Satan as an actual god), there is even disagreement on exactly WHO or WHAT that Satan is – a fallen angel/Satan/the Christian “Devil”, or a much older earlier god such as Set or Enki.

Atheistic Satanists generally elevate the self to the status of godhood in the context of their own personal lives, and do not actually worship or believe in a supernatural deity at all, other than themselves.

As Religious Tolerance.org, an internationally respected authority and resource renowned for the way information on religion is impartially presented, puts it:

“There are probably dozens of different religious belief systems and practices that have been called “Satanism.” Depending upon the precise meaning given to the word, the total number of Satanists in the world can be anything from a few thousand to four billion individuals. Dialog on the topic is almost impossible because there is such variability in the meaning of “Satanism” and “Satanist.” In this section, we describe seven main activities which have been commonly referred to as Satanism: religious Satanism, and six forms of pseudo-Satanism -- practices that either don't exist or are unrelated to any worship of Satan as a deity.” – From Religious Tolerance.org: http://www.religioustonerance.org/satanism.htm#menu
“Satanism is a broad term referring to a group of Western religions comprising diverse ideological and philosophical beliefs. Their shared features include symbolic association with, or admiration for the character of, Satan, or similar rebellious, promethean, and, in their view, liberating figures.” “Although the public practice of Satanism began in 1966 with the founding of the atheistic Church of Satan, some historical precedents exist: a group called the Ophite Cultus Satanas was founded in Ohio by Herbert Arthur Sloane in 1948. Inspired by Gnosticism and Gerald Gardner’s Wicca, the coven venerated Satan as both a horned god and ophite messiah.

Satanist groups that appeared after the 1960s are widely diverse, but two major trends are theistic Satanism and atheistic Satanism.

- Theistic Satanists venerate Satan as a supernatural deity.
- In contrast, atheistic Satanists[2] consider themselves atheists, agnostics, ignostics or apatheists and regard Satan as merely symbolic of certain human traits.

This categorization of Satanism (which could be categorized in other ways, for example “Traditional” versus “Modern”), is not necessarily adopted by Satanists themselves, who usually do not specify which type of Satanism they adhere to."

“Contemporary Satanism is mainly an American phenomenon, the ideas spreading with the effects of globalization and the Internet.[1] The Internet promotes awareness of other Satanists, and is also the main battleground for the definitions of Satanism today.[1] Satanism started to reach Eastern Europe in the 1990s, in time with the fall of the Soviet Union, and most noticeably in Poland and Lithuania, predominantly Roman Catholic countries.[8][9]

Satanism developed in the context of the Christian faith, as an ideological backlash to certain tenets promoted in Christianity. The character of Satan revered by Satanists, therefore, is mainly regarded as the prototypical anti-Christian figure. There have been some Satanists, however, who have shown reverence for the similar, albeit differently-characterized Islamic concept of Satan (Arabic: شيطان Shaytān), also known as Iblis (Arabic: إبليس Iblīs) although this is much more uncommon as Satanist philosophy has primarily flourished in the Occident, and has likely not reached any Muslim-majority countries. As he is an antagonist in all of the major Abrahamic traditions, Satan is also mentioned in certain Jewish literature, although he is treated more as a nuisance than the primary enemy of God in Judaism.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism

“Many Satanists feel that Wiccans are hypocrites, because the latter restrict their work to positive, healing activities. Many Satanists use Magic and other rituals to benefit themselves and their friends, but also use these same rituals to harm their enemies. Some have incorporated
some anti-Wiccan elements in their rituals. However, other Satanists practice their religion free of rituals; they simply live their lives in accordance with Satanic beliefs, statements and rules.

Satanists have been accused of conducting rituals that are specifically aimed at attacking Christian beliefs and practices. Many authors, almost all conservative Christians, have described alleged Satanic rituals in which religious Satanists recite the Lord's Prayer backwards, or desecrate and use the host and wine that they have stolen from a cathedral. This fiction can be traced back to books written during the late Middle Ages and Renaissance periods.

Satanists tend to be highly critical of all other faiths. They are particularly opposed to Christianity, because of its paramount position in Western society and the historical persecution of Satanists and other religious minorities by Christians.” – From Religious Tolerance.org: http://www.religioustolerance.org/satanis4.htm

3. Satanic Ethics And Values

Satanist Scripture – The Satanic Bible

While many refer to the Satanic Bible as though it is THE Bible for Satanists, this is not so. It was written by Anton LaVey in 1969 and forms the basis of some Satanist groups, most notably the Church of Satan, the oldest public Satanist organization, founded by Anton LaVey in 1966, however, this book is just one book written by this author, and which can be bought from any number of international book vendors specializing in occult books.

While revered by most Satanists, it is NOT viewed in the same way as the various forms of the Christian Bible is seen as a defining document for the Christian religion as a whole, or the Quran is for Islam.

“The Satanic Bible is a collection of essays, observations, and rituals published by Anton LaVey in 1969. It contains the core principles of the religion of LaVeyan Satanism, and is considered the foundation of its philosophy and dogma.[1] It has been described as the most important document to influence contemporary LaVeyan Satanism.[2] Though The Satanic Bible is not considered to be sacred scripture in the way the Christian Bible is to Christianity, LaVeyan Satanists regard it as an authoritative text[1] as it is a contemporary text that has attained for them scriptural status.[3] It extols the virtues of exploring one’s own nature and instincts. Believers have been described as “atheistic Satanists”[4] because they believe that God is not an external entity, but rather something that each person creates as a projection of his or her own personality—a benevolent and
stabilizing force in his or her life.[5][6] There have been thirty printings of The Satanic Bible,[7] through which it has sold over a million copies.[8]

The Satanic Bible is composed of four books: The Book of Satan, The Book of Lucifer, The Book of Belial, and The Book of Leviathan. The Book of Satan challenges the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule, and promotes hedonism.[9] The Book of Lucifer holds most of the philosophy in The Satanic Bible, with twelve chapters discussing topics such as indulgence, love, hate, and sex. LaVey also uses the book to dispel rumors surrounding the religion. In The Book of Belial, LaVey details rituals and magic. He discusses the required mindset and focus for performing a ritual, and provides instructions for three rituals: those for sex, compassion, or destruction.[10] The Book of Leviathan provides four invocations for Satan, lust, compassion, and destruction.[11] It also lists the nineteen Enochian Keys (adapted from John Dee's Enochian keys), provided in both Enochian and translated to English.[12]

There have been both positive and negative reactions to The Satanic Bible. It has been described as "razor-sharp"[13] and "influential".[14] It is very significant to the LaVeyan Satanist community, and has been praised as engaging to those not part of the community as well.[15] Criticism of The Satanic Bible stems both from qualms over LaVey's writing and disapproval of the content itself. LaVey has been criticized for plagiarizing sections,[16] and accusations have been made that his philosophies are largely borrowed.[17][18] The Satanic Bible has been heavily condemned as dangerous, particularly to adolescents.[19] Attempts have been made, both successfully and unsuccessfully, to ban the book in schools, public libraries, and prisons.[20][21][22] though these attempts are somewhat rare.[23] – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Satanic_Bible

The Wikipedia article goes on to discuss the contents of the book in detail.

“While not all Satanists follow LaVey's form of Satanism, his books are by far, the most widely-read writings by real-life Satanists. Personally, I always refer to Lavey's Satanic Bible as “LaVey's Satanic Bible”, not just "the Satanic Bible" without identifying the author. It is NOT "the Bible" of all Satanists.” – Diane Vera

The Satanic Bible is therefore a book which can mostly be ascribed to just the beliefs or practices LaVeyan Satanists, or of the Church of Satan alone, and perhaps to whatever individuals find an affinity for it in their personal spirituality. It is NOT in any way therefore, a work definitive of Satanism or Satanic beliefs in general.

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
4. Satanic Identity

The issue of identity is a complex one when one considers the variety of dogmata in the group. For instance, within Theistic Satanism, there are those who do not identify with the label “Satanist” or even call their primary deity “Satan”.

Instead, they view Enki or Set as being the true nature of the deity called “Satan” by Christians, and they view this association with disfavor. Instead, they self-identify as Setians, or even as Aquarians (in the case of those who worship Enki). It appears from commentary on Satanic websites, that the majority of those who do identify as Satanists are in fact Atheistic or LaVeyan Satanists.

How Do Satanists View Life?

Theistic Satanism:

These FAQ points on the Theistic Satanism site by Diane Vera should help to clarify what Theistic Satanists believe, and why.

“Why do you worship evil?

What do you mean by “evil”? Things that Christians have traditionally considered "evil" might not necessarily be considered "evil" by non-Christians.

In fact, by modern secular ethical standards, the Bible portrays Jehovah as a far more "evil" being than Satan. Jehovah is the one who orders the Israelites to slaughter all the Canaanites, and, in the New Testament, is said to punish people eternally for the sins of one little lifetime. By modern humanistic standards, it is "good," even heroic, not "evil," for Satan to rebel against such a tyrant.

To most Satanists, Satan is "good" in at least some sense that happens to be important to the particular Satanist personally. For example, Satan is seen by many of us as encouraging individuality and independent thought. This idea is a generalization if the belief, propounded by many different Christian leaders, that Satan’s main goal is to lead people away from the particular Christian leader’s dogma.

At the same time, many though not all Satanists do enjoy thinking of themselves as "evil" in one way or another, varying with the individual Satanist. As Anton LaVey put it in The Satanic Bible (p. 53, 1969 Avon paperback edition):

“Satanism is the only religion known to man that accepts man as he is, and promotes the rationale of turning a bad thing into a
good thing rather than bending over backwards to eliminate the bad thing.

Therefore, after intellectually evaluating your problems through common sense and drawing on what psychiatry has taught us, if you still cannot emotionally release yourself from unwarranted guilt, and put your theories into action, then you should learn to make your guilt work for you. You should act upon your natural instincts, and then, if you cannot perform without feeling guilty, revel in your guilt.

For more about "Evil," please read Satan and "Evil" in Christianity (and Satanism).

Most of us do not see Satan as either all-good or all-evil. The very idea of an all-good God vs. an all-evil Devil is suspiciously propaganda-ish.

But how can a mere rebel angel win against an almighty God? That is a good question to ask of those relatively few theistic Satanists who believe in almost the entirety of Christian theology except for siding with the Other Guy. However, the vast majority of theistic Satanists do not believe in Christian theology. Most of us do not believe that the Christian God, if he exists at all, is the true cosmic God. Most of us do not believe that Satan is literally a rebel angel, either.

Who or what is Satan, then?

Theistic Satanists hold a wide variety of different beliefs as to who and what Satan is. Some are pantheistic, some are polytheistic, and some are Gnostic-based, among other possibilities. theologies. For brief summaries of some of the more common Satanist theologies, see my page on The varieties of theistic Satanism.

Despite wide variation in our theology, metaphysics, and epistemology, most theistic Satanists do tend to agree on at least some aspects of the character of Satan as He relates to human beings. For example, many of us see Satan as a being who encourages us to be true to ourselves, think for ourselves, excel at whatever our talents may be, and do what we can to better our material situation.

This positive view of Satan is actually not a very far stretch from the traditional Christian view of Satan. According to many Christian leaders, Satan's number one goal is to lead people away from the particular Christian leader's dogma. One can easily generalize this idea to see Satan as a being who challenges dogmatism in general, not just Christian dogma.

If you reject Christianity, why revere a figure out of Christian mythology?
Different kinds of theistic Satanists will answer this question in very different ways. Here is a non-exhaustive list of possible answers:

Many of us have had profound spiritual experiences involving Satan.

Our god, Satan, is really Set, Enki, or some other ancient pre-Abrahamic god, but was called "Satan" by Christians and/or by the ancient Hebrews. So, "Satan" is the name by which He is best known today. (Theistic Satanists who answer the question this way usually stop calling themselves "Satanists" at some point, in favor of calling themselves Setians, Enkians, etc.)

There really is a Jehovah, although he's not nearly as all-powerful as he claims to be, and he's out to enslave us all. Therefore we humans should support his enemy, who favors human freedom. (Note: Not all theistic Satanists believe that Jehovah exists in any form; many don't.)

Although the Christian myths of Satan aren't literally true, a god who encourages people to think for themselves will naturally show up in a guise adversarial to a given culture. In our own culture, the adversary is Satan. In a different culture He might show up under a different name, such as perhaps Apep in ancient Egypt, but "Satan" is His most natural name within our own culture." – From Theistic Satanism.com: http://theisticsatanism.com/varieties/FAQ-TS.html#loser

The Satanic Soul & Afterlife

Since there are different religions identifying with the label “Satanism”, each of them has a different view of what Satanism is. Consequently, each of these religious camps has their own views on the “soul” and beliefs on afterlife differ.

Atheistic Satanism:

Atheistic Satanists do not believe in an afterlife. Their views on a soul generally tend to describe the spark within a person that makes them who they are, as something which dies along with the body at the time of its death.

“LaVeyan Satanists accept no beliefs in an afterlife. Each person comes into existence at birth and disappears at death. The period in-between – one lifetime – is the sum total of existence.

Life is therefore something to be enjoyed to its fullest. Satanists are encouraged to embrace whatever it is that they enjoy, living full, sensual, self-indulgent lives. Because there is no god making judgment and no reward or punishment in a next life, there is nothing to be gained by asceticism, acceptance of cultural taboos, or other things that place limits on personal behavior.
"Life is one great indulgence; death is one great abstinence." (The Satanic Bible, p. 92)

Death Is Not A Reward
Satanic belief runs contrary to that of many religions that suggest that there is a reward or a better life awaiting us after death. Rather than embracing death, we should fight tooth and nail to continue to live, the same way that animals do. Only when death is inevitable should we quietly accept it.

Beliefs Concerning Suicide
As a general rule, the Church of Satan frowns upon both self-sacrifice and suicide, because it is the ultimate denial of the fulfillment of one's own life.

Satanists do accept suicide as a reasonable option for those who are suffering "extreme circumstances which make the termination of life a welcome relief from an unendurable earthly existence." (p. 94.) In short, suicide is acceptable when it becomes a true indulgence.

Bettering the Lives of Others
While Satanism encourages indulgence and ego-fulfillment, it in no way suggests that people should not show kindness toward others nor do favors for them. Quite the opposite, as LaVey argues:

Only if a person's own ego is sufficiently fulfilled, can he afford to be kind and complimentary to others, without robbing himself of his self-respect. We generally think of a braggart as a person with a large ego; in reality, his bragging results from a need to satisfy his impoverished ego. (p. 94)

The ego-fulfilled man can show kindness out of honest emotion, while the ego-denied man puts on a dishonest show of kindness out of need or fear. The Nine Satanic Statements even includes the line "Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it, instead of love wasted on ingrates!" – From About.com: http://altreligion.about.com/od/satanismlaveyan/a/Satanic-Views-Of-Life-And-Death.htm

Theistic Satanism:
Diverse beliefs in the Theistic portion of Satanists abound. While some do not believe in an afterlife, some do. Little, if any, authoritative information about Theistic Satanist beliefs about afterlife can be found anywhere on the internet. According to comments made on various places, some believe that:

“Theistic Satanists generally believe in a place where you celebrate a life well lived.” – From Yahoo Answers: http://uk.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080602104313AAUVugb
Some believe that after death, they will enter into Hell, where they will serve Satan. There they would not endure pain, torture, and punishment, but believe that they will be accepted by Satan as an apprentice of sorts in thanks for their service on Earth. Those who feel this way believe that they will be rewarded and Satan will fulfill their greatest desires, regardless of the common view of Satan as being the antithesis of the Christian God, or Christ.

Commentary by Grand Magister Blackwood Leader of Theistic Satanism and Founder of the First Church of Theistic Satanism:

"When a Theistic Satanist dies he or she should always be buried with gifts to Satan, this can be almost anything including their perspective altar and or swords and personal effects, I have had the pleasure of doing one funeral, as I am sure to do more in the future, but I would offer up this anecdote for passing on, as I feel gifts come at death but during life, and as Satan could not always just walk around and hang with everyone, faith rules the day always.

We should honor the dead always as we will be expected to be honored ourselves, as a Theistic Satanist one should always seek general order in their own lives to move closer to the deity and garner close friendships so they can expect such preparation upon death itself, when Priests or Reverends are not around to do this family should out of respect always prepare such gifts, for the death of the Theistic Satanist." – From an article posted on Zimbio: http://www.zimbio.com/The+Satanic+Bible/articles/6hL5_n-Er5M/THE+THEISTIC+AFTERLIFE

5. Satanic Community

Dawn Perlmutter, a frequently quoted "expert" on the occult, consulted by law enforcement. Perlmutter's methodology and statements on the occult are also frequently challenged by occult groups and alternative religions including Satanists, says the following about the Satanic “community”.

"The two most established, best-known American Satanic churches are The Church of Satan [CoS] and The Temple of Set [ToS], which are described in detail in the next section.

It is worth noting that Satanic religious organizations are often referred to by the first initials of their names but, significantly, these initials are not read as acronyms."

Perlmutter has just made an erroneous generalization based upon assumption. There are various Satanist religious bodies which do not follow this practice, and also numerous non-Satanist religious and subcultural bodies which do.
“Some other Satanic organizations include: First Church of Satan [FCoS] (http://www.churchofsatan.org/main.html), Cult of Mastema [CoM] (http://www.geocities.com/satanism_au/library/genintro.html), Ordo Templi Satanis [OTS] (http://www.satanist.net/satan/satanism/Ots/Ots.htm), Church of Lucifer [COL] (http://www.churchoflucifer.org/), Ordo Sinistra Vivendi [OSV] (http://www.geocities.com/satanism_au/library/svrc.html). There are many orders, grottoes, pylons and covens of the main churches, and a significant number of unrelated, less well-known groups, many of which also have web pages on the Internet. Although it is difficult to establish numbers and geographical locations of members, most are located in the United States, Europe, and Australia; they can be found on every continent except Antarctica. On the African and South American continents, occult dark magic is practiced in the context of indigenous religions, which would account for the smaller membership in Western Satanic churches in those countries. In many countries, organized Satanic groups are not tolerated and must remain underground. Although the ideologies of these groups may be highly offensive to more traditional religions, it is generally thought that religious Satanists are on the whole law-abiding citizens whose known practices rarely constitute illegal activities. However, this has been questioned in statements of the many survivors and victims of occult-related crimes, who claim that these groups are simply covers for criminal acts.” From the UCLA anthropoetics site, article by researcher Dawn Perlmutter: http://www.anthropoetics.ucla.edu/ap0702/skandalon.htm

In the words of Magus Peter Gilmore, the current head of the Church of Satan (an Atheistic Satanist organization) there is “there is no “Satanic Community” nor should one ever exist”.

“The Internet, that ultimate means for the spread of mediocrity, spans the entire globe, and it has, for good or ill, a “Satanic presence.” It is time to address some tendencies that, while previously hampered by snail-mail low technology, have now been set loose to undercut our movement by turning it into a circus, with particularly poorly-trained clowns taking the center ring.

The use of the adjective “Satanic” with the noun “community” is oxymoronic. Why? The process of creating a “community” implies that its members come out into the open and become quantifiable, defining and exposing themselves. This technique is almost always used by an assemblage of people who want to claim some form of victim status, who want to whine that they are oppressed, and thus agitate for some form of “special dispensations” for their members. This idea is anathema to Satanists and contrary to Satanic principles. Recall Anton LaVey’s dictum that the Church of Satan must remain “a custard that can’t be nailed to the wall”? While our philosophy is made abundantly clear and all of our literature is publicly available, the organization itself remains largely hidden. There is power in mystery. And it serves us
well, should some form of organized anti-Satanism actually gain political or social power. So here is a simple fact: there is no “Satanic Community” nor should one ever exist. Please re-read the previous line until it begins to sink in.” – From the Church of Satan: 
http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/MythCommunity.html

In terms of organizational structure, the Church of Satan (representing its own membership, re Church of Satan ONLY), the CoS remains centered around San Francisco (presumably in the same fashion as Rome is the center for all Catholics, but not all Christians), and is divided into grottoes, their equivalent of congregations.

“The Church of Satan is focused in the Central Grotto in San Francisco. It accepts or rejects all potential members and charters other grottos (congregations) around the country. Isolated individuals relate directly to the Central Grotto. Power to regulate members is in the hands of the Head of the Church.”

Looking at this view, which is from Atheistic Satanism and from an organization, it differs somewhat from the personal view of a Theistic Satanist as further below.

The “Grotto System” which was (and is no longer) in use in the LaVeyan Church of Satan is described on page 34 in previous versions of the Church of Satan Informational Pack (V 2.0) as:

“We have reestablished our system by which individuals in geographic proximity may form an association for ritualization, socialization, and the pursuit of various projects. Each local cabal is called a Grotto, reinforcing the hidden and mysterious aspect of the Church of Satan. Grottos are established by individuals who are granted the status of Grotto Master. When filling out the questionnaire, indicate that you are interested in Grotto activities in your area. If there are, the local Grotto Master will contact you to arrange a meeting to evaluate you for participation. Be aware that it is within the rights of the Grotto Master to deem you unsuitable for participation in his Grotto, even though you are a bona fide member of the Church of Satan. This does not reflect on your membership in the Church of Satan itself, only that particular Grotto. If there are no Grottos presently in your locale, you may apply to be recognized as a Grotto Master, allowing you to helm your own Grotto. Grotto Masters receive an in-depth manual to assist them in their efforts as well as guide them through the difficulties that might be encountered.

Grotto Masters are not de facto spokespersons for the Church of Satan. They are encouraged to represent Satanism in whatever situations may arise, but they do not speak for the Church of Satan unless they are members of the representational hierarchy, which is our Priesthood. Special situations might arise locally in which
permission is given for a Grotto Master who has not yet attained the Priesthood to act as a spokesperson for a specific situation.

Only a small percentage of our membership participates in Grotto activities. We do not give out information concerning the location of Grottos to nonmembers. If a local Grotto has a public profile or a web presence, then nonmembers may learn of its existence. Many Grottos choose to remain "underground," fulfilling the nature of that word. If you are considering affiliation with the Church of Satan solely for the purpose of Grotto activities, we suggest that you reconsider. Affiliation must primarily be a result of philosophical agreement, not the desire for socializing. We are not a huddling flock of sheep in wolve's clothing." - [http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/cosinfopack.pdf](http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/cosinfopack.pdf)

However, since the above was available, the CoS no longer uses the Grotto system and no longer has any affiliate groups even in its own country, much less branches in other countries, such as a “Church of Satan in South Africa”. The CoS web site ([www.churchofsatan.com](http://www.churchofsatan.com)) clearly explains that the CoS does not have branches and no longer uses the Grotto system, so there is no possibility of any small “churches” or covens or grottoes affiliated with the Church of Satan in South Africa, nor do they have subsidiary offices that anyone could "head".

“There are no branches of the Church of Satan.

All official correspondence and membership procedures go through our headquarters in New York City. If someone claims that they are a local branch or a certain country’s office of the Church of Satan, they are liars. Do not be fooled!” - [www.churchofsatan.com](http://www.churchofsatan.com)

It also seems that there are a number of “scam artists” active in African countries who seek affiliation with the CoS:

“Please note: if you are a resident of a nation situated on the African continent, do not send any attempts to register with us unless you have contacted us via e-mail and gained pre-approval. We’ve discovered that many unscrupulous residents of these nations attempt to use membership in religious organizations as a means to obtain funds from their governments under the pretense of being a representative of an organization. Sincere students of our philosophy from these nations must contact us via e-mail first and demonstrate a knowledge of our philosophy before we will pre-approve an attempt at Registered Membership. Our apologies to those who resonate with Satanism in these lands, but the ratio of scam artists is exceptionally high and this is our most direct recourse. Any postal mail or payment attempts that are not approved will be refused and we are not responsible for the return of unauthorized postal sendings.” - [http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/Affiliation.html](http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/Affiliation.html)
Lastly, the Grotto system of the Church of Satan which promoted the formation of small local groups for CoS members has been out of service for a number of years – which means that there are NO local areal grottoes or groups – or “Churches of Satan” which are affiliated to the CoS ANYWHERE.

“The Grotto System

Over the years, our “social laboratory” has embraced, disbanded, and revived the use of Grottos as a means by which individuals in geographic proximity form an association for ritualization, socialization, and the pursuit of various projects. We have now phased-out this device once again, since it has become irrelevant in the current existing situation for social interaction facilitated by contemporary means for communication.

In the past, each local cabal was called a Grotto, which reinforced the hidden and mysterious aspect of the Church of Satan. Grottos were designed to exist organically, solely to serve the specialized interests of a particular association of local members. They were never intended to have more than a limited lifespan. When they had outgrown their purpose, they were dissolved. Chartered Grotto Masters had to regularly report their activities to the Central Office, and their charters were subject to yearly renewal. Grotto Masters were not considered de facto spokespersons for the Church of Satan, nor were Grottos local representations of our Church. Only a small percentage of our membership ever participated in Grotto activities during the times we offered this mode for interaction. In the past, if a local Grotto had a public profile or a web presence, then non-members could learn of its existence. Many Grottos chose to remain “underground,” fulfilling the nature of that word.

With the ubiquity of the Internet and the ease of electronic communication, the Church of Satan has ceased to charter Grotto Masters and we no longer offer the formality of forming Grottos as a mode for our members to socialize or engage in ritual. Our members who wish it now have ample means to find each other and to discover whether they are compatible for social and ritual gathering. Or, as always, they may opt to keep to themselves. The remaining currently existing active Grottos are not publicly visible and continue only in a clandestine manner until they are finally laid to rest. Charters have elapsed for former Grotto Masters. It is time for them to set aside that responsibility.” - http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/Affiliation.html

Variations:

There may be variation between different branches or sects of Satanism on how they name or organize their sub-groups.
Why Satanism Does Not Have Churches

“Local groups of Satanists may be called grottos, pylons, temples, or by a similar name. They correspond to Christian congregations and Wiccan covens.” – From Religious Tolerance.org: http://www.religioustolerance.org/satanis4.htm

“Many people have come to me to ask me where they can find a local Satanic Church to worship at. It’s a shame that in this day and age we do not have any churches to go to, let alone groups that we can gather in, in person to come together in the name of Satan.

Other groups and organizations can be found worldwide, where you can contact them and easily find a local chapter, allowing you to talk with others in person regarding your faith. Wicca is a good example of this, at least here in America. You are able to go to any major city and find your local Wiccan organization and participate in festivals any time of the year.

Satanists do not have this luxury. Not only is Satanism part of a new religious movement, meaning that it still has room to grow socially, but there are so few of us out there that even if we did have the opportunity to gather together it would be a rare occurrence.

Most of us meet online, in chatrooms and in social networks. It's safer for us as well, because despite our (supposed) freedom of religion, it would be too easy to attract attention from radical conservative groups who would want to make sure that our gatherings never happen.

So, Satanism has no brick and mortar churches to worship at. And, do we really want that anyway? Shouldn't that kind of thing be reserved for the kinds of religions that rely on social gatherings and long-held traditions? Satanism isn't reliant on those kinds of things, generally. It is supposed to be a personal experience. While you can share your experiences with others, generally you are on your own when it comes to your personal relationship with Satan.” – From Spiritual Satanism Blog: http://spiritualsatanist.blogspot.com/2013/03/why-satanism-does-not-have-churches.html

6. Satanic Holy Days

Atheistic Satanism:

According to the Church of Satan (Atheistic Satanism):

“The highest holiday in the Satanic religion is one’s own birthday. Every man is a God as he chooses to recognize that fact. After one’s birthday, Walpurgisnacht (April 30) and Halloween are most
important. April 30 is the grand climax of the spring equinox and Halloween was one of the times of the great fire festivals among the ancient Druids. The **solstices** and equinoxes - which fall in March, June, September, and December and mark the first day of the new seasons - are also celebrated.” – From the Church of Satan:
http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/ChaplainsHandbook.html

**CLARIFICATION:** Presumably, this is where the reference to “the Grand Climax” of the spring equinox used in so-called “occult calendars” comes from. Taken in this context, it is anything but intended to be taken as a sexual innuendo unlike the manner it is presented in the Balsiger’s “1988 Occult Calendar”. “Grand climax” refers to the highpoint of the spring equinox, at April 30 in the northern hemisphere.

So then,

- Adherent’s own birthday
- Walpurgisnacht (April 30)
- Halloween
- Solstices & equinoxes (March, June, September, December, marking first day of each season).

According to Wikipedia,

“In *The Satanic Bible*, Satanist Anton LaVey writes that the main two Satanic holidays (after one’s birthday), are **Walpurgisnacht** and **Halloween**. Other holidays are the two **solstices** and the two **equinoxes**. Five to six weeks after each of the solstices and equinoxes are the "legendary Satanic revels" (a reference to the **cross-quarter days**). [1] [2]

In the **First Satanic Church**, an "Annual Black X-Mass Show" is also held every December, hosted by LaVey's daughter, **Karla LaVey**.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanic_holidays

**SRA Misinformation About Satanist Holy Days**

There has been a great deal of misinformation about the holy days of Satanists (Witches, Pagans and Occultists), mostly at the hands of SRA pundits. The gap between the kind of misinformation about Pagan ritual and holy days presented in SRA – and the reality, is staggeringly huge.

“**Christian portrayal of Satanic holidays**

Christian authors have written dozens of anti-Satanic books with lists of Satanic Ritual Days.[3] According to the Ontario Consultants for Religious Tolerance, in some cases the authors appear to reference the works of other conservative Christian writers. Many people, and many satanists, appear to lack major direct knowledge of Satanism and all show a general lack of familiarization with the religion.[3]
In *The Edge of Evil* "Grand High Climax" is said to be a major holiday celebrated by Satanists on December 24. Evangelical Christian author Jerry Johnston says in this book that it is a celebration meant to juxtapose the Christian holiday of Christmas Eve, when the birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated. However this goal to blaspheme is not always prevalent.[4]

He claims that Grand High Climax is traditionally celebrated with a Black Mass, followed by great excesses of food, drink, sex, and merriment, but a rite called "Grand High Climax", and the details of the activities involved, is not a rite acknowledged by all Satanic groups. It was once part of the Satanic panic and beliefs about the Witches' Sabbath." – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanic_holidays](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanic_holidays)

### Sacrifice As A Satanist Practice

The term "human sacrifice", when referring to a religious context, in the strict sense, means killing for the purpose of an offering to a god, or to gain some hoped-for magical benefit, or killing for any religious purpose in a set-apart context, such as in a religious ritual.

The matter of animal and human sacrifice has been a bone of contention for many years, and is a particular favorite of SRA accusers (especially when looking at items such as the alleged “Occult Calendar” which claims that Satanists kidnap people left and right and use them for sacrifices to Satan).

SRA propaganda expends a vast amount of effort in attempting to connect religious Satanism with allegations of human sacrifice – and most frequently without the convenience of having so much as a single dead body to prove their claims.

The longest-established known Satanist orthodoxy is LaVeyan Satanism (since 1966), which has always rejected criminal activity in the name of Satan and whose liturgy exalts life and living it to the fullest. Its core philosophies emphasize the value of human life and in no places does it encourage the taking of human life, for any purpose.

This is emphasized by numerous Satanists, Theistic and Atheistic, and authorities within the Satanic religion contend that it is “tabloid prophecy fulfills” – those who find the mythical form of “Satanism” created by Satanic Ritual Abuse propaganda appealing, who occasionally commit atrocities in the name of something they do not understand and are not affiliated with. In fact, the website Theistic Satanism.com – a VERY influential resource within the international Satanist community, postulates that while human sacrifice IS practiced around the world in modern times, it is individuals who are members of NON-Satanic religions who are doing these things. (ref: [http://theisticsatanism.com/asp/hs.html](http://theisticsatanism.com/asp/hs.html))

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“On this page I'll document some of the many examples of human sacrifice committed in today's world by non-Satanists. My point is that, when evidence of "ritual human sacrifice" is encountered, it should not automatically be assumed to be the work of a "Satanic cult." The vast majority of human sacrifices are performed by people of non-Satanist religions. But my point is not to vilify those other religions either. In all those religions, human sacrifice is practiced only by a fringe." – Diane Vera: http://theisticsatanism.com/asp hs.html

Some of the blame for the Christian fundamentalist scare about Satanists "sacrificing people" or committing "human sacrifice" might be blamed upon no less than Anton LaVey himself, as explained below:

“Thanks to urban legend, Hollywood, and rabid Christian fundamentalists, few images are as ingrained into the American's mind about Satanists than their supposed love of human sacrifice. While sacrifice of this type is absolutely abhorrent and illogical to a Satanist, The Satanic Bible nevertheless does discuss a certain sort of magical working that it describes as human sacrifice.

**There Is No Blood-Starved Deity:**
Historically, animal and human sacrifice have generally been performed in religions where the deity in question needs blood to survive or is appeased by the life given up in their name. LaVeyan Satanists, however, are atheists. To them, there is no actual entity called Satan. Ergo, sacrificing a life to appease Satan is nonsensical.

**Emotion As Magical Power:**
Strong emotions generate energy within magical ritual. LaVey highlights three particularly strong emotional sources of power: the death throes of a living creature, anger, and orgasm.

Satanic magicians primarily draw power from themselves, and magicians can certainly do this through the channeling of anger or orgasm through sex or masturbation. With these tools at their disposal (and not made taboo as they are in many religions), the third source – death throes - is unnecessary.

The fact of the matter is that if the "magician is worthy of his name, he will be uninhibited enough to release the necessary force from his own body, instead of from an unwilling and undeserving victim! (The Satanic Bible, p. 87)

**Symbolic Sacrifice As Source of Wrath:**
The Satanic Bible does discuss a symbolic human sacrifice through hexing, a magical working that "leads to the physical, mental or emotional destruction of the 'sacrifice' in ways and means not attributable to the magician." (p. 88) The primary goal, however, is not the destruction of the individual but rather the anger and wrath

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summoned up within the magician during the course of the ritual. Anything that happens to the sacrifice is of secondary importance.

**Suitable Targets:**
The only people Satanists will consider targeting with such a sacrificial hex is a "totally noxious and deserving individual" who "by his reprehensible behavior, practically cries out to be destroyed." (pp. 88, 89-90)

In fact, Satanists see the elimination of such obnoxious influences as something of a duty. These people are emotional leeches, dragging everyone else down to feed their starved egos. Moreover, Satanists stress responsibility for behavior. Actions have consequences. When people behave badly, their victims should take steps so as not to be further subjugated to the abuse rather than turning the other cheek and making excuses for the offender. As the eleventh rule of the *Eleven Satanic Rules of the Earth* states, "When walking in open territory, bother no one. If someone bothers you, ask him to stop. If he does not stop, destroy him."

**Unsuitable Targets:**
The target should never be undeserving of it. Regardless what urban legend might say, Satanists have no interest in targeting virgins, holy people, or any other upright members of society. Nor is a target ever chosen at random. To do so would be both malicious (not to mention sociopathic) and lacking in the desired anger.

In addition, both animals and children are specifically forbidden targets. Both lack the capacity and understanding to bring such a consequence upon them. Animals work on instinct, and maliciousness operates on a level beyond instinct. Children are held particularly sacred to Satanists, and they consider any harm visited upon them to be particularly vile.

**Satanists Decry Criminal Activity:**
Again, even when a Satanist talks of "human sacrifice," they are not talking about a physical attack or any other illegal activity. Satanists have zero tolerance for lawbreakers and support hefty civil punishments for them.

**On The Term "Human Sacrifice":**
One might think that Anton LaVey could have found a less charged term than "human sacrifice" for what he proposes, but the choice of words is very in-line with the tone of the rest of the Satanic Bible. LaVey strongly preferred to speak plainly and bluntly sometimes to the point of exaggeration to challenge taboos that he saw as primarily existing to control members of society. His vocabulary was deliberately inflammatory." From About.com: [http://altreligion.about.com/od/satanismlaveyan/p/Human-Sacrifice.htm](http://altreligion.about.com/od/satanismlaveyan/p/Human-Sacrifice.htm)
Satanic Holidays In South Africa

No Satanist holy days are celebrated as general public holidays in South Africa.

In general circulation among “warfare ministries”, there is a device known as an “occult calendar” which contains multiple references to dates on which Satanists supposedly kidnap people, commit human sacrifices or hold sex orgies.

The dates on these calendars often have no relation to Satanism as a religion, and the rituals described have no basis in fact. These calendars are an invention of “Satanic Panic” hysteria and form part of SRA propaganda. What really does a lot of damage is that they are accepted as factual and circulated further.

SRA Misinformation About Satanist Holy Days

Doing the rounds among evangelicalist organizations, specifically so-called “warfare ministries” which target Satanism and Pagan religions, there is material which can only be described as hysterical non-factual SRA propaganda.

Among these, is an item claiming to be an “occult calendar” which is exceedingly popular with such groups. This item is strikingly similar in effect to the equally fictitious and wholly fabricated “Homosexual Agenda” hysteria of the 1970’s, which claimed that gay rights activists had a hidden and destructive agenda – which incidentally, was based totally on a satirical article written BY a gay rights activist at the time.

There are several variations of this calendar floating around cyberspace, though these are worded in very similar fashion, which tends to indicate a common source. One such variation can be found on Forbidden Knowledge: http://www.theforbiddenknowledge.com/hardtruth/satanic_calendar.htm This example openly conflates “mythical Satanism” with Pagan religions, by including dates and names of festivals from the Wiccan Wheel of the Year among the “Satanic dates”.

The image below is taken from the magazine of a Christian extremist “warfare ministry” called Auksano, run by a former SAPS ORC (Johan de Beer, former Captain in the SAPS, was the Coordinator of the Occult related crime units (SAPS) in the Free State. He founded Auksano in 1997 in order to assist the victims of “destructive subcultures”).

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This supposed “occult calendar” makes no distinction between Satanism and Paganism but liberally makes use of the term “Witch”. Not only are these two religions very different from each other, neither of them promotes harming another or engaging in violent or criminal activity. This is yet another manifestation of Christian evangelicalist ignorance about other cultures, or of the Christian extremist view that there is no difference between Satanism, Paganism or any other occult group.

**Debunking The SRA “Occult Calendar”**

The origins of this “occult calendar” as explained in a lengthy article on the topic, lie in the fields of fiction and religious extremist political activism. The calendar itself was devised by far-right religious extremist Christian author/publisher David Balsiger in an item entitled "1988 Witchcraft/Satanism Ritual Calendar".

“David W. Balsiger is a former writer and photographer for the Anaheim Bulletin and twelve other Southern California newspapers. He was a frequent "Debate Page" columnist for USA Today. He worked for a while as the Public Relations Consultant for the Melodyland Christian Center belonging to evangelist Morris Cerullo. He went on to become a major source of literature on "occult crime."” – From Witch Vox:

http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=cabc&c=whs&id=4347

Much information about the background of David Balsiger is available through indirect sources, such as commentary and analysis of his books, which have been condensed in this article, which includes details of his faking of
photography alleged to be of the finding of Noah’s Ark, and which also happens to address his “occult calendar”.

“Balsiger has authored 18 non-fiction books, including: In Search of Noah’s Ark (Sunn-New American Library), The Lincoln Conspiracy (New American Library) and Beyond Defeat (Doubleday).

Both In Search of Noah's Ark and The Lincoln Conspiracy were later made into feature films. Balsiger later admitted to faking the photography for the film "In Search of Noah's Ark", which was purported to be a real account of the finding of Noah's ark.” – From Witch Vox: [http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=cabc&c=whs&id=4347](http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=cabc&c=whs&id=4347)

Balsiger’s political activism is definitely conservative and ultra-right, and focused on religio-political “king-making” in very much the same way as James Dobson and his Family Research Council and Focus on the Family enterprises.

“Balsiger is a founding member of Christian Voice, formerly the steering committee for the right wing Coalition on Revival. He is also the founder of the National Citizen’s Action Network (NCAN) in Costa Mesa, California. NCAN publishes a newsletter called “Scoreboard Alert”. NCAN is the parent for three further organizations and publishes three magazines, as follows:

1)RAMBOC (Restore A More Benevolent Order Coalition), a right wing networking organization. Balsiger is the founder/president. He calls this a “human rights advocacy group” and claims it is composed of 285 organizations, none of which he names.

2)Biblical News Service.

3)Writeway Professional Literary Associates.

4)Scoreboard Magazines, which include:

   a) Family Protection Scoreboard.

   b) Candidates Biblical Scoreboard.

   c) Presidential Biblical Scoreboard.

A 1987 special issue of Balsiger's Scoreboard magazine was entitled "South Africa: A Nation on Trial". In it Balsiger supported the apartheid policies of the former South African government. It was subsidized by $300,000 worth of advertising paid for by the South African government's tourist agency, SATOUR, and this issue was later handed out by the South African consulate. Balsiger was also the exclusive U. S. distributor of The Aida Parker Newsletter, a pro-apartheid magazine written by an agent of the Bureau of State Security (BOSS)in South Africa.” – From Witch Vox:

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Both the candidates and presidential “Biblical scoreboards” were aimed at gauging the performance or rating of political candidates for the office of President on Christian fundamentalist principles. Balsiger appears to be yet another “moral values” campaigner pushing for Christian fundamentalist control or influence in government of his country, of the same ilk as James Dobson and Paul Cameron.

The 1972 book “The Satan Seller” by Michael Warnke is often credited with starting the current hysteria about an international Satanic conspiracy, which can be directly traced to this book. It is also referred to as an authoritative source of information by SRA pundits. Although purportedly an autobiography about the life of Michael Warnke, it was a collaborative effort between Warnke, David Balsiger and another writer, Les Jones.

The Satan Seller (1972) is further debunked later in the same article on Witch Vox.

On the matter of Balsiger’s “1988 Occult Calendar”, which was apparently made available as a book, Kerr Kuhulain writes:

“His one page introduction lumps Witchcraft and Satanism together. He then lists 95 ritual dates plus 4 weeks devoted to "kidnapping, holding and ceremonial preparation of person for human sacrifice (sic)" for a total of 123 days a year (i.e.: 33.7% or a third of the entire year). Many of the dates on Balsiger's calendar are simply dates of the different phases of the moon as well as the dates of solar and lunar eclipses. The calendar's 95 ritual dates call for 13 animal sacrifices, 24 human sacrifices, 6 blood rituals and 12 sexual orgies, as well as miscellaneous mutilations and dismemberments. Surely this much activity would be noticed by someone? One also wonders how someone could keep a full time job and find time for all of this activity?

The rest of the calendar is inaccurate and absurd. Dates that Balsiger lists include:

1) "January 1-New Years Day. A Druid feast day."

2) "January 20-St Agnes Eve. Divination practiced. "This is a date in British folklore considered to be a good day for divination. Women were supposed to be able to use various forms of divination to determine what their future husband would look like. This is probably on the list due to its connection with divination, which is prohibited in the Bible."


4) "January 26- Grand Climax. Five weeks and one day after winter..."
solar solstice. Da Muer ritual. Oral, anal and vaginal sex. Human sacrifice-female or child."

5) "February 1-Candlemas Eve. Welcoming spring." Would Satanists do a ritual to welcome spring?

6) "February 14-Shrovetide. "Shrovetide is the day three days before Ash Wednesday and is a Christian observance. It also happens to be St Valentine's Day in 1988, which isn't a Satanic celebration either.

7) "March 24-Feast of the Beast: Sixteen year becomes Bride of Satan in marriage ceremony (sic)."

8) "March 31-Maundy Thursday, Unholy Thursday... April 1. Good Friday, Day of Passion. Mocks death of Christ. Animal or human sacrifice-male only... April 2. Easter Eve day. Human sacrifice- male or female... April 3. Easter Day, Unholy Sunday... Human sacrifice- male, female, or child. Followed by three days of fasting and chanting."

9) April 25-Grand Climax. Five weeks and one day after Spring Equinox. Da Muer ritual. Sexual activity-oral, anal and/or vaginal sex. Female child sacrifice. The sacrifice can be a child."

10) "May 13: Friday the thirteenth... Samhain. Old celebration date until 8th century. "The fact that this date happens to be Friday the thirteenth is of no religious significance whatsoever. Balsiger is only partially correct about Samhain. Samhain has always been observed on October 31. It is the Christian "Feast of All Souls" that used to be on May 13. It was moved to November 1 by the Church in the 8th century CE in order that it would coincide with Samhain and give the people a Christian alternative to Samhain.


12) "June 20-Summer Solstice... June 23- Midsummer's Eve, St John's (the Baptist) Eve. Invokes the sun at the height of its strength. "Obviously Balsiger doesn't understand that the "summer solstice" and "midsummer" are the same thing.

13) "July 10- Unholy Day of the Palladium. Reading of the old Satanism ritual books." The Palladium was a statue of Pallas Athena, the Greek Goddess of justice, that was said to have stood in the city of Troy, upon whom the safety of the city depended. It later came to be used to refer to any statue of Athena, or to any safeguard of a city or institution. There was no ancient Greek or Roman festival on this date, and it was not a date sacred to Athena, so it is hard to imagine what Balsiger is on about here. July 10 was a festival of the northern European Goddesses Holda, Hela and Skadi, all underworld deities. Balsiger might be
including this date because of this connection, but he makes no indication that this is the case.

14) "August 24: St Bartholomew's Day. Fire Festival ceremonial meeting. "In ancient Rome this was the date of the Mania, a festival acknowledging the Manes, deified spirits of ancestors. It was also St Bartholomew's day, Bartholomew being the patron of butchers and tanners. It was never a fire festival. St Bartholomew's day is traditionally considered to be a weather marker day as witnessed by the old rhyme: "If Bartlemy's Day be fair and clear, Hope for a prosperous autumn this year."


16) "October 22-29. Sacrifice preparation."

17) "October 29... October 30. Satanist High Holy Day. Related to Halloween. Human Sacrifices."

18) "November 24. Thanksgiving Day. Usually Wiccan celebration."

25) "December 29. St Thomas Day. Fire festival or ritual ceremony... Thursday after Christmas." A few of the dates, names and expressions used in Balsiger's calendar were drawn from the 15th Century document the Malleus Maleficarum or "Hammer of Witches." Another source is Montague Summers, a translator of the Malleus Maleficarum and the author of several sensational books on "witchcraft" and Satanism. Summers was a self-proclaimed "Monsignor" in the Old Catholic Church and a paedophile who fed his imagination on information gleaned from Inquisitional records.

Next, oddly, Balsiger includes a copy of a 1980 ritual calendar from the Egyptian Fellowship of Isis, which is reasonably accurate as far as Egyptian Paganism is concerned, and has no mention of ritual sacrifice at all. He does not explain what it is doing in his book or why the dates in it are at variance with those in his supposed ritual calendar.

On July 9, 1988 I sent a list of corrections and Pagan festival dates to Balsiger. I received a short but courteous letter dated July 27, 1988 thanking me for bringing this to his attention. Yet I spoke to a friend of mine in the third week of March 1989 who said that they had written to Balsiger about his awful calendar too. This source said that they had just been asked by Balsiger to supply him with correct Pagan festival dates. The one previously sent by me was not mentioned. To the best of my knowledge these calendars were never subsequently revised by Balsiger.

Thus, David Balsiger demonstrates quite profoundly how attempts at correction from Pagan and other occult sources are disregarded in toto by him. The question that should be presenting itself by now is “who should know
best what goes on in a religion – an external critic hostile to the religion, or someone who has been a participant for years and years?"

The article on Witch Vox was written by Kerr Cuhulain, a long-time fixture in the international Pagan community. His “about” section features below each of his articles and on the article quoted above.

“Kerr Cuhulain the author of this article, is known to the mundane world as Detective Constable Charles Ennis. Ennis, a former child abuse investigator, is the author of several articles on child abuse investigation that appeared in Law & Order Magazine. Better known to the Pagan community by his Wiccan name, Kerr Cuhulain, Ennis was the first Wiccan police officer to go public about his beliefs 28 years ago. Kerr is now the Preceptor General of Officers of Avalon. Kerr went on to write four books: The Law Enforcement Guide to Wicca (Horned Owl Publishing), Wiccan Warrior and Full Contact Magick: A Book of Shadows for the Wiccan Warrior. (Llewellyn Publications), as well as a book based on this series: Witch Hunts: Out of the Broom Closet (Spiral Publishing)."

Calendars like this are reproduced and posted all over the internet, with assurances that they are genuine, accurate and true. On this site, the same calendar is posted by Richard Evans along with claims that the calendar is linked to missing persons in the USA! “Here is a list of Satanic sacrificial days, which is accurate.” Says he: –

http://www.henrymakow.com/here_is_a_list_of.html#sthash.oq72fZfU.dpuf

Sad to say, warfare ministries (and the SAPS/ORC unit) refer to sources such as Balsiger’s “Occult Calendar” and “The Satan Seller” as something akin to “absolute authorities”, also never making corrections to any of these documents – or this “occult calendar” – mainly because if they did, there probably would be NO “occult calendar” left, and certainly no more reason to encourage people to run around flapping their arms in hysterical little circles screaming “the Satanists are coming!”

Accusations of Kidnap & Human Sacrifice

To add to the insanity, claims that people will be “sacrificed” and “kidnapped for sacrifice” – without providing any kind of proof for these allegations. Since these claims have been made for years now, there should be some kind of statistical evidence to substantiate these, such as “X amount of people were kidnapped by Satanists/Pagans/Witches in 2012” or “X amount of people were found murdered as ‘Satanic/Pagan/Witch sacrifices in 2011’”.

**CLARIFICATION:** To date, not one case in which someone was convicted of kidnap or murder relating to “Satanic sacrifice” claims where Paganism or Witchcraft or Satanism as a religion played a definitive role in establishing motive for the crime, is known to have occurred in South Africa.

According to the Sub-cultures Alternatives Freedom Foundation in the UK:

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
“The first thing to bear in mind is that there are NO days in the satanic or pagan calendar when sacrifice is required - it just doesn't happen, is not required in any liturgy and is not included in any books on Satanism or Witchcraft, hence the entire precept of Police claims are counterfeit and based on mediaeval lies by Christian witch-hunters which have been regurgitated by modern Christian witch-hunters.” – http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/winebald.htm

With the frequency that “human sacrifice” appears on this “calendar”, and with the supposed “radical growth” of “Satanism” in South Africa as claimed by hysterical evangelicals, one would surely expect SOME kind of evidence to have shown itself by now that there really was some kind of great secret occult society kidnapping people and sacrificing them to Satan every other day.

CLARIFICATION: South African police would be buried hip-deep in sacrifice victim’s bodies by now, were any of these claims true!

It is concerning that people whose core business is the gathering of evidence seem to swallow claims like this wholesale, without apparently considering the lack of evidence to substantiate them.

In a field where objectivity and impartiality are paramount in the pursuit of criminal justice, one would think that allowing religion to cloud judgment to the degree where contradicting evidence presents itself so voluminously and persistently, is ignored in favor of belief in an improvable “Satanic conspiracy theory” is both unprofessional and hazardous to the civil and human rights of citizens – and also contrary to the Constitution.

It is simply common sense that these claims are at best bogus, and worst, being nothing more than blatant lies and propaganda intended to incite fear and loathing against people perceived to be Pagans or Satanists or otherwise participants in the occult.

The SAPS spokes-cop made a “clarifying” statement in 2012 on the topic of the ORC to the effect that the ORC’s would be looking at muti-related crimes in South Africa, in which people were kidnapped or killed to obtain body parts for traditional African spiritual rituals. This cannot be the basis for these falsehoods presented in this calendar as not one mention of any traditional African practice is made. Every item is intended to be viewed as relating to Western occultism, including Paganism, Witchcraft and Satanism – which are all of Western origin.

The Relevance of Sex, Drugs & Rock ‘n Roll

Further, there is repetitive mention of “sex orgies” and “satanic drinking parties”, also without relying on any supporting facts. The purported role of alcohol in the occult is strangely important to SRA pundits who appear to believe this, despite the plethora of information circulated by occult, Pagan
and Satanic groups, which advocates that clarity of mind and sobriety is desirable when performing any ritual or magical workings.

Of course, taken to the extreme argument in legal terms, it is not illegal to host parties or events where alcohol is consumed, even copiously, and even in private – provided of course other laws, such as noise regulations and disturbance of the peace, are not violated. This is not 1920’s America, where Prohibition made alcohol in any form, illegal. At least, not yet.

The omission of any reference to drug abuse in this alleged “occult calendar” is striking, as typical SRA material desperately tries to link alternative religions with drug-taking and “sex orgies” in order to discredit or vilify them in the eyes of their supporters. It is plain propaganda without any basis in fact.

Again, not one mention of “X amount of Satanists/Pagans/Witches were arrested/witnessed while partying, drinking and having sex at a secret venue in 2012” has been made in the Press, or has been provided in statistics by those making such claims. Statements such as this are nothing more than hearsay and not evidence of anything other than how gullible some people are, and willing to believe anything, even the worst in people.

**Fictitious “Un-Holy Days” Projected Upon Pagan And Satanist Religion**

**Samhain:** The “occult calendar” refers to Samhain [“Samhein”] as a time of animal and human sacrifice. It also refers to February 02 as a time of animal and human sacrifice, under the names “Maria Lignis”, “Candle Mass”, and “Witches Sabbath”.

Though in history, farming communities would slaughter an animal at such a time, perhaps in honor of a deity, these were also consumed as food. Portraying this sort of tradition as some kind of abuse or harmful practice is tantamount to giving the same treatment to Christmas or Thanksgiving, because of the type of food traditionally consumed, and often slaughtered for the occasion. But then, these practices are not Satanic or part of the Satanist religion. Killing and eating a turkey at Thanksgiving is not evidence of a ritual crime, nor Satanism, no matter what animal rights activists claim.

In the Wiccan Wheel of the Year (upon which some real Satanist’s holy days are founded) February 02 is the festival of Lughnasadh also known as Lammas, which is a harvest celebration and also a day which is favored for handfastings. Historically speaking, and especially when referring to modern Neo-Pagan religions, this statement is fraudulent.

The mention of November 1 as “unholy day” is suitably vague enough to mean anything, though it clearly matches nothing in the Pagan calendar. Presumably this made up name also refers to Samhain (a date also celebrated by Satanists) in the northern hemisphere, or its corresponding holiday in the south, being Beltane. No further explanation of why November 1 is supposed to be “unholy” is provided, though the anonymous drafter was
thoughtful enough to provide mention of human sacrifice again – which further discredits this claim since human sacrifice does not play a role in modern Paganism or Witchcraft, and neither in actual religious Satanism.

**Candle mass:** “Candle mass” as used in this “occult calendar” could be one of several things, but as a little simple research demonstrates, it is NONE of the things its creator claims. According to the site Project Britain,

> “2nd February is Candlemas Day. This ancient festival marks the midpoint of winter halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox.

Candlemas is a traditional Christian festival that commemorates the ritual of purification of Mary forty days after the birth of her son Jesus. On this day, Christians remember the presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple.” “It was the day of the year when all the candles that were used in the church during the coming year were brought into church and a blessing was said over them - so it was the Festival Day (or ‘mass’) of the Candles.” “Candlemas Day also has two other names. One is the ‘Presentation of Christ in the Temple’. The other is the ‘Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary’. Both these names come from special events in the life of baby Jesus.” – From Project Britain: [http://projectbritain.com/year/candlemas.html](http://projectbritain.com/year/candlemas.html)


Careful reading of both information resources will reveal NO mention of human sacrifice, or sex orgies as part of this festival.

**Candlemas Day is therefore a Christian holy day or festival which is being maligned by extremist evangelical Christians.** It is possible that the “satanic connection” is made because the ritual or ceremony would have started out as Catholic and continued under the Church of England, and these are often viewed with suspicion and hostility by evangelicals.

A second use of the reference “Candle mass” is found in the name of a Swedish metal band, Candlemass:

> “Candlemass is an influential Swedish doom metal band established in *Stockholm* 1984 by bassist, songwriter and bandleader *Leif Edling*. After releasing five full-length albums and touring extensively throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Candlemass disbanded in 1994, but reunited three years later. After breaking up again in 2002, Candlemass reformed in 2004 and have continued to record and perform since then.” – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candlemass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candlemass)

It is unlikely that a Swedish metal band would somehow be involved with the “occult calendar”, and aside from the references in Wikipedia, there are no
other traceable references to any alleged “Satanic” or occult celebration under that name!

St Winebald’s Day: This Christian festival is anything but what these “occult calendars claim it is – in fact, they can’t even get the date right:

“St Winebald's day is December 18th, NOT January 7th as the police keep on insisting.

In Chambers' scholarly Book of Days (1864) which is one of the most reliable sources of ancient festivals, December 18th is shown as being sacred to “Saints Rufus and Zozimus, martyrs AD 116 and St Gatian, first bishop of Tours, confessor, about AD 300.” After these comes the obscure "St Winebald, abbot, and confessor, AD 760..."

JANUARY 7TH:
The information being circulated to police is in error. There's no festival or celebration on January 7th connected with Winebald. In the old Gregorian calendar it was considered St Distaffs day. January 7th has nothing to do with Winebald. According to Chambers' Book of days January 7th is the " Feast Day: St. Lucian, of Antioch, priest and martyr, AD 312. St. Cedd, bishop of London, 7th century. St. Thillo, AD 702. St. Kentigerna, widow, AD 728. St. Aldric, bishop of Mans, AD 856. St. Canut, AD 1171." BUT NOT WINEBALD.

There's LOTs of festivals and celebrations on January SIXTH of course, being the last day of Epiphany or Three King's Day. All of these celebrations around Christmas are the Church's attempt to monopolise/usurp Saturnalia, which was the original pagan feast celebrated at this time for thousands of years before Jesus.

Epiphany originally ran from 25th Dec. to Jan 6th. Saturnalia marked the turning of the year for the Winter Solstice (21st Dec) and originally spanned seven days from December 17th until December 23rd. There is absolutely no record of any human sacrifice occurring or being required at the Roman Saturnalia.

The atmosphere for Saturnalia was one of licentiousness and revelry; enjoyment and fun. Most all of the 'enjoyable' bits of Christmas, yule logs, carolling, christmas trees, feasting, mince pies, xmas puds, etc., are derived from the pagan winter festivities.

The Northern Pagan Tradition has the Yule Festival which began usually on December 17th and lasted 13 days until December 30th. There is therefore no possibility of December 18th being a day of sacrifice.

Thus there is no combination of dates and events which, even in error, equate with what the Met. have accepted.
Whichever way you look at it the information given to the MET is WRONG. It is either factually in error or purposefully obfuscated.” – From the Sub–culture Alternatives Freedom Foundation: [http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/winebald.htm](http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/winebald.htm)

“The Da Muer Ritual”

**CLARIFICATION:** References to “the Da Muer ritual” appear to be arcane at best, and at worst, a total fabrication by Balsiger. No references to this term can be found in actual occult resources, or anywhere else other than in Balsiger’s “Occult Calendar” and its many populist derivatives in SRA literature, and all over the internet where these are discussed and referred to. Translation programs also do not recognize the language of origin, so even a translated meaning cannot be found. Further, inquiries into the Satanist and Pagan communities have also provided no solution other than the obvious: Balsiger simply made these terms up in order to fit some convenient dates and existing rituals in diverse religions in order to “demonize” them.

Kerr Cuhulain discusses “Da Muer” as an alleged “ritual” of human or animal sacrifice in another article which also addresses a similar “Occult Calendar” to Balsiger’s, and possibly based upon his. He describes a possible meaning for the term as “Good Great/Large” in Cornish. ([http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_article.html?a=cabc&id=4740](http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_article.html?a=cabc&id=4740)):

“The term "Da Muer," which appears twice in this calendar, is probably derived from the Cornish "Da" ("good") and "Vuer"/"Muer" ("large" or "great"). It seems to be a reference to the Great Rite in British traditions of Wicca. Of course these Great Rites are neither orgies nor sacrificial rites.

- "DATE: June 21, CELEBRATION: Feast Day (Summer Solstice), TYPE: Orgies, USAGE: Oral, Anal, Vaginal, AGE: Any age (male or female, human or animal)."[15]

**NOTE:** This is indeed the Summer Solstice, but none of the rest of the activities described by this calendar will be familiar to Pagans. Wiccans call the Solstice Litha or Alban Heruin. This is a "Lesser Sabbat" in the Wiccan calendar. It was originally a Saxon celebration incorporated into the Wiccan calendar as a celebration of the first fruits of the season. In some traditions, this day is celebrated as the Sacred Marriage of the Goddess and God. In others it is celebrated as the victory of the Lord of the waning year over the Lord of the Waxing year, to mark the point from which the days will shorten. None of these celebrations require orgies.

- "DATE: July 1, CELEBRATION: Demon Revels, TYPE: Blood, USAGE: Druids sexual association with demons, AGE: Any age (female)."[16]
NOTE: I have been unable to find any religious group, including the Druids, who celebrate anything on July 1. July 1 is Canada Day. Perhaps Frattarola is suggesting that Canadians are Satanic?

- "DATE: Sept. 7, CELEBRATION: Marriage to the Beast Satan, TYPE: Sexual, USAGE: Sacrifice, Dismemberment, AGE: Infant to 21 (female)."[18]

NOTE: These last two entries, August 3 and September 7, are days which no religious group seems to claim for a festival, including Pagans.

- "DATE: Sept. 20, CELEBRATION: Midnight Host, TYPE: Blood, USAGE: Dismemberment (hands planted), AGE: Infant to 21 (female)."[19]
- "DATE: Sept. 22, CELEBRATION: Feast Day (Fall Equinox), TYPE: Orgies, USAGE: Oral, Anal, Vaginal, AGE: Any age (male or female, human or animal)."[20]

NOTE: These last two entries are certainly related to the Fall Equinox. Wiccans call this day Mabon, after the Celtic deity Mabon ("mother"), who is mentioned in the story of Culhwch and Olwen. His name translates simply as "son". It is also known as Alban Elved. Mabon is a "Lesser Sabbat" which is the third and last harvest festival of the Wiccan calendar. It is a time of thanksgiving for the bounty of the earth which will sustain the people through the Winter. Pagans do not have orgies or dismember people on this or any other date."

**Walpurgis Nacht:** The association by SRA pundits of “Walpurgis Nacht” with Satanism is also demystified in the same article:

“Because Beltaine, a Celtic festival, traditionally occurs on April 30, some people today use the term Walpurgis to describe it. The association of witches with Walpurgis eventually led to the belief that Walpurgis was a Satanic holiday. For example, Anton LaVey names Walpurgis as one of the Satanic festivals in his *Satanic Bible.*” - [http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_article.html?a=cabc&i=4740](http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_article.html?a=cabc&i=4740)

Wikipedia describes Walpurgis Nacht thusly:

**Walpurgis Night** (Walpurgisnacht) is a traditional spring festival on 30 April or 1 May in large parts of Central and Northern Europe. It is often celebrated with dancing and with bonfires. It is exactly six months from All Hallows' Eve.

The current festival is, in most countries that celebrate it, named after the English missionary Saint Walpurga (ca. 710–777/9). As Walpurga was canonized on 1 May (ca. 870), she became associated with May Day, especially in the Finnish and Swedish calendars.[1][2] The eve of May Day, traditionally celebrated with dancing, came to be known as Walpurgisnacht ("Walpurga's night"). The name of the holiday is Walpurgisnacht in German and Dutch” –
Walpurgis Nacht is yet again, another Christian holiday or festival being maligned and portrayed as something it is not, by ironically enough, Christians themselves.

The “Grand Climax”

As presented in the occult calendar, Balsiger wrote: “April 25-Grand Climax. Five weeks and one day after Spring Equinox. Da Muer ritual. Sexual activity-oral, anal and/or vaginal sex. Female child sacrifice. The sacrifice can be a child.”

According to the Church of Satan:

“April 30 is the grand climax of the spring equinox and Halloween was one of the times of the great fire festivals among the ancient Druids.” – From the Church of Satan: http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/ChaplainsHandbook.html

CLARIFICATION: Presumably, this is where the reference to “the Grand Climax” used in so-called “occult calendars” comes from. Taken in this context, it is anything but intended to be taken as a sexual innuendo unlike the manner it is presented in the Balsiger’s “1988 Occult Calendar”. As seen in its original context, “grand climax” (small letters) refers to the highpoint of the spring equinox, at April 30 in the northern hemisphere.

“In The Edge of Evil "Grand High Climax" is said to be a major holiday celebrated by Satanists on December 24. Evangelical Christian author Jerry Johnston says in this book that it is a celebration meant to juxtapose the Christian holiday of Christmas Eve, when the birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated. However this goal to blaspheme is not always prevalent.[4]

He claims that Grand High Climax is traditionally celebrated with a Black Mass, followed by great excesses of food, drink, sex, and merriment, but a rite called "Grand High Climax", and the details of the activities involved, is not a rite acknowledged by all Satanic groups. It was once part of the Satanic panic and beliefs about the Witches' Sabbath.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanic_holidays

An Example Of The Calendar In Action:

As an example of how this material is used in journalism which results in essentially an SRA article, below a quote from a newspaper reporting on the alleged ritual killing of a horse in Cornwall, UK in 2012:

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
"Although apocryphal in origin, Satanists have adopted ‘St Winebalds Day’ as an occasion of ‘blood rituals, dismemberment, animal or human sacrifice’.

It features in a number of ‘Satanic Calendars’, and cops are considering the theory a group of sadists chose the occasion, together with that of the full moon, to strike.” - From the Cornwall Community News: http://www.cornwallcommunitynews.co.uk/2012/01/10/the-work-of-the-devil/

Another striking example of how ordinary (typically Christian) people are affected by the sheer lunacy (and genius) of this propagandistic device, can be seen on personal blogs such as this one: http://lyzete.blogspot.com/2012/09/the-occult-calendar.html where it is clear the deception has been swallowed hook, line, sinker – all the way up to the fisherman’s boots.

What is clear though, is that wherever this material is cross-posted, it is like the rumor that moves from one end of a line of people to the other. By the time it reaches the other end, it has been altered, added to and modified. The above example also includes claims that celebratory fireworks displays (using images of the Olympic Games as an example) to claim that the masses are “being led to worship Satan with fire”.

Each site that posts their own copy of the calendar seems to add its own spin to it. For example, this site mentions the following making a reference to a conspiracy theory popular among a fringe group of fundamentalist Christians:

“NOTE: Those dedicated to bringing in the Luciferian one-world Global Government know that much bloodshed is needed to bring about the necessary "spiritual vibrations" (cooperation of devils) to bring in the New Order. This bloodshed is accomplished by way of ritual killings; planned terrorist events, planned disasters and wars; catastrophes caused by weather modification (ie. Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy); abortion; suicide; euthanasia; killings in foster care, and every conceivable way of causing death -- especially on a large scale.” – from Liberty To The Captives: http://libertytothecaptives.net/ritual_calendar.html

(Note the use of “Luciferian” to mean “Satanist”. The two terms are NOT interchangeable as these people think, as Luciferianism is a wholly separate religion from Satanism, only associated with Satanism because of the Christian belief that the Devil, or Satan and Lucifer (an angel of light, or Prometheus, Greek god of fire) are one and the same.)

This material spreads, adapts, is added to, and is molded to resemble truth. In effect, the lie is perpetuated and repeated ad nauseum, to the extent that it becomes seen as manifest truth.
This sort of SRA material is also used to great effect in convincing law enforcement officials around the world that there is a vast underground conspiracy of child kidnapping and sacrificing “Satanists” just under their noses. The case below is quoted from an article detailing how UK police were given presentations on “Satanic Ritual Abuse” in the 2000’s:

“Satanic Calendars Drawn Up By Satan Hunters

Apart from fundamentalist dictionaries of supposed occult-symbols and satanic personality profiles so loose that 90% of the population would find themselves in clink, chief amongst those things which were designed by fundamentalist witch-hunters to ensure a maximum net catch was a Diary of Satanic Festivals. Surprise, surprise, there was almost one ‘Satanic Festival’ for every day in the year, ensuring that whenever anything mysterious happened it would always fall on a ‘Satanic Festival’ and could therefore be blamed on them.

To illustrate this, the ‘lecturers’ at the Met’s December 2005 Satan Seminar focussed on the ‘Satanic Festival’ of St Winebald’s Day which conveniently fell in that month. In interviews in the press and broadcast media the Satanic significance of St Winebald’s Day was emphasised as though beyond challenge and it was claimed with utmost certainty that it was a day when Satanists would Sacrifice animals and humans!”

– from Sub-culture Alternatives Freedom Foundation (SAFF):
http://www.saff.ukhq.co.uk/winebald.htm

Items such as the “occult calendar” serve the purpose of allowing (or causing) law enforcement officials to draw connections between secular crimes and alleged occult or Satanist activity in order to further pressure religious minorities by the predictable affect of further fueling SRA and hence creating increased support for SRA “occult experts”.

**CLARIFICATION:** By perpetuating this sort of propaganda, Auksano and other warfare ministries instill fear and incite hostility against other religions, poisoning the minds of their audiences against innocent people based simply on conjecture, assumption, lies, and ignorance – and not on facts.

Endorsing a fabrication says a lot about the integrity of this group, or their ability to tell truth from fallacy. The frightening part is how many of their supporters, and other Christians – and presently serving police officials – actually believe this fabrication.

**To conclude:** For these reasons, this article’s claims of human sacrifice, kidnapping and rape are without basis and discriminate against Pagans and Satanists alike. Those who read this item should be left thinking that Pagans, Satanists and Witches are obsessed with year-round sex orgies, and animal and human sacrifice!

Consequently, somewhere, there must be at least a few solitary Christians in the midst of all this SRA nonsense, left wondering why they never seem to
hear of any actual victims of such kidnappings, dismemberment and ritual sacrifices being named in TV or print news, or in ‘in memoriam’ listings in the smalls saying “R.I.P Joan Smith, decapitated and sacrificed to Satan on Walpurgisnacht 2012”?

The “Occult Calendar” is often referred to by unsuspecting journalists, investigators and ordinary citizens as factual, when it is nothing but the conflation of fiction and misassociated factoids presented as a conspiracy.

7. Satanic Jargon

Some things which Satanists say:

“Hail Satan!” Anyone who has watched old horror movies, or listened to Rob Zombie has heard this phrase somewhere before.

8. Satanic Religions

Most people assume that the term Satanism defines people who believe in more or less the same thing, worshiping the same god(s) using the same books or scriptures and believing the same dogma.

Satanism is actually an umbrella term, because there are a large number of different religions which self-identify themselves and their belief structures as Satanism. Often, these will criticize each other for using the name “Satanism”, and sometimes try to discredit other groups, with each claiming to be “true Satanists”.

Under the umbrella term “Satanism”, there are numerous different like religions which are associated with the term. In some cases, the association with Satanism as a religious identity is made by the group itself, but also in some cases, the association is forced upon a group which has nothing at all to do with Satanism as a religion, by an incomprehensive external society, and also, SRA programming.

In this section, we will examine Satanism on the basis of core belief – that is whether the groups are theistic or atheistic, and also wrt to which aspect of Satan or other Christian synonyms these groups associate or worship.

To start with, groups which identify specifically as “Satanist” will be discussed separately from those who identify as “Luciferians” for reasons as will be discussed in their respective sections.

Satanism

Satanism is subdivided into two different main ideological categories: Atheistic and Theistic Satanism.
Atheistic Satanism:

“Most atheistic Satanists do not believe in or have faith in Satan or Lucifer as a real being in the same way that Christians view God or Jesus Christ. Instead, the focus is on viewing the self as the center of development, power and achievement.

NOTE: Atheism is NOT the same as Atheistic Satanism. The difference is that atheists do not identify themselves as Satanists, nor do they identify with Satanism or the image of Satan or Lucifer in any form, nor do they accept the existence of any deity.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism

Sub-sects of Atheistic Satanism:

Within Atheistic Satanism, there are various different groupings, churches or traditions, each with their own take on the concept or ideology of atheistic Satanism. Atheistic Satanism does not view Satan as an actual entity, or worship Satan as a living supernatural entity or deity, but is an ideology which centers on self.

LaVeyan Satanism

Anton Szandor LaVey was the founder of LaVeyan Satanism, the Church of Satan, and the author of several books on Satanism and the occult. LaVeyan Satanism is perhaps the most public and recognizable face of Satanist religion today.

Aside from the The Satanic Bible (1969) collection of LaVey’s philosophy, LaVey also wrote several other works, namely:

The Satanic Rituals (1972)
The Satanic Witch (1989)
The Devil's Notebook (1992) and Satan Speaks! (1998)

“Anton Szandor LaVey (born Howard Stanton Levey; April 11, 1930 – October 29, 1997) was the founder of the Church of Satan as well as a writer, occultist, and musician. He was the author of The Satanic Bible and the founder of LaVeyan Satanism, a synthesized system of his understanding of human nature and the insights of philosophers who advocated materialism and individualism, for which he claimed no supernatural or theistic inspiration.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton_LaVey

“LaVeyan Satanism is a philosophy (not considered a religion by many of its followers) founded in 1966 by Anton Szandor LaVey. Its teachings are based on individualism, self-indulgence, and “eye for an eye” morality. Unlike theistic Satanists, LaVeyan Satanists are atheists who regard Satan as a symbol of man's inherent nature.[12]
to religioustolerance.org, LaVeyan Satanism is a “small religious group that is unrelated to any other faith, and whose members feel free to satisfy their urges responsibly, exhibit kindness to their friends, and attack their enemies”.[13] Its beliefs were first detailed in The Satanic Bible and it is overseen by the Church of Satan.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism

Symbolic Satanism

“The Symbolic Satanist views Satan as a fictional, mental/mythic archetype, and admire the character as the "Adversary" or the "Lightbringer".[14]” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism

“During the last several decades of the 20th century, most public Satanists were only symbolic Satanists. That is, they did not literally believe in or worship Satan. Instead, they regarded Satan as only a symbol of various desirable qualities such as independence, individuality, and strength. Many were atheists.” – From Theistic Satanism: The new Satanicisms of the era of the Internet by Diane Vera: http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/dvera/index.html

Casual Satanism

“Casual satanism is the use of satanic symbols like the inverted pentagram/Sigil of Baphomet, the trappings of the black mass, or demonic imagery to provide the impression of satanism.[15] This is a liminal experience, reserved primarily for shock value, and does not necessarily indicate actual belief, or even interest, in the rites, symbolism, and philosophies of the various forms of Satanist practice cited above.[16]” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism

Theistic Satanism:

“Theistic Satanism (also known as traditional Satanism, spiritual Satanism or Devil Worship) is a form of Satanism with the primary belief that Satan is an actual deity or force to revere or worship.[10][11]

Other characteristics of theistic Satanism may include a belief in magic, which is manipulated through ritual, although that is not a defining criterion, and theistic Satanists may focus solely on devotion. Unlike the LaVeyan Satanism founded by Anton LaVey in the 1960s, theistic Satanism is theistic as opposed to atheistic, believing that Satan is a real being rather than a symbol of individualism.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism

A large number of Theistic Satanist groups can be found on Diane Vera’s informative website Theistic Satanist.com – http://theisticsatanism.com/varieties/index.html

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”

Version 01.00
Sub-sects of Theistic Satanism:

The Temple of Set (ToS)

“The Temple of Set is an occultist organization following the left-hand path. Setians practice a religious philosophy of Self Initiation that involves the progressive refinement and improvement of themselves through the theoretical study and practical application of the Black Arts. This philosophy is summarized in the word Xeper, which is Egyptian and means "I have come into being." “The Temple of Set was reconsecrated in Santa Barbara, California during the summer solstice night of 21 – 22 June 1975, by Michael A. Aquino, in a "greater black magic" ritual that resulted in what believers regard as an inspired text titled The Book of Coming Forth by Night. Aquino later stated that the name of the text is an "evident negation" of the name of the Ancient Egyptian Book of Coming Forth by Day, also known as the Book of the Dead.”

"This Working became necessary when many Satanists, along with the majority of the Priesthood of the Church of Satan,[2] left that organization because of administrative and philosophical disagreements with its founder Anton Szandor LaVey.[2] The Temple of Set was incorporated in California that same year as a nonprofit church.[3]"

“The philosophy of the Temple of Set may be summed up as "enlightened individualism": enhancement and improvement of oneself by personal education, experiment, and initiation. This process, necessarily different and distinctive for each individual, is referred to within the Temple by the Egyptian hieroglyphic term Kheper[pronunciation?], or "Xeper" (a phonetic of _Xpr_), as the Temple of Set prefers to write it. Xeper is symbolized by the scarab beetle, significant of personal rebirth and immortality within the Temple of Set.[7] The term is deemed central to Setian philosophy and practice, having been introduced at the founding of the Temple of Set in 1975, when Aquino made the claim that the Egyptian god Set communicated the word Xeper in the sense of "become" to him during the "North Solstice X Working" aka "The Santa Barbara Working."” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_Set

“ToS-paradigm Satanism. Forms of theistic Satanism strongly influenced by the writings of Michael Aquino, founder of the Temple of Set, which itself no longer identifies as "Satanist," but which nevertheless has been a major influence on subsequent Satanist and "Left Hand Path" groups and writers.” – From Theistic Satanism: http://theisticsatanism.com/varieties/index.html
Palladists:

“Palladists are an alleged theistic Satanist society or member of that society. The name Palladian comes from Pallas and refers to wisdom and learning. It is of no relation to Palladium or the palladian style of Andrea Palladio.” – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism)

Spiritual Satanism:

This appears to be a relatively small and new branch of Satanism, appearing around 2004-5 and founded by an American group calling themselves “Joy of Satan Ministries”. Much of their site appears to be “evangelical” Satanism, echoing the style of Christian ministries proclaiming their beliefs in a proselytizing fashion. Among the more rational statements on their website, the following:

“Spiritual Satanism, like "Traditional Satanism," differs from LaVeyan Satanism. We are aware of the existence of Satan/Lucifer as an actual being. We are not atheists!” “Many Traditional Satanists worship Satan/Lucifer. Some acknowledge him as a friend and do not worship. We respect individuality and personal choices. One’s relationship with Satan/Lucifer is up to the individual, as Satanism values free thought and individuality.” – Joy Of Satan Ministries: [http://www.joyofsatan.org/](http://www.joyofsatan.org/)

While this may be a legitimate Satanic off-shoot, controversy looms in the shadows: “The Facts of JOS” ([http://factsofjos.angelfire.com/](http://factsofjos.angelfire.com/)) is a debunking site set up by former JOS members, allegedly unmasking this movement as a neo-Nazi, anti-Semitic, racist Holocaust-denialist group, attributed to its founder, Maxine Dietrich aka Andrea Herrington. The “debunkers” identify themselves as Black Power Satanists, those of African-American descent, who clearly took offense at being evicted from the Joy of Satan group on the grounds of their race.

Independent Satanism:

Independent Satanism appears to mean individuals not aligned with any specific organization, ideology or branch of “mainstream Satanism”. In fact, the term Eclectic Satanism might better describe it, were it not for the fact that these independents seem to have already claimed the term for themselves.

Independents appear to fit the description of either Theistic or Atheistic Satanists, while also adopting elements of various or even all other forms of Satanism that suit their personal needs, feelings or choices,
hence the eclectic and more apparent spiritual nature of Independent Satanism.

“Independent Satanism is the path for me. I do not belong to any organizations. I walk alone. But, I do enjoy speaking with other satanists who are also independent.” – Venus Satanas, http://www.spiritualsatanist.com/

Independent Satanists are more than likely solitary in their beliefs and in their expression. A good example of a resource site for Independent Satanists is Spiritual Satanist.com - http://www.spiritualsatanist.com/

“Tabloid SRA Prophecy Fulfillers”:

These are not necessarily Satanists as the Satanic ‘community’ understands them, but are more likely people who have been swayed or seduced by the image of Satanism as portrayed by SRA hysteria. In short, they are people who identify with the dangerous anti-social image created by the hysterics, which does not in fact exist within the sphere of the Satanic religion perse’. Often, these are the people who go on killing sprees, steal and kill neighborhood pets, become involved in violent crime and so on.

If for example, SRA states that “Satanists wear black nail varnish and upside-down crosses, listen to heavy metal music and kill children”, then some of these people may actually DO some of these things in order to measure up to what they expect Satanism to be, based upon what the SRA hysteria says it is. This is how they fulfill the “prophecy” of “Satanic panic”.

The SRA pundits then use these examples to “prove” their point that “Satanists do x, y, and z”, thus closing the circle in what is the self-fulfilling prophecy that is SRA.

The following excerpt from “Tabloid prophecy fulfillers - Satanism’s real-life criminal fringe: How should law-abiding Satanists respond?” by Diane Vera http://theisticsatanism.com/asp/realcrime.html:

“As far as I can tell, the vast majority of criminals-in-the-name-of-Satan are teenage dabblers. I feel justified in calling them "dabblers" because, as far as I can tell, the vast majority of them do not remain interested in Satanism for very long.

For example, when Geifodd moved to the Bible Belt town where he spent his last two years of high school and his first two years of college, he ran into a clique of about 20 teenagers who killed stray cats in the name of Satan, in some cases torturing them. A few of these kids were sent away to mental institutions soon after Geifodd met them. The remaining kids all gave up their
"Satanism" after a couple of months. Most became fundamentalist Christians, while a few others became neo-Nazis. Only Geifodd himself, the law-abiding Satanist, remained interested in Satanism. "How can we serious longterm Satanists distance ourselves from teenage criminals-in-the-name-of-Satan? One way is to point out that most of them are, in fact, dabblers who will most likely leave Satanism soon, whereas serious longterm Satanists tend to law-abiding.

But we should also be careful to point out that, although the vast majority of criminals-in-the-name-of-Satan are teenage dabblers, even teenage dabblers in Satanism are not necessarily criminal. The majority of people in the Internet Satanist scene are teenagers, of whom some are dabblers and some will turn out to have a more lasting interest in Satanism. There is no reason to assume that all or most of these kids are criminals. Most likely, some are criminals but most are not.

"In books and articles about "Satanic crime," one of the usual four or five categories is "self-styled Satanists," a term commonly used to refer to lone murderers who do their thing in the name of Satan (or who at least claim, after the fact, to have committed their crimes as "human sacrifices" to Satan) and who are not members of any Satanist group.

Big problems with this terminology:

A) A great many noncriminal Satanists too are "self-styled" in the sense of (1) developing their own belief systems and (2) not being members of any public, formally organized Satanist churches such as the Church of Satan or the Temple of Set. Most books and articles on "Satanic crime" - even some of the better ones - simply don't recognize the existence of noncriminal adult Satanists who aren't members of the Satanic churches. Most "Satanic crime" books and articles divide Satanists into four or five categories, of which only one category - the membership of Satanic churches - is said to be noncriminal. All others are assumed to be criminals. In particular, adult Satanists who aren't members of Satanic churches are assumed to be murderers (whereas it is said that teenage dabblers may stop at lesser crimes such as church vandalism). Needless to say, this is an exceedingly dangerous notion for us law-abiding independent Satanists.

Most likely, one reason for this idea's ubiquity is that, until the Internet became popular, law-abiding independent Satanists have simply not been visible. Outside the Satanic churches, the only Satanists who have gotten their names in newspapers have been the criminals. (Gays had a similar problem before the advent of the Gay Liberation movement around 1970.) However,
thanks to the advent of the Internet, it has now become clear that there are a lot of noncriminal independent Satanists out there.

What we desperately need now is to find some scholars of new religions who would be willing to get to know a bunch of us and provide outside testimony about the existence of a great many noncriminal independent Satanists, including a great many non-LaVeyans. So far, we've gotten some very valuable help from James R. Lewis in his articles in the Marburg Journal of Religion (Who Serves Satan? A Demographic and Ideological Profile, in Volume 6, No. 2, June 2001, and Diabolical Authority: Anton LaVey, The Satanic Bible and the Satanist "Tradition" in Volume 7, No. 1, September 2002). His articles attest, at least, the existence of a great many noncriminal Satanists who aren't members of any Satanic church. But nearly all the Satanists he interviewed were quite LaVeyan-leaning. Lewis's articles were published before the recent (2002-2005) explosion in the number of non-LaVeyan theistic Satanists participating in various Internet forums. So we now need some scholars to interview an assortment of non-LaVeyan theistic Satanists. (If you're a scholar of new religions, please see To scholars of new religions: Suggestions for research on Satanism on my Theistic Satanism site.)

B) Because most forms of Satanism give at least lip service to the idea of thinking for oneself, one could argue that all true Satanists are "self-styled" in the sense of working out their own belief systems

C) For at least some "self-styled Satanist" murderers, their claim of "Satanism" is part of a bid for clemency, thus a bit suspicious. Some have claimed "the Devil made me do it" as part of an insanity plea. Others apparently hope for reduced prison time on the grounds that they were once Satanists and have now found Jesus. Of course, some may have sincerely believed that they were performing human sacrifices to Satan, but this should not be assumed to be true in any particular case without an in-depth investigation.

For all of the above reasons, we should object vehemently to the term "self-styled Satanist" as a synonym for "lone murderer in the name of Satan."

For most of these murderers, a better term might be "Devil-made-me-do-it killer," a term which points out their typical unwillingness to take responsibility for their actions. (See, for example, the article “Satanic” man who murdered priest in Chile says he did not choose the victim - Catholic News Agency, Santiago, Aug. 04, 2004. For more news stories about this case,
see my page on Rodrigo Orias Gallardo and the murder of Father Faustino Gazziero D'Estefani in Chile. Their lack of self-responsibility is good to emphasize because it highlights a key difference between Devil-made-me-do-it murderers and the ideals of most forms of Satanism, one of which is taking responsibility for the consequences of one's own actions." – From Theistic Satanism by Diane Vera: http://theisticsatanism.com/asp/realcrime.html

Luciferianism

Luciferianism is described as a stand-alone religion, wholly separate from Satanism. Luciferianism is NOT Satanism, in fact it is a spiritual or religious path distinctly separate from Satanism and does not (either in its theistic or atheistic forms) focus on the Judeo-Christian character of Satan or the Devil at all, or at least, not in the same sense as a Satanist (either theistic or atheistic) would.

According to Diane Vera, a widely recognized authority within Satanism also explains that Luciferianism is not viewed as part of Satanism, although she mentions that some cross-influences are felt in both camps.

"Gnostic Luciferianism, based on ancient Ophite Gnosticism, usually combined with subsequent Western occult traditions. Lucifer is typically seen as both a bringer of spiritual enlightenment and a champion of individual liberty. Some Luciferians are also strongly influenced by LaVeyan Satanism or by the Temple of Set paradigm, though most are not. Luciferians typically make a sharp distinction between "Lucifer" and "Satan" and between "Luciferianism" and "Satanism," although their idea of "Lucifer" typically does borrow at least some themes from the Christian Devil concept. But a few Gnostic Luciferians do identify as "Satanist" as well as "Luciferian"; a well-known example was Herbert Sloane's Lady of Endor Coven, founded back in 1948. Those relatively few Gnostic Luciferians who do see "Lucifer" and "Satan" as the same entity (or as aspects of the same entity) can be considered primary theistic Satanists. Because most Luciferians do not consider themselves to be "Satanists," I won't list any Luciferian groups here, but it is easy to find a few by Googling "Luciferian Gnostic.""

Luciferianism is included in this section on Satanist religion because the figure or deity after which it takes its name is often associated with Satanism because of the Christian view that Satan and Lucifer are one and the same thing. While other religions and subcultures are also often associated with Satanism as well, these do not acknowledge or recognize or center on any of the aspects of the Judeo-Christian deity or deities presented as Satan/Lucifer, the fallen angel or the Devil.

"Luciferianism is often identified as an auxiliary creed or movement of Satanism, due to the common identification of Lucifer with Satan. Some Luciferians accept this identification and/or consider Lucifer as
the "light bearer" and illuminated aspect of Satan, giving them the name of Satanists and the right to bear the title.

Others reject it, giving the argument that Lucifer is a more positive and easy-going ideal than Satan. They are inspired by the ancient myths of Egypt, Rome and Greece, Gnosticism and traditional Western occultism. – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism

However the association of Luciferianism and Satanism is viewed both externally and internally, the differences can be seen in the internal beliefs and focus and spiritual aspects of Luciferianism.

While Satanism is focused on power and self-preservation and hedonism, Luciferians are more focused on knowledge, learning, evolution of the self and helping others around them to achieve the same. Like Satanism, Luciferianism is also sub-categorized as theistic and atheistic, and even non-theistic.

“Although Luciferianism and Satanism are often incorrectly referred to interchangeably, they are very dissimilar. Theistic Luciferians may sometimes demonstrate characteristics or practices that cross over with theistic Satanism, but Lucifer is regarded as an angel or god of light, a more positive ideal than the animalistic and materialistic deity recognized by theistic Satanists.”

“Although sometimes mistakenly associated with Satanism due to the Christian interpretation of the fallen angel, Luciferianism is a wholly different and unrelated belief system and does not revere the Devil figure or most characteristics typically affixed to Satan. Rather, Lucifer in this context is seen as one of many Morning Star, a symbol of enlightenment, independence and human progression, and is often used interchangeably with similar figures from a range of ancient beliefs, such as the Greek titan Prometheus or the Jewish figure Lilith.”

“Satanism, whether theestic or LaVeyan, is highly materialistic and carnal, recognizing the existence of humankind as an animal and encouraging the acknowledgment of one’s primal tendencies. The welfare and happiness of the self comes first, before the welfare of others. Satanism, while it condemns violence and does in many cases venerate nature, places a strong focus on survival, power, self-indulgence and materialism, and takes more of an elitist stance towards stupidity.

In contrast, Luciferianism seeks to enlighten all of humankind, and Luciferians are encouraged not to convert but to spread knowledge, understanding and tolerance wherever possible, helping others to realize the potential for greatness within themselves, and to achieve as much as they can. There is a spotlight on doing good and placing
others before the self, regardless of who they are. While Satanists are deeply involved in living for the moment, content to remain who or what they currently are, Luciferians seek ways to aid humanity’s progression to the next stage of social, physical or intellectual evolution. One religion deals with the self, while the other deals with humanity as a whole and the natural world in which we live. In spite of using similar archetypes, the Luciferian pursuit of knowledge and understanding has little in common with the Satanic goal of immediate gratification."

"Contrary to popular misconceptions, Luciferianism does not support violence or amoral practices. Luciferians strongly believe in equality, moral excellence, honesty and integrity. They support the moral and intellectual development of children in particular, and the protection of the natural world.

Both the arts and sciences are crucial to human development, and artistic creativity is cherished and encouraged as much as scientific inquiry.

Rather than focusing on "what comes next", Luciferians feel that humans should be focused on this life and how to make the most of it every single day. The ability to recognize both good and evil, to accept that all actions have consequences, both positive and negative, and to actively influence one’s environment, is a key factor.

For Luciferians, enlightenment is the ultimate goal. They prize the wonders of nature and seek to connect with the natural world and the universe that humans inhabit, in order to move humankind forward through both physical and social evolution.

Luciferian principles highlight truth and freedom of will, worshipping the inner self and one’s ultimate potential as opposed to bowing to the rules of a supernatural entity.

Traditional dogma is shunned as a basis for morality on the grounds that humans should not need deities or fear of eternal punishment to distinguish right from wrong and to do good. Instead, they believe that humans should accept who and what they are, the good and the flaws alike, and should seek first and foremost to better themselves and to expand knowledge and understanding, both on a personal level and on a worldwide scale. All ideas should be tested before being accepted, and even then one should remain skeptical because knowledge and understanding are fluid. The ongoing search for truth is paramount.

In whatever incarnation Lucifer is viewed, whether theistic or atheistic, whether thought of as Prometheus defying the gods to bring fire to mankind, or Satan giving Eve the apple, allowing humans to think for themselves and to move beyond their childlike beginnings, he is a representation of ultimate knowledge and exploration: humanity’s

“Luciferianism can be understood best as a belief system or intellectual creed that venerates the essential and inherent characteristics that are affixed and commonly given to Lucifer.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism

Theistic Luciferianism

“Some Luciferians believe in Lucifer as an actual deity, not to be worshipped as the Judeo-Christian God but to be revered and followed as a teacher and friend, as a rescuer or guiding spirit, or even the one true god as opposed to the traditional creator of Judaism.[1][1] Theistic Luciferians are followers of the Left-Hand Path and may adhere to different dogmata put forth by organizations such as the Neo-Luciferian Church or other congregations that are heavily focused on ceremonial magick, the occult and literal interpretations of spiritual stories and figures.

Most theistic Luciferians, however, are solitary practitioners, connecting with others who share their beliefs but not forming or following a particular institution. A personal relationship with Lucifer is commonly achieved through meditation and the practice of magick, either independently or in small groups, unaffiliated with a larger community. While this relationship is a deeply personal one and, as such, varies from one practitioner to another, it follows by default the Neo Pagan approach of seeking camaraderie and inspiration rather than the father/child or master/servant dynamic of monotheistic beliefs. The thought of a spiritual hierarchy or submission to a higher power is looked down upon on the grounds that being a god is not enough; even a deity must earn respect and admiration from those who follow him. In some cases, Lucifer is seen as a rebel angel or opposing God who sought to move humankind forward in defiance of Jehovah’s will to keep them ignorant and childlike. In other cases, Lucifer is believed to be the actual creator of Earth and the mortal realm, and was punished for bringing humans into existence. Exact beliefs and practices vary greatly, as they do within any religion, but in all cases Lucifer is considered to be a positive figure of both social and intellectual progress, with magick and ritual as potential tools to follow in his footsteps.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luciferianism

Nontheistic Luciferianism

“Nontheistic Luciferians fall right in between the theistic and atheistic approaches. They do not necessarily accept Lucifer as..."
a literal deity but, unlike atheists, they do have faith in the existence of something greater than the material world, including the possibility of an afterlife, reincarnation or universal energies and occurrences beyond human understanding. It is sometimes described as “agnosticism for Luciferians,” in which the base principles and ideologies of the religion are prized, but without the worship of or belief in a particular entity behind those ideals or energies.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luciferianism

Atheistic Luciferianism

“Atheists make up the majority of Luciferians and are nearly identical to their theistic counterparts in regards to ideology, ritual and magickal practices. However, rather than acknowledging Lucifer as a literal being, they see him (and all related lore) as purely symbolic. While the theists believe in an actual higher power who can be communicated with on a spiritual level, the atheists take those same figures and stories as metaphors, using the principles and beliefs of theistic Luciferianism as a way of explaining or guiding their individual philosophies and approaches to life.

Most, but not all, atheistic Luciferians are involved with the occult and practice magick, ritual and meditation. They do not accept the idea of non-corporeal entities but do often follow the occult as a means of harnessing the natural powers and energies around them to achieve their goals. In this way, many embrace the concept of Lucifer as the inner self, and essentially deify themselves by striving to understand, change and recreate the world around them, becoming their own “gods.” Striving for apotheosis is a common theme among most Luciferians, but the approach runs particularly strong amongst atheistic practitioners.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luciferianism

Arcadic Luciferianism

Named for the ancient mythological society of Arcadia, this branch of atheistic Luciferianism is a unique marriage of secular humanism and Neo Pagan culture. Unlike most Luciferians, Arcadians do not believe in or engage in the literal practice of magick or the occult. Although they do revere mythology and religious lore, and may involve themselves in traditional Neo Pagan rites, they shun the idea of a higher power or universal plan. Most Arcadians actively celebrate the pagan seasonal festivals based on the Wheel of the Year, primarily as part of a cherished cultural tradition, but unlike other types of Luciferians,
they interpret all such rites as purely symbolic and otherwise distance themselves from the occult. The stories and figures of ancient cultures function as representations and creative manifestations of individual morals and Luciferian philosophy.

Like its namesake, this form of Luciferianism prefers the concept of a natural life, free from the burdens and expectations of modern civilization, particularly those triggered by theistic beliefs. Like secular humanists, Arcadians glorify reason, equality and progressive thought, and look down on religious dogma. Objectivity, science and personal exploration or discovery are treasured beyond anything else, with the ultimate goal being a world of peace, acceptance and unity that is neither imposed nor hindered by theism, entirely free of the supernatural. Unlike Humanists, however, they have a deep appreciation for spiritual symbolism. They incorporate mythological figures and stories into their lives as representations of humanistic ideals, their outlook directly influenced by secular interpretations of those concepts, and how such ideas may apply to the scientific world or the past, present and future of humanity.” – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luciferianism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luciferianism)

**Monadic Luciferianism**

Monadic Luciferianism appears to be a fairly recent development (2010), claiming to be a philosophy of life centered on self. Additionally, it appears to have an extremely small following, perhaps because of it being so new, having first made its appearance in 2010.

According to some of those who have seen the ten precepts upon which it is based, it "seems to be nothing more than a bunch of universal spiritual ideas packaged and labeled with the words "Monadic Luciferianism".

"The Society of Lucifer (SOL) was founded by Mabuz Luciferi at the Summer Solstice 2010 in Glastonbury, Britain. SOL is the vehicle of the developing personal philosophy of Mabuz Luciferi known as Monadic Luciferianism. The Liberated Way is the practical application of Monadic Luciferianism.

As a Welshman Mabuz Luciferi includes a strong Celtic element in his philosophy of Monadic Luciferianism, together with a Greek influence from philosophers as varied as Heraclitus to Plato.

Mabuz Luciferi was initially brought up in the Church of England Cathedral tradition, but questioning much of what he was taught,
he drifted away into paganism. A chance encounter with an internet site called the Order of the Luciferian Sword introduced Mabuz Luciferi to Luciferianism, and the start of his journey into that philosophy.

Mabuz Luciferi takes the view that the only way the world will overcome its problems is at the level of the individual, by returning to their roots, he calls the Nidus. Mabuz Luciferi thus sees that Monadic Luciferianism is both a tool by which he can access his own Nidus, but also to allow others the ability to access their own Nidus. Mabuz Luciferi sees the entire Cosmos as made up of objects he calls Monads, each with its own potential. Luciferianism is the bridge by which humans can access their own potential, their own Nidus.

Monadic Luciferianism provides a framework into which a novice to Luciferianism can embark on their first steps into the philosophy, and to which they can with experience adapt to their own needs. Nobody can join the Society of Lucifer, but they can associate with the SOL by adopting and practically using the Principles and Protocols of Monadic Luciferianism in their own path." - Wild Light: http://wildlight.org.uk/about.html

**Satanic Extremists**

Like the Catholic Church and pedophile priests, any community or religious whole or organization can have guidelines or doctrine designed to keep the practices of the group in line with the law; any group of people can mean well – but they can't keep an eye on *everything*, and consequently it is unfair to blame all of them for the acts of one individual, or one individual group in a collective identity which appears to revel in "legend-tripping" or in fulfilling tabloid prophecy.

In terms of Satanic Ritual Abuse propaganda directed at Satanist religion, or any of the other religions or subcultures which form the group of “usual suspects” targeted by SRA-influenced law enforcement, it is likely that there will always be a lunatic fringe minority within every identity which lives up to the stereotype as though it were some kind of challenge to do so.

**Satanism, Fascism & Neo-Nazism:**

According to experts within the Satanism collective, there are Satanists who are linked to neo-Nazism, Fascist Satanism and those who like most religious extremists of any religion, advocate and justify blood-letting and violence within the context of their religious views. Realistic comparison can be drawn between these Satanist extremists and extremists of other religions, for example Christianity, who are also involved in similar forms of neo-Nazism and fascist groupings.
There are numerous resources (links below) to demonstrate that individual adherents of mainstream AND minority or alternative religions alike, may have involvement in neo-Nazi or fascist groups, where their ideologies are blended with those of particular religions.

**Christo-Fascism/neo-Nazism:**

“American conservativism, including such "traditional" racist groups as the **Ku Klux Klan** and the **Council of Conservative Citizens**, has a strongly **Christian** character, which in recent years has gravitated toward evangelical Christianity.” – From Rational Wiki: http://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Neo-Nazism

Numerous anti-gay and other conservative groups which are listed as hate groups by the American human rights watchdog group “The Southern Poverty Law Center” are listed as touting a Christian identity while inciting hatred of other groups based on issues like sexual orientation, race, ethnicity or gender. http://www.splcenter.org/ This is a complex issue, as some of these groups use existing Christian doctrines as is, promoting a distorted view of these – while others discard Christian convention and doctrine, acting as “Christian” in name only.

“However, there are many neo-Nazis who do follow Christianity, either the orthodox sort or heretical variants like **Christian Identity**. Many Christian neo-Nazis reconcile their **anti-Semitism** with their following of the teachings of **Jesus** by subscribing to the "Khazar myth," claiming that modern Jews (particularly Ashkenazi Jews) are impostors to the claim of being descended from the ancient Israelites, that they are instead descended from converts from the Khazar people north of the Caucasus, and that white Europeans are the true heirs of Israel. As for **Adolf Hitler** and the original Nazis, **their relationship with the faith was conflicted**, but Hitler described himself as Christian (at least publicly), outlawed atheist, esoteric, and occultist movements[1] in Germany, and promoted a warped, Nazified brand of the faith known as "**Positive Christianity.**”” – From Rational Wiki: http://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Neo-Nazism

Below is a menu listing of various ideologies equating themselves with various other secular movements or religious ideologies, from the Southern Poverty Law Center website. Some of these tout a Christian identity. As can be seen, while most of these groups have their own specific focus, many of their beliefs, interests and ideologies overlap with each other.

**Anti-Gay**
Opposition to equal rights for gays and lesbians has been a central theme of Christian Right organizing and fundraising for the past three decades – a period that parallels the fundamentalist movement's rise to political power.

**Anti-Immigrant**
Anti-immigrant hate groups are the most extreme of the hundreds of nativist and vigilante groups that have proliferated since the late 1990s, when anti-immigration xenophobia began to rise to levels not seen in the United States since the 1920s.

**Anti-Muslim**

Anti-Muslim hate groups are a relatively new phenomenon in the United States, most of them appearing in the aftermath of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Earlier anti-Muslim groups tended to be religious in orientation and disputed Islam's status as a respectable religion.

**Black Separatist**

Black separatists typically oppose integration and racial intermarriage, and they want separate institutions -- or even a separate nation -- for blacks. Most forms of black separatism are strongly anti-white and anti-Semitic, and a number of religious versions assert that blacks are the Biblical "chosen people" of God.

**Christian Identity**

Christian Identity is a unique anti-Semitic and racist theology that rose to a position of commanding influence on the racist right in the 1980s. "Christian" in name only, the movement's relationship with evangelicals and fundamentalists has generally been hostile due to the latter's belief that the return of Jews to Israel is essential to the fulfillment of end-time prophecy.

**Holocaust Denial**

Deniers of the Holocaust, the systematic murder of around 6 million Jews in World War II, either deny that such a genocide took place or minimize its extent. These groups (and individuals) often cloak themselves in the sober language of serious scholarship, call themselves "historical revisionists" instead of deniers, and accuse their critics of trying to squelch open-minded inquiries into historical truth.

**Ku Klux Klan**

The Ku Klux Klan, with its long history of violence, is the most infamous — and oldest — of American hate groups. Although black Americans have typically been the Klan's primary target, it also has attacked Jews, immigrants, gays and lesbians and, until recently, Catholics.

**Neo-Confederate**

The term neo-Confederacy is used to describe twentieth and twenty-first century revivals of pro-Confederate sentiment in the United States. Strongly nativist, neo-Confederacy claims to pursue Christianity and heritage and other supposedly fundamental values that modern Americans are seen to have abandoned.

**Neo-Nazi**
Neo-Nazi groups share a hatred for Jews and a love for Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. While they also hate other minorities, gays and lesbians and even sometimes Christians, they perceive "the Jew" as their cardinal enemy.

**Patriot Movement**
The antigovernment “Patriot” movement has experienced a resurgence, growing quickly since 2008, when President Obama was elected to office. Factors fueling the antigovernment movement in recent years include changing demographics driven by immigration, the struggling economy and the election of the first African-American president.

**Racist Music**
Racist music groups are typically white power music labels that record, publish and distribute racist music in a variety of genres.

**Racist Skinhead**
Racist Skinheads form a particularly violent element of the white supremacist movement, and have often been referred to as the "shock troops" of the hoped-for revolution. The classic Skinhead look is a shaved head, black Doc Martens boots, jeans with suspenders and an array of typically racist tattoos.

**Radical Traditional Catholicism**
“Radical traditionalist” Catholics, who may make up the largest single group of serious anti-Semites in America, subscribe to an ideology that is rejected by the Vatican and some 70 million mainstream American Catholics.

**Sovereign Citizens Movement**
The strange subculture of the sovereign citizens movement, whose adherents hold truly bizarre, complex antigovernment beliefs, has been growing at a fast pace since the late 2000s. Sovereigns believe that they get to decide which laws to obey and which to ignore, and they don't think they should have to pay taxes.

**White Nationalist**
White nationalist groups espouse white supremacist or white separatist ideologies, often focusing on the alleged inferiority of nonwhites. Groups listed in a variety of other categories - Ku Klux Klan, neo-Confederate, neo-Nazi, racist skinhead, and Christian Identity - could also be fairly described as white nationalist.

“**Christian Identity”**: 
“Christian Identity is a religious ideology popular in extreme right-wing circles. Adherents believe that whites of European descent can be traced back to the "Lost Tribes of Israel." Many consider Jews to be the Satanic offspring of Eve and the Serpent, while non-whites are "mud
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The Order of Nine Angles (ONA/O9A)

The Order of Nine Angles is described by various sources as an extremist group which claims to have formed in the UK in the 1960's and currently based in the USA after a reported “reformation” after the departure of its founder, David Myatt. It divides itself into “Sinister Tribes” and “Traditional Nexions” and subdivide their members into different categories such as “Balobians” and “Dreccs” to name but a few.

Most other forms of Satanism apparently view themselves as being the “one true Satanism” and as can be imagined, this makes for tenuous relations between them, although for the most part there is respectful and polite discourse. The ONA appears to be distinctly different on this point.

The ONA does not consider itself to be “a” Satanist sub-sect, it considers itself to be the ONLY “true Satanism”. While this is not unique among Satanist sects because other sub-sects of Satanism tend to view themselves in the same way, the ONA does not recognize other forms of Satanism AS Satanism at all, from LaVeyan Satanism to Theistic Satanism, and generally heaps scorn on them.

The strongly-voiced opinions and also the provocative material of the ONA mark it as a form of Satanic fundamentalism, although as it turns out, this may just be one form of Satanic fundamentalism, with the differences between it and other groups being determined more by which fundamental aspects the sects in question focus on.

The difference between the ONA and most other forms of the religion being, presumably, that the ONA is the one form to take this to a literal extreme of openly advocating human sacrifice and (in some cases) glorifying criminal activity. Much of the material of the ONA which can be found publicly, does not condemn human sacrifice at all, in fact, it
goes so far as to defend its practice as a form of “natural Darwinist selection”.

This viewpoint has been defended and promoted extensively by its founder, David Myatt and others over the years, even in communications between the ONA and other Satanic groups who have criticized these rather harshly, and worked to disassociate their own branches from the ONA. The persistent defence of these unrepentant views in itself appears almost intentionally to be sabotage of all other Satanic groups attempts over the years to dismiss these notions as being false and the imaginings of those who still promote SRA hysteria, and in a certain light, may almost certainly be viewed AS intentional sabotage.

**NOTE:** It is important to understand that the original founders (if claims made that there were leaders BEFORE David Myatt have ANY truth to them) of this fringe group have long ago vanished from view. The original ONA is presumed to have collapsed or receded after Myatt converted to Islam in 1998, and that the movement has subsequently reformed or reinvented itself without Myatt, becoming essentially a legacy group which is based upon the earlier material, but without having any confirmed connections between old and new, other than ideology.

**Following:**

Since the very beginning, the ONA maintained that it had a following in several countries. The ONA began in the UK, and spread to the USA, Australia and other places, and claims to have existed since the 1960s.

The matter of following and numbers of actual members is virtually impossible to determine, since the ONA is a very secretive organization. Further, David Myatt, the former leader of ONA appears to have engaged in numerous deceptions through the use of multiple aliases, presumably to both dodge criminal prosecution for encouraging criminal activity, and to increase the apparent membership of this group.

According to numerous sources referring to the ONA, Anton Long/Christos Beest/Stephen Brown, which are all names of individuals appearing on ONA correspondence or material, indicated as authors of ONA doctrine, and are claimed to hold some level of authority within the ONA, are all pseudonyms used by David Myatt.

“Author Nick Ryan has asserted that Anton Long, the author of the ONA’s public tracts, is a pseudonym of David Myatt, a person who was involved with the neo-Nazi movement in England.[15] This assertion is repeated by both Senholt[16] and Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, with Goodrick-Clarke writing that David Myatt – who had previously acted “as
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bodyguard for British Nazi Colin Jordan[17] - codified "its teachings into a fully developed system of initiation and training for adeptship".[18]

Dr. Michael Aquino, the leader (High Priest) of the Temple of Set said several things about (and to) the ONA in the 1990's:

“Dear Mr. Brown

Thank you for your letter of September 7th. Under your several aliases every single letter and publication of the O.N.A. is authorized over your personal signature, whether as "pp" or otherwise. Personal contacts by our former Priest Martin confirmed that you are the leader, if not indeed the sole member of this institution.”

And later, in another letter:

“I must note one correction to your letter: I have never "acknowledged the reonic work or creativity of the ONA" - as the "ONA" is simply a fictitious organization used as a front by Mr. Myatt. I did say that I found Myatt himself to be articulate and intellectual - and that I accordingly regretted his duplicity, plagiarism, and advertisement of "Satanic human sacrifice" accordingly.' – All quotes of Michael Aquino above, from ONA Classic Texts, Part 1:
http://lapisphilosophicus.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/o9a-classic-texts-part-one.pdf

Aquino also alleged that letters received from Brown/Beest had all come from the very same typewriter (in the days before the PC), causing a protracted argument also visible in the same public document quoted from above.

Myatt has reportedly never admitted to using these names as pseudonyms, and has apparently also denied any ties to Satanist organizations and has on several occasions challenged anyone to prove their accusations against him.

NOTE: There trend within the ONA of making the organization seem larger and to have a far bigger membership than it really had or has, is one which may still be employed by present day offshoots of the ONA.

Of course, since Mr Myatt no longer seems to be running the ONA, the legacy of the original philosophy is that others have picked up on it, and adopted it as their own, reforming it to suit them, and starting their own groups based upon it. The “fictitious organization” has since taken form in the substance of people with whom the liturgy and doctrine of its creators resonated and sparked new life, forming a legacy of actions, philosophy and energies long spent.
Relation To ‘Mainstream’ Satanism:

It would appear from its own writings that the ONA does not consider other forms of Satanism to be “true Satanism”, challenging what can be termed ‘mainstream’ Satanism.

“Probably because of the ONA’s highly radical stance, there is open animosity between the ONA and "mainstream" Satanists such as the Church of Satan.[15] The ONA publicly disavows any connection to Church of Satan, claiming the Satanic Bible to be a “watered-down philosophy”. [34]


According to the Temple of Set, a mainstream Theistic Satanist tradition,

"...the difference between traditional Satanism, as represented by the Order of Nine Angles, and what has become accepted within the Occult fraternity as 'Satanism' - as represented by the American group the Temple of Set, led by Dr. Aquino.

For a long time, the ONA was secret and secretive. In the early part of the eighth decade of this present century, a decision was taken to gradually make available the methods, philosophy and teachings of the Order - this decision being based on Aeonic or sinister strategy.

One of the tactics to be used to try and achieve the strategic aim was to challenge what had become the accepted notion of 'Satanism' as represented by such groups as the Temple of Set and the Church of Satan.

Accordingly, contacts were established. It should be remembered that at this time, few details about the teachings and methods of traditional Satanism were known to outsiders, and so the ONA was judged to be just another Satanic group in the Church of Satan/La Vey mould. Gradually, however, the stark reality of traditional Satanism was made known - via letters such as the ones published here, via the establishment of an underground zine ('Fenrir') and via the distribution of works containing the tradition ('The Black Book of Satan', 'Naos' and so on). The earlier curiosity and tolerance displayed by groups like the Temple of Set soon disappeared as they began to realize how different the ONA was - how far removed from what they considered Satanism to be.
Thus, the ONA became, for the Temple of Set and its members, a proscribed (banned or forbidden) organization. This reaction served to highlight the real nature of this Temple, as the letters make clear - and threw into doubt, for those with any sagacity, their version of ‘Satanism’. The difference between the ONA and groups like the Temple of Set is evident most clearly in the matter of human sacrifice...

The activities described by the ONA fall in line with what the Church of Satan describe as “devil worship”, and those who act these out as “devil worshipers”.

In this sense, viewed from the understanding of the Church of Satan, “devil worshipers” are not SATANISTS perse’, but PART of the CHRISTIAN religion, albeit “Christian heretics”. The reasons they give for this view is that in order to BELIEVE in Satan as a deity to the point where you will kill someone or something as a sacrifice to Satan, you need to be convinced of the validity and applicability of the entire Christian religious dogma and belief system – while accepting that your deity is the one Christianity abhors.

In reply to an SRA propaganda piece claiming that Satanists set aside a time at 6pm each day “to pray for the demise of the Christian church and Christian leaders”, a representative of the CoS stated:

“As a member of the clergy of The Church of Satan I can assure you of the following:

1. Satanists do not pray. Period. Not even for destruction, not for anything. Satanists do not pray because....
2. Satanists do not believe in any gods, devils, demons, angels, faeries, hobbits, or any external, supernatural deities or entities. Satan is a METAPHOR (look it up,) therefore...
3. Satanists do not see Satan as their “Father.” Satan is a metaphor for the self--

So....this story is either a complete lie, or the pastor bumped into a very specific form of Christian. Yes, a Christian. You see this sort of behavior is not practiced by the Church of Satan, but instead by Christian Heretics called Devil Worshipers. The thing is to be a devil worshiper you have to believe all the same things in The Holy Bible as a Christian, BUT you root for the bad guy.

So, at six o’clock all real Satanists, from the Church of Satan, are NOT praying! We don’t pray to imaginary fairytales of good or bad entities. We might be indulging in a good meal, or a glass of lovely wine. We might be playing Clue with our kids, or on the phone with a good friend. The last thing we are doing is giving the slightest thought to the demise of people so stupid as to believe this sort of thing. We find them amusing, yes, but worthy of our time or energy? Not even a little.
It is worth noting, again, that the CoS represents LaVeyan or Atheistic Satanism. To place this in context, it would mean that this broadly is the view of the CoS regarding Theistic forms of Satanism (and typically also ‘legend trippers’ and ‘tabloid prophecy fulfillers’) which literally worship Satan as an entity.

Also according to Magistra Ygraine on her blog, where she refers to ‘reverse Christians’ as ‘devil worshipers’ and references made to those committing criminal acts in the name of their belief in Satan as actual Satanists by those who cannot distinguish the two for themselves:

“As I have written before, ad nauseum, it does not help that there are genuine devil worshipers/Christian Heretics running about calling themselves Satanists – but as embarrassing as these people are only a very few are actually dangerous. They are, luckily, so obvious however, that law enforcement can stick the proverbial fork in them and declare them done in a microwave minute.” - Magistra Ygraine: 
http://magistraygraine.wordpress.com/

On Theistic Satanism.com, Diane Vera says:

“For one thing, the very few violent criminals who do their thing in the name of Satan are more likely to call themselves "Satanists" than to call themselves "Devil worshipers." Indeed, the most visible semi-public group that has outright advocated violent criminal activity in the name of Satan, the Order of the Nine Angles, called themselves "Satanists" and poured contempt on the idea of "worship" as fervently as any LaVeyan.”
- From Diane Vera’s site on Theistic Satanism: 

This is a commentary on the Church of Satan's attitude toward what it calls "Devil worshipers," a label it uses for both (1) Satanism's criminal fringe and (2) theistic Satanists (who are all assumed, wrongly, to be pure or close-to-pure "reverse Christians").

NOTE: The ONA are by no means the only "Satanic fundamentalists" – just, once again, that the “fundamentals” in question, differ from group to group.

Clear animosity remains between the ONA and mainstream Satanist philosophy, ideology and thought – especially for the reason that the ONA appears to openly promote human sacrifice in a very real sense,
which goes against the grain for the rest of the collective of forms identifying as Satanism.

Origins:

While David Myatt contends that the Order of Nine Angles already existed before he became the leader of the group, numerous sources credit him with being the founder of the ONA.

“The Order of Nine Angles is a secretive satanic group thought to have originated in England in the 1960's by David Myatt….[…Founder David Myatt converted to Islam in 1998.” – From Religion Facts:

“The Order of Nine Angles "represent a dangerous and extreme form of Satanism" [12] and first attracted public attention during the 1980s and 1990s after being mentioned in books detailing Satanist and far_right groups.[10][13][14][15] The ONA was formed in the United Kingdom, and rose to public note during the 1980s and 1990s.” – From Wikipedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fascist_Satanism

“As recounted by Goodrick-Clarke in his book Black Sun, the Order of Nine Angles assert that they were formed in England in the 1960s with the merger of three neopagan temples called Camlad, The Noctulians, and Temple of the Sun. Following the original leader's emigration to Australia, it has been alleged that David Myatt took over the order and authored the now publicly available teachings of the organization which was initially based in the rural English counties of Shropshire and Herefordshire, with Goodrick-Clarke writing that "Myatt evokes a world of witches, outlaw peasant sorcerers, orgies and blood sacrifices at lonely cottages in the woods and valleys of this area where he has lived since the early 1980s". [10]

In late 2011 the ONA announced that they had relocated to California under the auspices of a young woman of Thai descent.[11][12][13] According to their own literature, they now have associates, and groups, in the United States, Europe, Australia,[14] New Zealand,[2]Canada, and Russia.” – From Wikipedia:

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Beliefs:

Like other forms of Satanism, the ONA follows Left Hand Path principles, focusing on self-development.

"The organization emphasizes pushing physical and mental limits for the purpose of individual growth, such as spending months living in isolation in the forest. Adherents believe such practices will lead to a more refined society." – From Religion Facts: http://www.religionfacts.com/satanism/order_of_nine_angles.html

However, there the similarity to other forms of Satanism ends.

“The Order of the Nine Angles' literature, including Anton Long's Hysteron Proteron, encourages human sacrifices. The group contends that forbidden activities such as human sacrifice will produce a new age of higher civilization in the world. The Order of the Nine Angles has had a contentious relationship with other satanic groups, like The Church of Satan, over the issue of human sacrifice." – From Religion Facts: http://www.religionfacts.com/satanism/order_of_nine_angles.html

"Therefore, "[t]he goal of the Satanism of the ONA is to create a new individual through direct experience, practice and self-development [with] the grades of the ONA system being highly individual, based on the initiates' own practical and real-life acts, instead of merely performing certain ceremonial rituals". [7] Thus, true Satanism, the ONA assert, requires venturing into the realm of the forbidden and illegal, in order to make contact with the "sphere of acasual, sinister forces of the cosmos". [14]

In addition, "one of the things that sets the ONA apart from other existing Left Hand Path groups relates to their idea of Aeons which naturally leads to long-term goals (meaning about 3-500 years), that go beyond the acts and lifespan of a single individual". [7] Hence the ONA claims that its sinister tribes are an important part of its Aeonic strategy to build a new, tribal-based, more sinister way of life, and to disrupt and eventually overthrow the societies of what it calls "the mundanes". [8]” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_Nine_Angles

Extremist Practices – Links To Terrorism:

Myatt, the apparent founder and former leader of the ONA, has apparently been associating with fascist and violent terrorist organizations for a considerable number of years.

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“Author Nick Ryan has asserted that Anton Long, the author of the ONA's public tracts, is a pseudonym of David Myatt, a person who was involved with the neo-Nazi movement in England.[15] This assertion is repeated by both Senholt[16] and Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, with Goodrick-Clarke writing that David Myatt – who had previously acted "as bodyguard for British Nazi Colin Jordan"[17] - codified "its teachings into a fully developed system of initiation and training for adeptship".[18]

According to Senholt, "the role of David Myatt is paramount to the whole creation and existence of the ONA", and "Myatt's lifelong devotion to various extreme ideologies has been part of a sinister game that is at the heart of the ONA".[16] This claim is supported by Per Faxneld who writes that "the ONA despises ethical behaviour, and its main ideologist David Myatt has actively participated in violent neo-Nazi and Islamist terrorist groups. The motivation for these acts is a wish to bring down the 'old order' [...] His text defending suicide attacks was featured on Hamas' website, and he was invited to speak at extremist mosques. Even more astonishing than [his transition from neo-Nazi to Muslim] is that it seems both his Nazism and Islamism are merely instruments for the ONA's underlying sinister esoteric plots."[1]

David Myatt has always denied allegations about involvement with Satanism,[2] the ONA, and using the pseudonym Anton Long, and repeatedly challenged anyone to provide any evidence of such allegations.[19][20][21][22] “In recent years, according to Senholt, "ONA-inspired activities, led by protagonist David Myatt, managed to enter the scene of grand politics and the global 'War On Terror', because of several foiled terror plots in Europe that can be linked to Myatt's writings".[16]” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_Nine_Angles

Extremist Practices – Promotion Of Blood Sacrifice

Out of the many Satanic groups to be found around the world, this group is the only one known to condone crime and murder in the form of ritual human sacrifice. Whether or not this is just a case of blowhards putting on a "bad hat" and using such material as a means of evoking a response of shock, horror and even awe in certain cases, is uncertain, but from all the evidence, the ONA's original leaders seemed rather insistent that it was meant to be taken seriously.

“The ONA's writings condone and encourage human sacrifice.[15][30][31] According to the ONA this "culling" serves..."
not just a social Darwinian purpose, but is also connected to the promotion of a new Aeon: "The change that is necessary means that there must be a culling, or many cullings, which remove the worthless and those detrimental to further evolution."[32] The presencing of acausal energies, such as through culling, is meant to create a new Aeon, whose energies will then create a newer, higher civilization from the energy unleashed.[33]" – From Wikipedia:

A listing of ONA documents on a public site:

"Baphomet: A Note on the Name", by an unknown author
"The Ceremony of Recalling (With Sacrificial Conclusion)", from _The Black Book of Satan III_, by an unknown author
"The Dark Gods", by Christos Beest
"Hell", by Anton Long
"The Satanic Credo", by an unknown author
"Satanism: A Basic Introduction For Prospective Adherents", by Anton Long
"The Sinister Path: An Introduction to Traditional Satanism", by Anton Long
"The 21 Satanic Points", from _The Black Book of Satan_, by Conrad Robury

KNOWN MEMBERS:
Beest, Christos (b 'Stephen Brown')
Long, Anton" – From Satanservice.org:
http://www.satanservice.org/covens.html#ONA

Doubt exists about the substance of the claims of human sacrifice and promotion of this practice made by this group, since as can be seen by the publication of various documents, collections of letters and other correspondence on the subject - (http://lapisphilosophicus.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/o9a-classic-texts-part-one.pdf) there is no evidence – and certainly not in any publicized material of the ONA – that any such practice had ever actually been performed by members of the ONA.

Also, since nobody has ever been convicted of murder in association with any such human sacrifice in association with the ONA, nor has the ONA become openly hunted by law enforcement in either the UK or USA, nor targeted as a criminal organization in any country, this tends to cast serious doubt on the authenticity of this position – while in terms of apparently lacking numbers of actual sacrificial victims, this may be nothing more than provocative bravado in an attempt by the ONA to bring public perception of Satanist religion closer to its own purposes.

CLARIFICATION: While the ONA and its founders have apparently openly promoted human sacrifice as a ritual practice within its
membership, not one case of such is known to have occurred, been investigated or publicized where any such case has ever been connected with the ONA, nor any mention made of the ONA ever having been officially under investigation by any law enforcement agency for the actual commission of any such crimes. Further, there is no known reference of the ONA having been investigated for promoting violent acts in the name of their religious beliefs.

**CLARIFICATION:** According to informed sources, human sacrifice, although condoned in ONA literature, is not a “must” – it’s an option, and not enforced even if it is accepted and enabled within the ONA. Therefore, members are not expected to witness or participate in human sacrifice, unless it is their personal wish to do so.

**CLARIFICATION:** According to informed sources, “human sacrifice” need not of necessity refer to actual physical termination of life. Since people do not enjoy the prospect of going to prison for criminal acts, it is a viable option to perform a ritual “death curse” upon a perceived enemy instead. This is similar to the LaVeyan version which is symbolic and intends to expel the emotion of the practitioner, but differs in that it is meant to actually effect death upon the target by means of magic – a belief which is not provable under criminal law, and considered to be of questionable efficacy.

However, there is always the remote possibility that somewhere, the SRA propaganda may be right – and the ONA has somehow masterminded a world-wide conspiracy of silence, and controls half the world’s law enforcement agencies in order to destroy evidence and keep it quiet and to dispose of all the bodies of its voluntary sacrificial victims. It shouldn’t be necessary to point out how ridiculous this sounds.

**Leadership & Association:**

The following link seems to call into question the "ownership" or management of the ONA. It seems there are multiple unassociated groups using the name Order of Nine Angles, and the article creates the impression that there is dissent within their collective, with more than one claiming to be "the" ONA and that there is no “one leader” to rule them all.

"...with so many groups which remain on the Net claiming they are in control of the Order of Nine Angles..." "Well there technically is no ownership, one of the original people Myatt who still in mind created the “alter-ego” Anton Long explains something no person can seem to wash away, like a smudge that becomes a tattoo to all attempts to rekindle this “short-lived” Order of Nine Angles, by admission in a interview that all who proclaim the Order of Nine Angles doctrines are associates, and by being associates despite anything you are willing formulate to
“spin this away” there is no Order of Nine Angles without Myatt.”
– From Tumblr:
http://www.tumblr.com/tagged/order%20of%20nine%20angles?language=pt_BR.

It seems that there is no central leadership in the ONA, at least since its apparent leader and possible founder, David Myatt/Anton Long/Christos Beest/Stephen Brown abandoned the ONA when he converted to Islam in 1998.

The ONA on one hand appears to be a decentralized conglomerate of unassociated groups scattered around the world. They seem to be independent chapters who adopted the framework laid down by the founders, and are therefore various independent temples, following their own different styles of practice.

On the other hand, they have left the internet littered with seemingly dead and inactive and even half-complete websites, and people “in the know” seem to be of the opinion that the ONA, without Myatt, is not the ONA – and by all accounts it appears that the original ONA is defunct and that all current or subsequent groups which claim to be ONA are inherently self-initiated “legacy groups” which may be totally unassociated with each other, and to a point, simply people who resonate with the works of Myatt and Long – and quite likely represent something different to the original in a very fundamental sense.

As an identity they are essentially without a central leader and not necessarily in full agreement with each other on matters of policy or even ideology, let alone some kind of common goal which needs to be achieved via cooperation with each other.

**Presence In South Africa:**

There is (or was) an O9A website set up in 2011 on Wordpress, a free resource, and pointing to South African membership, referred to below. By the state of the website, it was never completed, and then subsequently deleted by its creator, for reasons unknown.

“The Crinis Sidis tribe was founded by Master Ciege in 2006. In 2011, this site was launched in honour of Sinis Cridis and the rest of Collective ONA tribes who make up the Universal ONA.

We share the same beliefs, practices and goals as the rest of the ONA, Therefore we are ONA. The Only and first ONA Group in South Africa.
-Master Ciege-” - From o9a:
http://o9aza.wordpress.com/2011/06/03/hello-world/

“nineangles.wordpress.com is no longer available. The authors have deleted this site.”
As can be seen, this website (dating from over 2 years ago) is incomplete, deleted, omitted, or missing – and is a far cry from one of the current O9A groups in the USA claiming to be “the” ONA - http://www.o9a.org/ (in fact, the website cannot even seem to agree on whether the name of the group is “Crinis Sidis” or “Sinis Cridis”).

A subsequent email interview with the creator of this site revealed that to the best of his knowledge, there are no ONA affiliated groups or members in South Africa and that he is the ONLY adherent (NOT member) of ONA ideology in South Africa, and that the website was created in 2011 as he began trying to find others who shared his beliefs here. This apparently failed due to general lack of interest, and so the website was abandoned.

Master Ciege stated that he has not given up and that he has appealed to an ONA group in the USA to be recognized as South Africa’s ONA representative and still wishes to establish his own group here.

According to the O9A information website http://www.o9a.org/, there are no ONA groups or “Nexions” in South Africa presently registered.

The foreign contacts in the ONA approached by the Project did not respond to any requests for dialog.

**CLARIFICATION:** The ONA itself admits to having offshoot or member groups in the USA, Canada, Finland, “Europe”, Italy, Russia – but there are NO groups listed in South Africa.

**Connection Of The ONA To Actual Crimes:**

Clarity is still lacking on whether this provocative group of extremists practices that which it preaches, and whether or not it is all “just talk”.

**CLARIFICATION:** To date, NOT ONE mention of the Order of Nine Angles, ONA or even O9A is known to have appeared in ANY SRA material promoted by leading self-proclaimed “occult experts” in South Africa, Including Kobus Jonker. And yet, this is the ONLY group within Satanist religion known to condone human sacrifice. This raises even more questions about the validity of the “expertise” being claimed.

According to informed sources, the ONA’s rituals, beliefs and practices include a lot of sex, and this generates the concern within the organization that it would attract the “wrong sort of initiates”, people who would be attracted to joining the group not because of the religious aspect perse’, but more likely because of the prospects of free and lustful sex. Since this would degrade the purposes of their group, this would have to be discouraged, and it is felt that the best way is to achieve this is by making the organization seem more frightening or intimidating than it really is, essentially dressing a sheep up in wolve’s clothing. It is one way of discouraging people such as “swingers” from
thinking of joining the ONA because they might be tempted into thinking of it as just another “swinger’s club”.

**CLARIFICATION:** To date, NOT ONE mention of the Order of Nine Angles, ONA or even O9A is known to have appeared in ANY court document or police docket in the investigation of any crimes thought to be linked to “Satanism” or “the occult” in South Africa, and certainly, no known members or supporters of ONA and its doctrine are known to have been exposed or connected to or convicted of any such crimes, here or anywhere else.

Either way, there is certainly no evidence in the hands of law enforcement that such crimes have been committed by them since their claimed founding more than 40 years ago. That is a pretty long time to cover up crimes of this nature, by this or any other group. At any rate, the ONA and its inheritors remain, within Satanist and occult circles, controversial.

**Conclusion:**

The Order of Nine Angles, a collection of unassociated individual adherents internationally, promotes in its antisocial materials and through its provocative image of Satanism, a very Christian expectation of Satanism, living up to many of the set parameters for Satanic Ritual Abuse, but in some ways falls outside this definition.

“The ONA’s version of "human sacrifice" is, essentially, lynching, i.e. going outside the law to inflict a death penalty on someone – usually a male adult – who has done something considered heinous by the group performing the "sacrifice." On the other hand, the stereotype of alleged "Satanic ritual abuse" involves abuse of totally innocent victims, usually children, sometimes adult women. So the ONA's advocacy of "human sacrifice" does feed the stereotype of Satanists as criminals, but still doesn't fit the "SRA" mold. I say this not to defend the ONA (I do not condone ANY violent criminal activity in the name of Satanism, including lynching), but simply to point out that even what the ONA advocates is still not classic "SRA"." – Diane Vera.

Considering their adverserial status even within the Satanic collective of religions, then the ONA really must be a much-despised fringe group, not just inside of Satanism, but virtually everywhere.

**CLARIFICATION:** It cannot be made any clearer that Satanic extremists are a very small minority within Satanism as an umbrella term, and are also NOT broadly representative of those who generally identify with Satanist religion.

9. **Symbols Associated With Satanism**

Many evangelicals tend to associate various symbols with the occult – sometimes correctly, and sometimes incorrectly – and also with Satanism, without apparently knowing the facts.

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As an example, the site linked to (The Nazarite Site – “Sect of the Nazarines and Followers of the Way” [http://www.nazarite.net/satanic-symbols.html]) displays just such ignorance about this and several other symbols, creating a convenient mix of fact and fiction, leaving those who accept their erroneous assumptions as “fact”, confused – and liable to perpetuate these misunderstandings.

In many cases people are forming associations between symbols and Satanism that actually have nothing to do with Satanism as a religion at all.

**The Pentagram:**

A Pagan pentagram/pentacle on the left, and to the right, a pentagram as it might be used by a Satanist.

This example above is a Satanic symbol known as “the Sigil of Baphomet”. It is the official symbol of the Church of Satan, and has been since the foundation of the church in 1966.

Basically a pentagram is a 5 pointed star. The direction in which the star is pointed (one point or two points up) appears to be significant between differing religious groups. For example, 1-point-up pentagrams are mainly used to symbolize Pagan religion, while 2-points-up is primarily associated with Satanist religion.
Creative Variation of the Downward-pointing Pentagram:

Most evangelicals when perpetuating Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA) scares do not differentiate, and simply lump all who use a pentagram or pentacle as a religious symbol (or even as graffiti) together as “devil worshipers”, “Satanists” or “the occult” and portray them as violent and dangerous criminals.

However, as a geometric form, this 5-pointed star has been used as a symbol in many apparently secular designs in history, including military insignia, badges, gangland emblems - and also as, or part of - religious symbols.

“The five-pointed star appears in the flags of 35 countries, and also appears commonly in the heraldry of the United States, and stands in contrast to the vexillologically rarer seven-pointed star. The five-pointed star occurs in conjunction with a crescent in the flags of several countries to symbolize Islam, appearing for example as part of the symbol of the Ottoman Empire. In philately (stamp-collecting) the five-pointed star signifies stamps that have not been postmarked.”

“A pentagram (sometimes known as a pentalpha or pentangle or a star pentagon) is the shape of a five-pointed star drawn with five straight strokes.” - From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram)

“While a solid five-pointed star is found on many flags, the pentagram is relatively rare. It appears on two national flags, those of Ethiopia and Morocco and in some coats of arms. According to Ivan Sache, on the Moroccan flags, the pentagram represents the link between God and the nation.[36] It is also possible that both flags use the pentagram as a symbol of King Solomon (see Seal of Solomon), the archetypal wise king of Jewish, Christian and Muslim lore, although the six-pointed Star of David is a more common and more widely accepted symbol. In either case, the pentagram is a traditional symbol of both the Moroccan and Ethiopian peoples, and, within Morocco, is also a symbol of the Alaouite dynasty.” - From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram#Satanism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram#Satanism)

**CLARIFICATION:** The pentagram was also once used by Christians to represent “the five wounds of Jesus”.

“Pentagrams were used as an important religious symbol by the Babylonians and by the Pythagoreans in ancient Greece. Pentagrams
are used today as a symbol of faith by many Neopagans, akin to the use of the cross by Christians and the Star of David by Jews, and may be found in jewelry incorporating the symbol. Several faiths also associate the pentagram with magic. Christians in the past commonly used the pentagram to represent the five wounds of Jesus.[1][2] and it has associations with Freemasonry.[3] - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram

**CLARIFICATION:** The pentagram is also used by numerous modern religions today, including Neo-Paganism and Bahá'í. Oddly enough, practitioners of the Bahá’í faith – which uses the upright pentagram as it’s official symbol - are not accused of being Satanists because of their symbolism.

It is perhaps ironic, but extremely important to note the association of the pentagram with Christianity as mentioned in the example above. Additionally the references made to Jewish mysticism by associating the symbol with Solomon, who was a known occult practitioner who lies at the root of many modern occult traditions. This serves in its simplest form to indicate that symbols can be made to mean almost anything, and that there are usually multiple (and often historic) meanings to every symbol - not just the one meaning being applied to it by the detractors of any religious movement - but also, and more importantly - that people tend to jump to conclusions about things they see or perceive as threatening, and then often react with hostility towards things about which they may be mistaken.

**In Satanist Religion:**

"Satanists use a pentagram with two points up, often inscribed in a double circle, with the head of a goat inside the pentagram. This is referred to as the Sigil of Baphomet. They use it much the same way as the Pythagoreans, as Tartaros literally translates from Greek as a "Pit" or "Void" in Christian terminology (the word is used as such in the Bible, referring to the place where the fallen angels are fettered). The Pythagorean Greek letters are most often replaced by the Hebrew letters הוהו forming the name Leviathan. Less esoteric LaVeyan Satanists use it as a sign of rebellion or religious identification, the three downward points symbolising rejection of Trinity." - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagram#Satanism
“The Baphomet” / “Sabbatic Goat”:

Today we know of “the Baphomet” as an image associated with Satanism, and this association is taken for granted – yet the image itself is a fairly new and recent creation, as will be discussed once we clarify the origins of the word “baphomet”.

Origins of the word “Baphomet”:

“Baphomet (/ˈbæfəmɛt/; from medieval Latin Baphometh, baffometi, Occitan Bafometz) is a supposed pagan deity (i.e., a product of Christian folklore concerning pagans), revived in the 19th century as a figure of occultism and Satanism. It first appeared in 11th and 12th century Latin and Provençal as a corruption of "Mahomet", the Latinisation of "Muhammad",[1] but later it appeared as a term for a pagan idol in trial transcripts of the Inquisition of the Knights Templar in the early 14th century. The name first came into popular English-speaking consciousness in the 19th century, with debate and speculation on the reasons for the suppression of the Templars.[2]

Since 1855, the name Baphomet has been associated with a "Sabbatic Goat" image drawn by Eliphas Lévi. It represents the duality of male and female, as well as Heaven and Hell or night and day signified by the raising of one arm and the downward gesture of the other. It can be taken in fact, to represent any of the major harmonious dichotomies of the cosmos. However, Baphomet has been connected with Satanism as well, primarily due to the adoption of its symbol by the Church of Satan.”
“Modern scholars such as Peter Partner and Malcolm Barber agree that the name of Baphomet was an Old French corruption of the name Muhammad, with the interpretation being that some of the Templars, through their long military occupation of the Outremer, had begun incorporating Islamic ideas into their belief system, and that this was seen and documented by the Inquisitors as heresy. Alain Demurger, however, rejects the idea that the Templars could have adopted the doctrines of their enemies. Helen Nicholson writes that the charges were essentially "manipulative"—the Templars "were accused of becoming fairy-tale Muslims." Medieval Christians falsely believed that Muslims were idolatrous and worshipped Muhammad as a god, with mahomet becoming mammet in English, meaning an idol or false god. This idol-worship is attributed to Muslims in several chansons de geste. For example, one finds the gods Bafum e Travagan in a Provençal poem on the life of St. Honorat, completed in 1300. – From Wikipedia:

CLARIFICATION: as explained above, this word or it’s concept was NOT a Satanic invention, but was developed BY CHRISTIANS during the violent years of the Holy inquisition, in which the Knights Templar became an inconvenience to the French king (who owed them vast sums of money), and who had them arrested on accusations of witchcraft and devil worship, and whom were tortured into confessions. Many of the confessions of the Knights Templar contained references to “Baphomet”, which appears to be a corruption of the Latinization of Muhammed, the prophet of Islam. Islam was considered a prime threat and evil in the world by Christians, as this was the time of the Crusades.

Therefore, it is logical to conclude that the Knights Templar were technically accused of worshipping Mohammed, essentially of converting to Islam, which was at the time equated by the RCC to worshipping Satan – and then killed in the name of the Inquisition. While this appears to be the most accepted etymology of the Baphomet, there are alternative proposals which seek to tie the Templars with the Freemasons, as well as numerous other interesting, but as yet unproved proposals contained in books and movies such as “The Da Vinci Code”.

The Sigil(s) Of Baphomet:

As can be discerned from the description of the origins of the word “Baphomet” in the paragraph on the Sabbatic Goat or “The Baphomet” above, the term does most likely NOT predate the Crusades, being around 1000CE. The application of the word “Baphomet” to the image of the Sabbatic Goat occurred in the 1890’s CE, by a non-Satanist. However, the name “Baphomet” has only been applied by various Satanic religions or organizations to different symbols in various forms since the 1960’s at the earliest, and has come to symbolize different things to different groups.
Within Satanist religion, there is the most well-known design called “The Sigil of Baphomet” as used by the Church of Satan as its symbol. Then there is the Dark Moon motif used by the Order of Nine Angles, which it also calls the “Sigil of Baphomet” as well as the “Dreccian Moons of Baphomet”, and which symbolizes a different meaning.

**The Sigil of Baphomet (Church of Satan):**

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[Image of the Sigil of Baphomet]
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Many Satanists use as their main symbol the *Sigil of Baphomet*. It is a goat's head, drawn within an inverted *pentacle* (5-pointed star with one point downward and two up, enclosed by a circle). Although elements within the *Sigil* have been in use since the 19th century, the version as shown has been a registered trademark of the *Church of Satan* since 1983.” – From Religious Tolerance.org:  
http://www.religioustolerance.org/satanis4.htm

The first images of what is today called “the Baphomet” appeared in the late 19th century. In modern times it is seized-upon as a Satanic sign and its age and existence and also its occultic significance is often exaggerated.

“Lévi's now-familiar image of a "Sabbatic Goat" shows parallels with works by the Spanish artist Francisco Goya, who more than once painted a "Witch's Sabbath"; in the version ca. 1821-23, El gran cabrón now at the Prado, a group of seated women offer their dead infant children to a seated goat. In Margaret Murray's survey of The Witch-Cult in Western Europe, the devil was said to appear as "a great Black Goat with a Candle between his Horns". Lévi called his image "The Goat of Mendes", presumably following Herodotus' account that the god of Mendes—the Greek name for Djedet, Egypt—was depicted with a goat's face and legs."

“The actual image of a goat in a downward-pointing pentagram first appeared in the 1897 book La Clef de la Magie Noire by Stanislas de Guaita,[57] later adopted as the official symbol—called the *Sigil of Baphomet*—of the *Church of Satan*, and continues to be used among *Satanists*.

Baphomet, as Lévi's illustration suggests, has occasionally been portrayed as a synonym of *Satan* or a *demon*, a member of...
the hierarchy of Hell. Baphomet appears in that guise as a character in James Blish’s The Day After Judgment.

Christian evangelist Jack Chick claims that Baphomet is a demon worshipped by Freemasons, a claim that apparently originated with the Taxil hoax.[58] Léo Taxil’s elaborate hoax employed a version of Lévi's Baphomet on the cover of Les Mystères de la franc-maçonnerie dévoilés, his lurid paperback “exposé” of Freemasonry, which in 1897 he revealed as a hoax satirizing ultra-Catholic anti-Masonic propaganda.” – From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baphomet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baphomet)

The Baphomet itself however, has remained in common association with Satanism ever since, eventually being adopted formally in 1966 by the LaVeyan Church of Satan as its symbol.

"...the complete graphic which we now call the “Sigil of Baphomet” only became associated as the foremost symbol of Satanism in the public and media consciousness after the founding of the Church of Satan and Dr. LaVey’s use of it." "The word “Baphomet” dates back to records of Templar trials, and there are ongoing discussions concerning its derivation and meaning. However, there is no clear evidence that the symbol which we in the Church of Satan call “Baphomet” is similarly derived; the evidence, if any, has not yet been released in any public forum." This and further explanations can be found at [http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/BaphometSigil.html](http://www.churchofsatan.com/Pages/BaphometSigil.html)

The Sigil of Baphomet (The Order of Nine Angles) aka The Dreccian Moons of Baphomet:

The Order of Nine Angles is a separatist group within the broader Satanist collective. Their use of the term “Sigil of Baphomet” describes a DIFFERENT meaning for the symbol they call “the Sigil of Baphomet”, and also a different symbol altogether, as stated below:

"We have two main, exoteric, sigils or symbols...] [...The second...relates to our sinister mythos, and is associated with Baphomet, whom we regard – in contrast to all other Occultists – as a female acausal and sinister being, who can manifest in the causal, and this sigil is known both as The Sigil of Baphomet, and as The Dreccian

“The Order of Nine Angles claims another perspective to Baphomet. 7,000 years ago a civilization known as Albion had various rites associated with a Dark Goddess who was known as “Baphomet.”” - From http://www.angelfire.com/empire/serpentis666/Baphomet.html

This symbol is not generally used by other Satanists and appears to be unique to the Order of Nine Angles.

The Satanic Cross:

“A second Satanic symbol appears above the Nine Satanic Statements in LaVey's book: The Satanic Bible, page 25. It is an infinity sign (a figure 8 on its side). A shortened Lorraine Cross is placed on top. [A Lorraine cross is a Roman ‘†’ cross, with a second, longer cross piece added below the main cross piece.] This is an ancient symbol which alchemists -- many of whom were Satanists -- used to represent brimstone. 2 Brimstone is the element sulfur, and was long associated with Satan by the Christian church. LaVey might have adopted a brimstone symbol as a humorous gesture to poke fun at Christianity.” – From http://www.religioustolerance.org/satanis4.htm

“The Satanic Cross is a variation of the alchemical symbol for sulfur,[1] that represents fire and brimstone. The sulfur symbol was placed above the Nine Satanic Statements (p. 25) in The Satanic Bible in LaVeyan Satanism, and is commonly used in rituals performed by Theistic Satanists.[2] It can also be interpreted as a combination of the Lorraine cross and the mathematical symbol for infinity, or a phallic re-imagining of the cross, with the infinity symbol representing a scrotum. It is often interpreted as a symbol of Satanism, because LaVey adopted it from the Cross of Lorraine or even the Patriarchal cross, which is also a symbol

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The Sigil Of The Order Of Nine Angles:

The symbol of the ONA

“The emblem of the Satanic secret society ‘The Order of the Nine Angles’. The angles are derived from the connections between the seven planets and the seven lower sefirot on the kabbalistic Tree of Life. The symbol is meant to be used as a device for contemplative meditation.” – From Symbol Dictionary.net: http://symboldictionary.net/?p=1345

“We have two main, exoteric, sigils or symbols. The first relates to our Sinister Way, to causal and acausal and the Nine Angles, and is usually represented, in a two-dimensional way...” – From Order Nine Angles: http://ordernineangles.webs.com/faq.htm

10. **Symbols Incorrectly Associated With Satanism**

**The Cross and The Inverted Cross:**
To the left, the standard Christian cross, to the right, the upturned Petrine Cross, or Cross of St. Peter, which is frequently mistaken for a Satanic symbol, both by Christians and sometimes even some Satanists.

For many today, the inverted Christian cross or crucifix is an undeniable sign of Satanism and “the anti-Christ”. Contrary to populist belief, and flying in the face of the apparent "logical conclusions" of worried parents of teenagers everywhere, the inverted cross is really a CATHOLIC symbol. It is called the Cross of St Peter (or the Petrine Cross).

The origin of its usage in the Christian church stems from the myth surrounding the disciple Peter, who when sentenced to death by crucifixion, requested to be crucified upside down because he felt he did not deserve the “honor” of dying in the same way as Christ. In fact, to this day the throne of the Catholic pope is adorned with an inverted cross - the Cross of St Peter.

While this point may not wholly discount the usage of the inverted cross by at least some Satanists, at the very least, this reflects the inherent ambivalence in meaning of a symbol - which truly does not always mean or symbolize what people THINK it does. Some people think that if they invert a symbol, it will make it "evil" or mean the opposite of what they think it means.

“The Cross of St. Peter or Petrine Cross is an inverted Latin cross traditionally used as a Christian symbol, but in recent times also used widely as an anti-Christian symbol (a meaning which is not valid with respect to traditional conventions of Christian symbolism).” “The origin of the symbol comes from the Catholic tradition that Simon Peter was crucified upside down, as told by Origen of Alexandria. The tradition first appears in the "Martyrdom of Peter", a fragmented text found in, but possibly predating, the apocryphal Acts of Peter, which was written no later than 200 A.D. It is believed that Peter requested this form of crucifixion as he felt he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner that Jesus died. As such, some Catholics use this cross as a symbol of humility and unworthiness in comparison to Jesus.” “In Catholicism, the Petrine Cross is not seen as Satanic. The distinction between a Cross of Peter and upturned Crucifix is sometimes obscured, leading to confusion about the acceptability of each symbol. This was seen when controversy arose over the aforementioned Papal visit to Israel; pictures of Pope John Paul II sitting before a Petrine Cross were widely circulated on the Internet in an attempt to prove that the Catholic Church is associated with Satanism and the Antichrist.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_of_St_Peter

The idea that Satanists would adorn themselves with a Christian symbol that further humiliates them before the Christian God would also seem to fly in the face of logic – that is, should the individual Satanist be aware of the origin of the symbol itself.

“By wearing an upside-down cross, Satanists are unwittingly showing humility and unworthiness before Christ. That makes about as much

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sense as a neo-Nazi sticking it to the Jews by swearing off pork for life." - From Cracked.com: [http://www.cracked.com/article_18606_8-historic-symbols-that-mean-opposite-what-youthink.html#ixzz2OoUaQCPg](http://www.cracked.com/article_18606_8-historic-symbols-that-mean-opposite-what-youthink.html#ixzz2OoUaQCPg)

The CHRISTIAN cross (upright) in fact is far older than Christianity itself, dating back to before Babylon. In fact, today Christians believe Christ was executed by crucifixion on a cross-shaped device, yet for a century or longer, religious scholars cannot even agree on the actual shape of the device used to put Christ to death. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_disputes_over_the_shape_of_the_Crucifix](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_disputes_over_the_shape_of_the_Crucifix))

The older religions of Mithras and Tamuz used the cross shape as a symbol, and the Roman emperor Constantine, sun-worshiper who founded the Roman Catholic Church and merged Christian doctrine with all the pagan cults of ancient Rome first adopted the sign of the cross as the symbol of Christianity.

The cross therefore, either inverted or upright, is not really purely a Christian OR a Satanist symbol, or at least, a symbol used by serious Satanists or Luciferians in and of itself.

It does tend to appear as a graffiti item though, which is not proof of anything other than vandalism, as graffiti artists tend to be anonymous, and vandals usually are wanton and random – and so there is often no rigid proof that such marks are left by actual Satanists. (See the sections on Symbolic Satanism, Casual Satanism and Tabloid Prophecy Fulfillers).

**The Anarchy Symbol:**

![Anarchy Symbol](image)

This sign is a pop-culture symbol that originated during the late 1860’s as a worker's union logo, became associated with student unrest in Italy in 1968, and was then made popular in the 1970's social turbulence through punk-rock culture.

**CLARIFICATION:** It is NOT ideologically or dogmatically connected specifically to any religion whatsoever, including Satanism. In fact, it holds no religious meaning whatsoever.
According to Wikipedia, the sign first made its appearance as a stylized Spanish worker's union logo in 1868, predating "its adoption by anarchists as it was used as a symbol by others".

"According to George Woodcock, this symbol was not used by classical anarchists. In a series of photos of the Spanish Civil War (1937) taken by Gerda Taro a small A in a circle is visibly chalked on the helmet of a militiaman. There is no notation of the affiliation of the militiaman, but one can presume he is an Anarchist."

In terms of actual usage in the context of anarchism, "The first documented use was by a small French group, Jeunesse Libertaire ("Libertarian Youth") in 1964. Circolo Sacco e Vanzetti, youth group from Milan, adopted it and in 1968 it became popular throughout Italy. From there it spread rapidly around the world."

"As noted above, the circle-A long predates the anarcho-punk movement, which was part of the punk rock movement of the late 1970s. However, the punk movement helped spread the circle-A symbol more widely, and helped raise awareness of it among non-anarchists. This process began with the use of anarchist imagery when members of the band Crass become aware of the symbol while traveling through France.[11] With time the symbol, and "anarchy" as a vague synonym for rebelliousness, were incorporated into common punk imagery. This led to gradual appearances in mainstream culture over the course of several years, at times far removed from its political origin (described by Situationists as "recuperation"). These appearances typically connected it with anarchy and were intended as sensationalist marketing ploys, playing off of mainstream association of anarchy with chaos. This process mirrored the process of punk subculture coming into the mainstream, which occurred at approximately the same time" - From Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anarchist_symbolism#The_Circle-A_and_popular_culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anarchist_symbolism#The_Circle-A_and_popular_culture)

Claims therefore, that this is a Satanic – or even an ancient occultic symbol, as promoted by some evangelicals today - are wholly inaccurate and patently false.

This symbol is NEITHER OCCULTIC nor SATANIC in its origin or association.
The Six Pointed Star (Hexagram):

The hexagram or 6-point star is the same design as the Jewish “Star of David” – in fact, hexagrams have a long association with occult and magical practice. King Solomon was perhaps the most famous sorcerer of all time, and this was also one of the symbols used by him (forming part of the Seal of Solomon). The Hexagram by itself is certainly used by many occultists for various reasons. Among religions which have used the hexagram are Jews, Christians, Mormons, Rastafarians, Zionist Christians, Muslims, Raelists, and Freemasons. The hexagram is used by many occult and religious groups, and is NOT a Satanist symbol.

The Sigil Of Lucifer:

This is a symbol used by Luciferians and is not representative of the Satanist religion.

“The Sigil of Lucifer basically represents our five senses from which we communicate our Will to the physical world.

It originated in the sixteenth century and is found in the Italian Grimoirium Verum, or “Grimoire of Truth.” Used in conjunction with
other symbols, its original purpose of the sigil was to aid in a visual invocation of the angel Lucifer.

The figure is probably derived from an earlier work, most likely drawn from a magic square whose origins are now lost.

Etu Malku III° MHD” – From Magus Etu Malku of the Ordo Luciferi, a Luciferian occult study group.

Etu Malku also described the sigil thusly: “Many Satanists probably identify with the symbol as well, but I would say that the symbol is strictly Luciferian.”

The Wedjat:

The eye of Horus or eye of Ra, otherwise known as a ‘wedjat’ in the ancient Egyptian language.

The wedjat (also ‘udjat’ or ‘utchat’) is an ancient Egyptian symbol representing healing, the sun or the moon, depending on context and on which direction the eye is drawn.

“The wedjat is associated with Horus, the god of the sky, who was depicted as a falcon or as a man with a falcon's head. In a battle with Seth, the god of chaos and confusion, Horus lost his left eye. But the wound was healed by the goddess Hathor and the wedjat came to symbolise the process of 'making whole' and healing - the word wedjat literally meaning sound. The left eye of Horus also represented the moon. The waxing and waning in the lunar cycle therefore reflected Horus losing and regaining his sight.

The first use of a wedjat eye as an amulet was when Horus used one to bring Osiris back to life. Their regenerative power meant that wedjat eye amulets were placed in mummy wrappings in great numbers.” – From the British Museum: http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/aes/f/faience_wedjat_eye.aspx

“Designed to resemble the eye of a falcon, this symbol is called the Eye of Ra or Eye of Horus represents the right eye of the Egyptian Falcon God Horus. As the udjat (or utchat), it represented the sun, and was associated with the Sun God Ra (Re). The mirror image, or left eye, represented the moon, and the God Tehuti (Thoth). (A very similar concept of the sun and moon as eyes appears in many religious
traditions, such as the Celtic tale of the hand of Nuada.) “Together, the eyes represent the whole of the universe, a concept similar to that of the Taoist Yin-yang symbol. Spiritually, the right eye reflects solar, masculine energy, as well as reason and mathematics. The left eye reflects fluid, feminine, lunar energy, and rules intuition and magick. Together, they represent the combined, transcendent power of Horus.

The Eye of Horus was believed to have healing and protective power, and it was used as a protective amulet, and as a medical measuring device, using the mathematical proportions of the eye to determine the proportions of ingredients in medical preparations) to prepare medications.” – From Symbol Dictionary: http://symboldictionary.net/?p=519

11. Satanists And The Law

Intolerance Directed At Satanists – Satanic Panic Past & Present:

Historically speaking, ‘devil-worship’ – later called Satanism, evolved as a Christian concept from the perception of other occult religions and practices which were considered in conflict with Christianity as it rose to a powerful “world religion”. As Christianity grew in power and influence, it viewed these in a hostile light, as competition, and even as a challenge to its authority. Through the ages, various forms of institutionalized and organized persecution of religions, groups and individuals have occurred, most notably the Inquisition, the Crusades, as also the initial rise of Christianity itself in Roman times, in which contemporary Pagan temples were destroyed, clerics and adherents murdered, and so on.

The earlier tract about the Knights Templar demonstrate that by the 11th century, Moors, Saracens and other Islamic people were considered to be “heathens”, that is, they were viewed by the RCC and the common people as ‘devil-worshipers’.

By the 16th century, the Satanic myth was already quite well developed as a tool of the Inquisition to instill fearfulness in the populace – after all, anyone could be accused of being a “witch”, and by the laws of the day, there was little chance anyone could ever “prove” their innocence! Interrogation was by torture, and torture produced confessions to just about anything the Inquisitors wanted, even to things which leave scholars today, quite puzzled – such as claims of vampirism, lycanthropy, and even the myth that witches would fly around upon their brooms!

The RCC increased its power and wealth by confiscating the land and belongings of those executed for ‘witchcraft’ – providing a pretty good reason to keep the Inquisition going indefinitely (right up to the early 19th century!) and a fairly good way to coerce nobles and commoners alike to “toe the party line”.

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"Satanism" is sometimes used as a modern name for a Christian fable introduced during the late Middle Ages. The Church taught that some "Witches," mostly women, worshiped Satan. They gave an oath to submit their lives to him; they kidnapped and killed babies; they devoted their life to harming others through the use of curses and black magic; they flew through the air on broomsticks; they changed shapes from human to animal and back. This type of "Satanist" who allegedly engaged in Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA) did not exist then and does not exist today. However, a "Satanic Panic" was triggered in 1980 and continues in a much diminished form today, largely among a minority of feminists and conservative Christians. Their beliefs about evil Satanists has largely evaporated because of the complete lack of hard evidence that abusive Satanists exist, or that these crimes actually happened.

“Satanic dabblers are typically rebellious teenagers who have created their own form of black magic. It is composed of rituals taken from benign sources: religious Satanism, Wicca, other Neopagan religions, ceremonial magic, etc. These are the individuals who are typically responsible for the Satanic graffiti that is occasionally seen on the sides of buildings. Some dabblers might sacrifice a cat or small dog; but this is quite rare.

Other meanings:

- Sometimes, the term "Satanist" will be used as in articles or sermons of religious hatred as a general-purpose "snarl" word.
- Satanism may be used to refer to a follower of a small minority religion such as Wicca, Santeria, Vodun, etc.
- Sometimes it will refer to the follower of a major world religion such as Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.
- Occasionally a mass murderer will claim to have been under the influence of Satan when they committed their crimes. Investigations generally reveal that the perpetrators knew little or nothing about Satanism, but were simply using the "Satan made me do it" defense.
- Occasionally an abusive pedophile will pretend to engage in Satanic rituals in order to better control his child victims. But these molesters are not actually Satanists; they are merely abusers who find Satanic trappings useful.

Quite often, a writer will mix and match all four types of "Satanists" in a single article, without differentiating among them.” – Condensed from Religious Tolerance.org:
http://www.religioustolerance.org/sat_hate.htm

The results of people speaking or writing indiscriminately against "Satanists", are: a) an impression being created that ALL Satanists are the
same, act the same, believe the same, and do the same harm – and b) in fact EXIST TO DO HARM. This is the premise and foundation of “Satanic Panic”, a.k.a. Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA).

Satanist Views On Other Groups Accused Of Being Satanists:

Pagan Witches are sometimes asked, “Are you a Satanist?” or “Do you worship Satan?” And they do have the right to say that they are not Satanists. Sadly, often those responding do so in a way which scapegoats, misrepresents, or otherwise insults Satanists, often unwittingly. This also adds to the view among Satanists that they are not welcome anywhere, even among non-Abrahamic religions or other groups.

“On an earlier version of this page, I wrote:
I do not ask that Pagan spokespeople make an effort to educate the public about Satanism as well as about their own beliefs. If a Pagan group, or an individual Pagan, does want to educate the public about Satanism, then I'll be happy to help, but that's not what I'm asking Pagans to do.

Nor do I ask Pagans to discuss, in their own introductory literature, the real historical ties between Satanism and modern Pagan Witchcraft. (See Satanism and the History of Wicca.)
I ask only that they stop scapegoating, misrepresenting, and insulting us. I ask that they say as little about us as possible and say it in a non-scapegoating manner. I also ask that they stop making false claims about themselves and their own history in order to exaggerate the distance between themselves and us.

Below are the beginnings of what will probably be a long series of attempts to educate various Pagan organizations and webmasters on this issue.

I would now say that it is actually in the best interests of the Pagan community itself for Pagans to debunk "Satanism" scares, for reasons spelled out in detail in To Pagans and occultists: Why it behooves Pagans and occultists to oppose a Satanic panic on my new Against Satanic Panics site.

But my focus here, on this page, is just on asking Pagans to stop misrepresenting and scapegoating us.” – Diane Vera: http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/dvera/pagan/not-S/index.html

Satanists On Criminality And Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA):

It is a sign of our times that cases where crimes are reported or claimed to have “signs of the occult” as part of their make-up, tend to draw a disfavorable light to Satanists. Satanists are often the first suspects, even if the crimes
were committed by anyone else. Satanists are usually the prime suspects, because – well, they’re Satanists – and in the minds of some people, usually people who will believe anything, Satanists are the obvious choice because “their beliefs make them bad people”.

This is in effect, a demonstration of what exactly is the fundamental flaw in Satanic Ritual Abuse – assumption. To echo the anti-witch-hunt campaign of the SAPRA “Belief is not evidence! Accusation is not proof!”

A very informative resource looking at Satanic Ritual Abuse and its effects from the viewpoint of Satanists themselves:

Another look at how Theistic Satanists view criminality within the Satanist community:

“There are other, better ways we can distance ourselves from the criminals. First, we can cast doubt on the alleged “Satanism” of some criminals as follows:

We can object to the common journalistic habit of referring to certain crimes as having been committed by “Satanists” before it is even known who the culprits are, let alone what their religion or motives might actually be. For example, in the news story Satanic group defaces Cathedral of Linares in Chile (Catholic News Agency, Santiago, Aug. 03, 2004), an admittedly "unknown group" of vandals is referred to as a group of "Satanists" because they painted Satanic symbols on the walls. Painting an inverted cross on a wall doesn’t make someone a Satanist, any more than painting a right-side-up cross makes someone a Christian. For all we know, the vandals could have been just kids out to scare the grown-ups. For all we know, may have had only a fleeting interest in "Satanism" inspired by the Devil-made-me-do-it murder which took place in that same church a week before.

Regarding crimes more serious than painting graffiti, some murderers with ordinary mundane motives may use Satanic trappings (e.g. carving Satanic symbols on the victim's body) in an attempt to disguise their motives and thereby throw investigators off the trail of the real killer. And some child molesters may use Satanic trappings in order to frighten their victim into silence and/or to discredit the victim's potential testimony by taking advantage of the skeptical backlash against the wolf-crying of the "Satanic Ritual Abuse" scare.

Even after a criminal has been identified, caught, and convicted, we can point out that claims of a "Satanic" motive should not be accepted at face value without additional evidence. We can remind the public that convicted criminals have a stake in presenting themselves first as crazy and then, later, as reformed crazies. So, naturally we can expect
a lot of them to say things like "The Devil made me do it, but now I found Jesus."

Unfortunately, in those relatively few cases where the criminals clearly do sincerely believe themselves to be Satanists of some kind, we don't have a credible basis for claiming that the criminals are "not Satanists." Given the increasingly evident variety of different kinds of Satanists, there is no credible basis for defining what a "true Satanist" is.

But we still can argue that the criminals are not representative of Satanism. They should not be considered to be "normal" Satanists, let alone "higher-level" Satanists; they are a despised fringe.

And, for public relations purposes, that should be sufficient. After all, there are plenty of criminals in other religions too. We can also point out the enormous amount of bloodshed that has been committed through the ages in the name of both Christianity and Islam, not just by individual fringe Christians and Muslims but on an official basis too. Should all Christians be judged by the behavior of Crusade-era or Reformation-era churches and European governments? Of course not. Hence, all the more so, neither should all people of another religion be judged by the behavior of fringe adherents of that religion.

Thus we need not bicker about the definition of "Satanism" in order to distance ourselves from criminals. To show that the criminals are not representative of Satanism, we can do the following:

A) We can point out that committing violent crimes in the name of Satan doesn't really serve Satan's purposes even in terms of a traditional Christian understanding of Satan. According to traditional Christian doctrine, Satan's main goal is not to make people as nasty as possible but rather to lead as many people as possible away from Christ. Killing people or cats in the name of Satan does not lead people away from Christ, and neither does vandalizing churches. If anything, such activities serve only to frighten Christians into clinging more tightly to their faith. (For more about this, see my article Why "Satanic ritual crime" doesn't make sense even from a Christian point of view.)

B) We can explain why we ourselves, in terms of our own non-Christian Satanist theologies, don't believe that Satan wants us to commit violent crimes in His name. Exactly how this is explained can and should vary from one Satanist group to another, since we don't all have the same beliefs. However, it seems to me that every public Satanist group does need to make some sort of official statement on this matter, in terms of its own beliefs.

C) We can clearly condemn those who are found guilty of violent crimes and who (1) claim, sincerely or not, to have committed their crimes in the name of Satan, and who (2) were tried for their crimes in
a reasonable manner, i.e. with evidence and testimony not based on such questionable sources as "recovered memories." We can also expose and oppose any use of "Devil made me do it" excuses as part of a plea for clemency.

D) We can take a strong stand against killing people in the name of religion - any religion. Of course, a lot more people have been killed in the name of Christianity and Islam than in the name of Satanism. Most Satanists aren't pacifists; most of us do believe that killing people is justifiable under some circumstances including self-defense and punishment of murderers. But it is not justifiable to kill anyone for the sake of one's god. If the gods want to kill someone, surely they can do so without the help of humans. Nor are spiritual beliefs a justifiable reason for letting criminals off the hook (e.g. "finding Jesus" as part of a plea for reduced prison time).

E) We should point out that criminals-in-the-name-of-Satan are likely to have derived their ideas from pop cultural images of Satanism, rather than from any actual Satanist tradition. For this reason, I would suggest referring to them as "tabloid prophecy fulfillers" as well as "Satanism’s criminal fringe."- From Theistic Satanism.com:
http://theisticsatanism.com/asp/realcrime.html

General:

Hysteria, Media & Claims Of Increase In Satanism

Jesper Aagaard Peterson, is a Research Fellow at the Dept. of Archaeology and Religious Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, has published extensively on modern Satanism. His dissertation entitled “Between Darwin and the Devil: Issues of Articulation and Legitimacy in Contemporary Religious Satanism”. In an interview in 2011, Petersen addressed allegations made in UK press and media that Satanism and alleged teenage "obsession with Satanism" was responsible for an increase in requests to the Roman Catholic Church for exorcism:

"My research focuses on modern religious Satanism, a heterogeneous assortment of individuals, groups and networks using Satan and other mythological beings as a short-hand for their work on the Left-Hand path. This manifestation of Satanism is recent, only gaining ground and formalization during the occult revival of the 1960s; the most well-known exemplar is of course Anton LaVey’s Church of Satan. Even so, there are many other interpretations alongside LaVey’s – some are atheist and materialist just like the Church, others are explicitly theist, although it often takes a Gnostic or esoteric form rather than a direct mimesis of Christian stereotypes. And there are positions in between. I tend to distinguish ‘rational’ and ‘esoteric’ Satanism as fully developed, autonomous and organized types of religious Satanism. These types should in turn be separated from ‘reactive’ Satanism, which is the
(often deeply meaningful, yet fragmented) Satanism of the pact, the teenage bedroom and the black metal concert, and from various demonological discourses on the satanic throughout history.

My studies are primarily based on texts, websites and message boards, but I have complemented these sources with both ethnographic, sociological, and media work. What I do is study the discourses and practices of religious groups through the resources and strategies they bring into the struggle to actually define Satanism. As such, I see contemporary Satanism as a satanic milieu of people, organizations, ideas, practices, and channels for communication. This satanic milieu is both separate from and in dialogue with modern occulture and the wider cultural narratives on the satanic. It is distinct, because modern religious Satanism is about the self and not some diabolical ‘other’. The mythological beings used in this identity work have been disembedded from their original context and ‘de-otherized’ (to use Joseph Laycock’s term). Satan and Satanism are no longer solely defined within a Christian context. As such, ‘Satanist’ has followed the same trajectory as ‘witch’, ‘vampire’, ‘pagan, and ‘queer’, to name a few. Rather than positions of (dangerous) inversion, they are now hybrid roles, used within both cultural narratives of the other and as identities for the self. On the other hand, we should acknowledge some dialogue as well. First of all, dark occulture and cultural narratives do work as pathways to and from the satanic milieu, as Satanists engage with both subcultural and mainstream representations and take what they resonate with. Conversely, real Satanists are not totally below the mainstream radar, even if the media representations are sketchy at best and work more along the lines of freak show exhibits. Although I can say with confidence that theories of slippery slopes are mistaken, these relations thus make popular culture one important socialization ‘stage’ for modern Satanists.

Regarding the rise of Satanism, that depends on how you define it. The article you mention calls it a “surge” and a “revival”. It is true that the 1990s and early 2000s saw an increase of interest in Satanism alongside Witchcraft, Neopaganism, and other religious currents with roots in esotericism and occultism. This has to do with the general re-enchantment of the West in the past 50 years (an enchantment that never really went away, actually, but that is another story), which has developed in dialogue with popular media. It is also true that Satanism is more visible and more accessible because of the Internet, and that it flourishes on the de-regulated arenas the Internet provides. On the other hand, membership figures are hard to come by, and should be seen in relation to degrees of affiliation – a majority of witches or Satanists are tourists or dabblers, and only a small minority affiliate with a group and/or develop a long-term engagement. It is likely that more people are attracted to Satanism than before, and they are more visible today, but actual members still amount to thousands and not millions. In any case, where I differ from the article’s conclusion is in the effect of mediated religion on susceptible youth. Watching a movie,
accessing a website or participating in a discussion forum does not automatically make you a Satanist, and it certainly does not make you possessed."

On the question "Is there any reason to make a connection between Satanism in its various forms and the occult and the phenomenon of possession?" Petersen replied "Well, the simple answer is no. The article in The Telegraph caught my eye, as it fits the recurrent dialectic between real satanic groups on the one hand and anti-satanic discourse on the other, a dialectic covered by for example Phil Jenkins in Mystics and Messiahs (2000). Satanism as a religious option is definitely more visible and has been so since the 1960s witchcraft revival, in no small part because of LaVey's Satanic Bible and the high media profile of the Church, as well as the meteoric rise of the Internet. On the other hand, the satanic panic and ritual abuse cases of the 1980s and early 1990s did much to reposition anti-satanic discourses of evil as the default interpretation of Satanism. Even though the religious (mainly Evangelical and to a lesser degree Catholic) basis of the moral panic has been exposed, and the secular madness of the media, law enforcement, judicial, education, and social care systems has been criticized extensively, conspiracy and scapegoating remains as a cultural resource. Satanism remains associated with evil in popular discourse and culture.

That is why I have a problem with the phrase "rise in Satanism" and "occult" in the article. The connotations become conspiratorial and not statistical. The word occult has a specific meaning within Religious Studies tied to the etymology of the word, as hidden. But in popular parlance and Catholic research it has a sinister ring to it. The article posits an causal connection between ease of access and demand for exorcists, but I think a lot of elements are missing from that equation. We have to ask who is searching online and who is in need of an exorcist? Are they even connected? Who makes the connections? There has been a re-enchantment of sorts, and it could of course be interpreted as the work of a cabal of Devil-worshipers influenced by demons. But there is absolutely no reason to see a rise in Satanism, Witchcraft, holistic spirituality and whatnot as anything sinister. Here, modern religious Satanism and the theological discourses on the satanic are two entirely different animals. On the other hand, a higher visibility of things dubbed "occult" and explicitly diabolical might stimulate a higher rate of possession experiences in Evangelical and Catholic communities. Certainly the interpretation of possession is connected to cultural resources at hand. And by extension, possession narratives are in fact reported in movies, talk-shows and so on outside these milieus. But then we have moved our attention to very different arenas of religiosity which is not directly associated with the people I study, namely Christian communities and the 'secularized' paranormal demonologies of horror movies (The Entity [1981] or Paranormal Activity [2009], for example)." – From Theofantasiq:

Sources and further reading on Satanism:
5) Magistra Ygraine’s Weblog - http://magistraygraine.wordpress.com/

Videos:
Peter H. Gilmore "Inside The Church Of Satan" Part 1 of 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=estGvCQqg1o
Peter H. Gilmore "Inside The Church Of Satan" Part 2 of 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0sjgZrkyU
The Vampi(y)re Subculture

1. What Is “Real” Vampyrism?

**CLARIFICATION:** This is a subculture and/or an alternate identity group (sometimes described as a lifestyle), and NOT a religion.

Although this community has been accused of being a part of Satanist religion, and might seem to some to be a sub-sect of Satanism, or to exhibit what some perceive to be what some people call “satanic behavior”, or even a “cult” or religious movement of its own, this is not the case. Many have made these claims and perpetuated them via SRA directed at the subculture, without ever bothering to discover the truth of things, and typically without consulting the Vampyres themselves. These claims are therefore largely based upon ignorance and prejudice and preconceived ideas, often influenced by the religious views of the beholder.

Religious prejudice against Vampyres mainly concerns religious and even secular social opinions on the consumption of human, and to a lesser degree, animal blood.

In this case, the issue is with the consumption of blood, which is the only aspect many people consider when they evaluate the term “vampire”. In mythology, a vampire is a creature which consumes blood, and this is applied to any creature which does so, with apparent disregard for the motive of the creature consuming the blood.

In the animal kingdom, certain animals which consume blood are labeled as “vampires” on this account, such as the Vampire Bat, which consumes blood from other living animals.

As such, this description fits living “Real Vampyres” – as well as any other human being who consumes blood – and more to the point, ANYBODY CAN consume blood, and some do – but they all do it for one of several reasons.

These reasons include eroticism & bloodplay (BDSM), ritual & religious practices, other blood drinkers, and actual feeding off the energy/unknown content of the living blood itself. In the viewpoint of the real Vampyre community, only ONE reason qualifies one to be described as a ‘real’ living...
Vampyre – that of drawing sustenance on some evergy or metaphysical level, or on a biological or medical plain not yet fully investigated and understood by modern science. While the rests are also blood-drinkers, they are not viewed by the ‘real’ Vampyres as being ‘real’ Vampyres – that is, while they may also consume blood, they do it for different reasons.

It is also considered highly unlikely within the community itself that anyone in the other groups of blood-drinkers who does not identify as a ‘real’ living human Vampyre for reasons of personally experiencing onset of ill health in the absence of adequate feeding, will not suffer from these effects – and therefore should not be considered a ‘real’ living human Vampyre.

Nevertheless, there are a diverse views, leading to the consideration that there are in fact several “vampire communities” if you will, groups of individuals who identify themselves as Vampyres or vampires, for different reasons. Each tends to view itself as the “real” Vampyre community or group, and views others with varying degrees of distaste or scorn.

“Vampi(y)res” who claim the Vampi(y)re label due to practice:

In Abrahamic religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam) the consumption of any blood at all is a prominent religious taboo. Some religious sects within these religions will go so far as to not even accept life-saving medical procedures such as organ transplants or blood transfusions based on these taboos. When faced with people who for all intents and purposes appear to voluntarily and purposefully ignore these taboos, it causes a hostile reaction which classifies Vampyres as representing that which is “evil” or contradictory to set religious scriptures, norms and values within these religions, and which tends to alienate perceived members of the Vampyre subculture, regardless of whether or not they actually consume blood.

In some religious context, blood plays a very important role, and in fact, some religious groups exist which center around blood rites and the consumption of blood. The following article “Satanism, Vampirism & Chthonic Traditions” by Malcolm Sadorian of Stygian Publishing explains the differences between some forms of Satanism and a religious form of vampirism apparently strongly rooted in a belief in the undead vampire archetype, and serves to distinguish religious context vampirism from modern ‘real’ vampi(y)rism as explained in detail afterwards:

“Satanism and Vampirism get tied together in the public media stomach. Not everyone can tell Hunan from Mongolian, and both come off as “Chinese food” -- but a chef would never confuse the two. The same goes for Satanism and Vampirism: the two get confused (all Goths who have sickened at the question, “do you worship the devil?" raise your hands!), more often from the latter to the former, but occasionally in the other way as well. Especially if your Satan-wear happens to be predominantly black. But it’s often true that every lie
does contain a seed of truth, and many associations do have some kind of cultural root. It may in fact be the case that Vampires are a subset of the Satanic genus, albeit a minimal one.

The practices of Satanism fall into three classes, those being...

* the worship of an entity, either organic or incorporeal, regardless of whether this "worship" involves a becoming-like that entity or a subservience to it;
* the giving of precedence to individual drives and perspectives over and above that given to social mores (i.e., a Nietzschean "master morality"); and
* the use of the morality of the second, combined with techniques utilized to achieve the state of the entity in the first.

The first class is essentially an advanced or refined version of animism. It recognizes the presence of some type of force or quality in nature which is stronger than the worshipper, and with which he or she may identify. (The force or quality is not often identified, although it may be symbolized; animistic thought does not permit the abstractions necessary for logical isolation and reasoning.) An example of this type of religion, albeit a not necessarily Satanic one, is that of ancestor worship. In animistic terms, a person's parents provided the force which set their life in motion. In order to sustain it and enhance it, preferential treatment is given to the ancestors, so that they will not withdraw this force. Further development of this practice leads to religions such as that of the Temple of Set, wherein the object is to enhance this given force and take control of it oneself. Hermetic techniques do this but view the force in question as "light;" Satanic techniques view it as "dark," and tend to involve actions that are similar to the conception of the force itself. In individuals with little psychological maturity (children being primarily animistic previous to puberty), Satanic versions of this often involve pact-making (e.g., bargaining with parents, authority figures and other "Titans") and destructive activities (i.e., the types of actions which the force is conceived as producing). More refined versions of animistic Satanism involve techniques which are designed to help the individual identify with the force itself, especially in terms of self-concept.

Chthonic Greek religion (that which preceded the well-known Olympian stories and rituals) is primarily of this type, but is focused more on aversion and purification than on identification. At least this applies to what we know of its practices. However, it is a definite possibility that a variety of it which was aimed at identification was indeed practiced, given human nature as it is. This would give some rationale to the persecution of witches, making it more than simply a matter of the persecution of pagans or attractive and eccentric women: such individuals would have been considered active threats by the local population, as they were seeking to bring forth those forces which the major societal rituals were designed to banish. The persecution of such
individuals would become a concern of the civil authorities and the lay citizenry -- which is what happened in most inquisition-type scenarios. By associating old pagan figures and practices with these Chthonic forces, entire pantheons could be relegated to the position of being hostile, this position already having been tacitly accepted by pagans as real; and this makes the pagan conversions in Europe much more sensible than if explained by saying that the pagan peoples simply accepted (or were forced to accept) a wholly alien creed.

The second class of Satanic practices forms the basis of modern "acknowledged" Satanism. It rejects the animistic position entirely, but along with it rejects the societal identification that animism provides. Pagan animistic concepts help to provide the actual sense of clan kinship; rejection of this produces the state of misanthropy common to Satanists of this type. Nietzschean Satanism tends to stagnate unless the individual perceives, conceptually, that action and development are necessary. Nothing is worshipped, as nothing is perceived as a force to worship; nothing is identified, because conceptually, nothing can be gained by such identification. At most, such practices manifest in the use of symbols, but ones with interpretive value only: pale shadows of the Jungian archetypes. Such Satanism is Aristotelian in Nietzsche's sense of the term, occasionally lacking any Dionysian element at all.

The third class of Satanism is effectively a hybrid of the above two, and it is what we would expect if a Satanic tradition did develop out of Chthonic religion: it would be animistic in its dominant character, but would require the abstract reasoning ability of the second class of Satanism in order to break with dominant societal trends out of anything other than psychosis. By developing the ability to selectively engage in animistic perception (what contemporary authors would likely call "right-hemisphere thinking") under the analysis and direction of an Aristotelian intellect, it is theoretically possible to identify and "feel" (again, contemporary authors would likely call this "holistic perception") the animistic forces one desires to work with and become, and then direct both oneself in the proper activities to produce such states and direct them. Whether it is possible to actually become such a force and direct it is the concern of magical techniques and should be decided on the basis of experience.

Vampiric practices and stories are identical in scheme, even mythologically. The figures involved are usually nobles, warriors, or those people slain under unjust circumstances, as well as those considered irredeemably hostile in their lives; and these are also the figures averted in Chthonic rites. Heroes were Chthonic, as were the Erinyes and Eumenides; and those individuals who were criminal or blasphemous in nature were not only excluded from the performance of certain rites, they were sometimes the targets of them -- proxies for the expelled forces themselves. Masks of Chthonic figures were often placed on kilns and doors in order to keep such forces back: a use decidedly similar to that of the Crucifix in Vampire stories, especially
considering that it contained the figure of Jesus, who, like Orpheus and Heracles, had descended to the Chthonic realms and returned. The methods used to dispatch a Vampire vary according to culture, but this is most likely due to the variety of practices used to dispatch evil spirits in the story's country of origin. Garlic cloves and the like are probably degenerate forms of the offerings given to Chthonic entities in order to placate them; the coffins that Vampires sleep in are most likely the pits that such offerings were made in, and in which such spirits were supposed to reside (using the Greek stories as an example).

The methods of becoming Vampiric most likely have their origins in these stories as well, but with a decidedly animistic twist. A person's blood, for example, is not only the life fluid, but also (in animistic terms) the force of kinship. We still have echoes of this in sayings such as "blood is thicker than water." When a person becomes a Vampire, they are allying themselves with the forces that oppose their kin; the forces that their society's rituals are designed to avert. To do so requires a change of blood, in a sense. It requires a severing of kin identification and a resulting identification with the Vampiric (in the ONA's terms, this is the process of rising above the Wyrd of one's culture and imposing one's individual Wyrd upon it). This can only be done in the presence of another Vampire, who accepts the individual into their fold; otherwise it is not so much a kinship as it is a complete severing. (American Iroquois stories refer to windigos as a class of these individuals: those who have separated themselves from the circle of life, and consume human flesh in an attempt to reconnect themselves.) The process is a metaphorical draining of the old blood and replenishment with the new.

Likewise, a person develops as a Vampire by committing certain types of acts, among them being "feeding." In the stories this is portrayed as either the taking of the blood or the life force of the prey, who is almost inevitably a human. Sometimes this results in the prey becoming a Vampire themselves; sometimes not. Viewed in the context of the above, this is not so much a physical destruction and transformation as it is a change in loyalties or in the direction of a clan (or society). By taking the kin association of the individual and twisting it or removing it, the Wyrd of a society may be changed. This is identical to the Aeonic direction ("Sinister Strategy") of societies as practiced by traditional or class three Satanic groups. Likewise, by simply taking members of a clan as prey and thereby eliminating them (the equivalent to Satanic "culling"), a society's direction may be changed -- its future generations can be composed, gradually, of a dominantly different genetic character. And by creating other Vampires (i.e., other Satanists), a society may be more and more strongly influenced.

In sum, Vampirism and Satanism, when the correct type of the latter is considered, are identical. Neither can be completely understood without understanding the nature of the other; and by understanding both, the effective practice of each may be enhanced." – Author:
This previous article conflates Satanic beliefs with the religio-magical or occult practices of blood-drinking, or sanguinarianism. This does NOT have ANY bearing on modern real Vampi(y)res who for the most part have no real or tangible connection with the occult at all.

From here on, we will focus on the REAL Vampyre subculture and its associated community and practices.

**CLARIFICATION:** Vampi(y)rism is NOT simply an act of drinking blood. There is much more to it than what is assumed.

**CLARIFICATION:** Not ALL participants in the Vampyre subculture consume blood, in fact a relatively small number of participants in the Vampyre community actually identify as Sanguinarian (Sang) or blood Vampyres. Many more identify as psychic Vampyres, who employ psychic means to feed or satisfy their needs. Others identify as donors, who allow Vampyres to feed from them, and still others simply enjoy the company of Vampyres and donors, not actively participating in any activities related to feeding or donating.

The Vampi(y)re subculture therefore, may focus on the Vampi(y)re archetype and on interacting with self-identified Vampyres, but participants cannot be stereotyped in simplistic terms – least of all in reckless accusations as “Satanism” etc as made in SRA propaganda.

The main problem with SRA propaganda is ignorance and misinformation which directly associates alternative religions, subcultures and lifestyles with Satanism - AND also portrays a FALSE image of what Satanism as a religion actually is. Therefore a double misconception is created and propagated, in which Vampyrism is compared to a manufactured and propagandistic lie (mythical or SRA Satanism) which does not exist in reality.

According to Wikipedia, "The vampire lifestyle or vampire subculture is an alternative lifestyle, based on the modern perception of vampires in popular fiction. The vampire subculture has stemmed largely from the goth subculture, but also incorporates some elements of the sadomasochism subculture. The Internet provides a prevalent forum for the subculture along with other media such as glossy magazines devoted to the topic. Active vampirism within the vampire subculture includes both sanguinarian vampirism, which involves blood consumption, and psychic vampirism, whose practitioners believe they are drawing spiritual nourishment from auric or pranic energy."

‘Real’ Vampi(y)res

The word ‘real’ is used to distinguish real living Vampyres from the fictional or mythical supernatural kind, and also from people who simply adopt the lifestyle of a fictional vampire, such as sleeping in a coffin or dressing and speaking like Count Dracula.

**CLARIFICATION:** The word "real" is used by the Vampyre Community or subculture to distinguish themselves as people who actually identify as real practicing Vampyres, from those who simply dress or act the part for various reasons without really practicing vampyrism.

Below, a few basic definitions from within a respected source within the Vampyre Community of how real self-identified Vampyres view themselves:

**Definition of Real Living Vampyres:**

"Demystifying 'Real' Vampirism For The Rest Of Us – An overview of modern vampirism for the general public

Psychic and sanguinarian vampires are individuals who cannot adequately sustain their own physical, mental, or spiritual wellbeing without the taking of blood or vital lifeforce energy from other sources. Without feeding a vampire will become lethargic, sickly, depressed, and often go through physical suffering or discomfort. Such individuals generally consider "real vampirism" to be an extension of personal identity rather than a lifestyle. While there are those who self-identify as psychic or sanguinarian vampires who adhere to the "vampire lifestyle" by adopting a vampire aesthetic, wearing prosthetic fangs, or participating in roleplay games, vampi(y)re lifestyler are not synonymous with those who believe they must feed on psychic or life energies and/or blood. Blood fetishism and sanguinarian vampirism are likewise not synonymous and exist as their own distinct subcultures. Blood fetishists are aroused by seeing, smelling, and touching blood whereas sanguinarian vampires believe that the drinking of small quantities of blood represents a health and quality of life issue - a need rather than a desire.

Real vampirism does not constitute a cult, a religion, a paraphilia, an offshoot of the BDSM subculture, a community composed exclusively of delusional or mentally ill participants, and is not what is depicted in fictional books, on television, or in movies. The use of obsolete psychiatric diagnostic terminology such as "Clinical Vampirism", "Renfield's Syndrome", and "Autovampirism" or the comparison of vampirism to the medical condition known as Porphyria is inaccurate and without merit. Vampirism is not considered a religion by the majority of self-identified vampires whose most commonly reported religious and spiritual beliefs include Atheism, Paganism, Christianity, Satanism, Buddhism, Daoism, Shamanism, Magick, Occultism, Wicca, and Vampi(y)ric Spirituality. Some in the media and in academia have
chosen to characterize vampires as criminals who engage in subversive and dangerous practices. Real vampires are mistakenly thrust into the same categories as ritual animal or human sacrifice, cannibalism, fetishism, fanatical religious expression, and labeled as unstable threats to themselves and others. The overwhelming majority of self-identified vampires adhere to ethical and safe feeding practices, are of sound mind and judgment, and productively contribute to society.

Many self-identified vampires report that they suffer from asthma, migraine headaches, depression, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, and other endocrine system related disorders exceeding typical prevalence rates with comorbidity of possible adrenal or pituitary dysfunction. Due in large part to increased sociological-based scholarship there persists a hope that not only will there be more awareness on the part of the general public as to the practices and beliefs of “real-life vampires”, but also increased interest from medical researchers. Some sanguinarian and even psychic vampires would like to see genetic and other comprehensive medical testing conducted to help determine what about them, if anything, is truly aberrant from the rest of humanity. Even those self-identified vamp(ŷ)res not searching for answers through medical science only wish to be left to their own devices and exist among us without fear of ridicule or hostility. Healthy skepticism and analytical thinking aren’t enemies of the vampire community - they are essential tools integral to the growth and understanding of vampiric identity.

By Merticus; Atlanta Vampire Alliance [AVA] & Suscitatio Enterprises, LLC February 10, 2013." –
http://www.atlantavampirealliance.com/educational/demystification.html

“A vampire is essentially an energy feeder or blood drinker that may display various levels of psychic ability. While the causality, interpretation, and sometimes even the “proper” spelling of vampirism are debated, vampires are generally individuals who cannot adequately sustain their own physical, mental, or spiritual well-being without the taking of blood or vital life force energy from other sources; often human. Without feeding the vampire will become lethargic, sickly, depressed, and often go through physical suffering or discomfort. Vampires often display signs of empathy, sense emotions, perceive auras, and are generally psychically aware of the world around them. To a degree, the specifics of vampirism manifest differently on an individual basis and these nuances sometimes insulate the confusion in defining the vampiric range of ability and experience. The alternate spelling of “Vampyre” is sometimes used depending on the path from which one approaches vampirism.” – The Atlanta Vampire Alliance [AVA]: http://atlantavampirealliance.com/educational.html

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Definition of Sanguine Vampyres:

“Sanguinarian (Sang) Vampires feed by the drinking of blood – either human or animal. Sanguinarian vampires can vary in their experience of blood hunger and in how often or in what quantities they need to feed, but the unique craving for blood and the physical symptoms associated with neglecting to drink blood are unifying features of sanguinarian vampirism.

The consumption of blood from human sources is facilitated through a consensual agreement by verbal or written contract between vampire and donor. Not all members of the vampire community actually acknowledge the difference between psychic and sanguinarian vampirism, and there is a popular but not universally-held theory within the vampire community that the life force energy or “prana” contained within the blood is the source from which they feed, rather than any physical component of the blood itself.

This theory is supported by the notably small amount of blood that vampires consume to alleviate their hunger; usually one to two tablespoons, but challenged by the fact that vampires who consider themselves primarily blood drinkers often do not display as many or any of the psychic tendencies that psychic vampires do, and more often report more physical symptoms, such as sense acuity and physical strength, than do the psychic vampires.” – The Atlanta Vampire Alliance [AVA]:
http://atlantavampirealliance.com/educational.html

Definition of Psychic Vampyres:

“Psychic (Psi) Vampires are understood to feed psychically on life force energy. Psi (or psy) feeding is usually performed on a willing individual or from the ambient energies of a large group or crowd. This term is often mistakenly confused with the pop psychology use of “psychological vampire”, used as a metaphor to describe specific socially manipulative behaviors. Psi vampire, refers to a vampire who feeds by some manner of energy transfer; this term may also be shortened to psivamp. Psy vampire, and “psychic vampire” are sometimes considered synonyms for psi vampire, but are also sometimes employed as separate terms with distinctive meanings. For example, “psi” is often employed as a synonym for ESP phenomena in parapsychology, and “psy” is short for either “psychic” or “psychological”. Those who make distinctions between these terms may use these meanings as the basis for their reasoning.” – The Atlanta Vampire Alliance [AVA]:
http://atlantavampirealliance.com/educational.html
Definition of Hybrid, Adaptive or Omnivorous Vampyres:

“Hybrid or Psi/Sang [Omnivores] Vampires claim to have no primary feeding method, being able to feed from either source at any time. Others report changing their primary feeding source from energy to blood, or vice versa, at various points in their lives.

Some, but not all, vampires who can feed or have fed via both methods choose to describe themselves as Psi/Sang or Hybrid vampires.

Still other Community members go further to define sub-classes of vampirism based on the detailed methods and sources of psychic feeding. These classes are most often distinguished from one another based on the type of energy gained. Those who feed from natural or elemental energy, and those who feed from humans either during sexual contact, during magickal rituals, or during times of high emotional output may be described as specific types of vampires. Further subcategories of psi feeding energy exist, including terminology to describe those who feed from direct contact with the human aura, those who feed from the ambient energy of crowds and public places, those who can only absorb certain kinds of emotions, etc.” - The Atlanta Vampire Alliance [AVA]:
http://atlantavampirealliance.com/educational.html

Definition of Tantric, Eros, Succubae and Incubae (Sexual Feeders):

“A Tantric Vampire is closely related to the Sexual Vampire, the Eros Vampire and the Incubus/Succubus. The difference is…

- the Sexual vamp feeds from the sexual energies given off by a donor,
- the Eros vamp inspires and feeds off emotions such as love and lust,
- the Incubus/Succubus will feed from any of these but only takes, never gives in return.

The Tantric Vampire feeds from any of these as well but with other Tantric Vampires and they both give and take creating an intensity that can be rather addictive for both partners involved. They are very good at projecting (to the point of being unaware that they are doing so at times), are often heavily empathic and carry very deep long term connections to those that they partner up with. They are also very sensitive to the energetic signatures of those around them to the point of excluding themselves amongst those of similar energies, not out of a sense of elitism but rather because the chaotic nature of energies that do not resonate well with their own can have adverse effects and cause strange reactions such as mesmerizing those people that they cross paths with to the point of adoration. This is a difficult situation for...
the Tantric Vampire because or their own highly empathic and compassionate natures, for they do not enjoy the thought of hurting anyone’s feelings and it pains them to see someone “taken in” by this side of them if the feelings are not mutual. And so a certain amount of caution is often learned early on by most of those with a Tantric nature.

When it comes to the Tantric feed, it is not the “end zone” of intercourse that is often sought out but rather it is the extremely intoxicating build of energy that occurs beforehand. Foreplay takes on an entirely new meaning to the Tantric. The experience of the softest brush of lips against skin, or even something so subtle as the warmth of breath on the back of ones neck can create an intensity of reaction that will be rapturous to a Tantric.” - This Tainted Soul of Mine: http://crystalis2.blogspot.com/2009/08/what-is-tantric-vampire.html?zx=99061e6cc6fa2dea

Thus, from these definitions, it can be seen that real Vampyres are similar in that they identify with the basic neediness of the Vampyre, that is, the need to feed – but are simultaneously diverse in their feeding methods, causing a need to differentiate between those who feed via sanguine methods, psychic or energetic methods, sexual or eros methods, and those who utilize 2 or more, or all these methods to feed.

**What Is A Real Vampyre?**

“‘What is a real Vampyre?’ ‘Am I a Vampyre?’ These are questions we hear a lot in the Vampyre community. These are usually questions we dread, because we hear them so much – and end up explaining ourselves to the point of running out of breath – and patience.

“Real Vampires?” What’s that? Somebody who goes around calling themselves a Vampire can’t be “normal” can they? In fact, they’re probably batty. Why add the word “real” to the description?

Well, because the existence of Vampyres has been a sordid, secret affair – made all that much more vague by myth and lore, and also popular fiction, books and movies like Twilight, Vampire Diaries and True Blood. These days it is hard to be taken seriously when you discover you are vampyric, when the first thing that pops into people’s heads is coffins, plastic fangs, Count Dracula and *shudder* Edward Cullen.

Many people eagerly list “symptoms” of being a Vampyre, which you can read up online in places like Sanguinarius or the House Kheperu website and countless others in the hope that somebody will reach out, pat them on the back and say in a sincere, affirming voice: “Kid, you’re a Vampyre”.

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The simple truth is that nobody else can decide for you that you are one, you just know you are. In fact, that is one abiding principle which is most often encountered in the Vampyre Community. You can realize you are one, and someone who knows how can identify you as vampiric, and perhaps break the news to you – but as for the rest, it is a process of self-realization. This process whereby you come to terms with your Vampyre nature and discover your innate abilities or talents, or your weaknesses, is called Awakening – when you know. EVERY established Vampyre House or group out there will tell you that.

So what are we?

This of course begs the question “What is a real Vampyre?” How can I tell? Many people produce lists of what they are going through as opposed to what they think will qualify them as a member of the club, with a corner office – and no, nine out of ten, it doesn’t fly.

The principles of these “check-lists” and “tests” are heavily influenced by fiction, the same big-screen movie fiction that says a vampire is a supernatural being and therefore, to be a Vampyre you MUST have extraordinary abilities.

Being a Vampyre is being hungry for life-energy – it’s not an easy path, and it’s nothing like the fiction. “Twilight” or “Vampire Diaries” is a good example of what people think it is like, but if only it was that good – it isn’t.

First we have to define a real Vampyre. Perhaps as an introduction, the best way to define a real Vampyre is to define what we are not.

- Vampyres do not “only” drink blood. They eat and drink other things too, just like “normal” people. In fact, it seems most Vampyres consume no blood at all, but feed on energy, chi, ki or prana (life energy).
- Vampyres do not need to kill people to drink their blood. The average Human body contains 8 – 10 liters of plasma. No Vampyre could consume that much blood at one sitting without becoming seriously ill, or probably exploding, which would be something of a fashion disaster. On average, the most that is consumed at a time is around a shooter glass full, although some are known to consume more, and the gaps between feedings vary according to the individual.
- Vampyres do not attack people for blood or energy, they use the services of consenting, willing Donors who share their life essence with them. The voluntary nature of Donors should provide a big HINT as to why we speak of Donors, and not “victims”.
- Vampyres are not some separate species, we are still human.
- Vampyres are not dead or undead creatures.
- Vampyres do not burst into flames or turn to ashes in sunlight.
• Vampyres do have reflections – some spend hours in front of a mirror.
• Vampyres do not need an invitation to enter anyone’s home – but it is only polite to ask, otherwise it is breaking the law "wink".
• Silver has no abnormal effect on Vampyres, except to make them better dressed and slightly heavier.
• Vampyres do not live forever, are not physically immortal and can die just like anyone else. Staking, fire or shooting or beheading a Vampyre will kill them just as surely as it would kill any living creature. Silly question, really.
• Most Vampyres do not have natural fangs, just the “lucky” ones do *wink*. Some like to keep a pair of prosthetic fangs around for special occasions, like parties and so on.
• Most Vampyres look nothing like those portrayed in fiction, nor do they look Gothic, or Emo – in fact, why would someone dress to stand out more, when it is more beneficial for them to blend in? In fact, many Vampyres dress just like everyone else.
• Vampyres definitely do not sparkle, unless you sprinkle them with glitter.

So what is a real Vampyre then?

A Vampyre is a person who has a natural energy deficiency which can only be remedied by the regular intake of energy or prana, which can be found in animal or Human sources as well as in certain non-living sources.

Vampyres still have the same everyday problems Mundanes have, plus a few extra – like having to deal with a need we didn’t ask for. And on top of that, the ethical issues this poses for us. Where to feed. How to feed. Where to find donors, how to explain it to people. What will happen when they find out, etc.

The simple truth is that anyone can have above average hearing or vision or even PSI abilities. In most cases, these are things that can be enhanced or even learned – even manipulating energy can be learned. In fact, anyone can PSI feed, but not everyone benefits from it, and not everyone has to.

Not even being light sensitive is a clear indicator of being Vampyre – sure, many of us are light sensitive, but so are many Shinai too. And the idea that not having a father-figure in your life as a child can turn a child into a Vampyre, is about as ridiculous as when people claim the same thing “makes” people gay.

To be an actual Vampyre, all you really need is a naturally occurring deficiency in energy which you cannot satisfy except by taking energy from external sources – whether by means of the consumption of blood or chi/prana/PSI; or via energy in body fluids, or in any other non-corporeal form. Not doing this makes you ill or has other noticeable or
even severe consequences which for the most part cannot be effectively treated with conventional medical methods.

If there were to be a basic, clear definition of what makes a real Vampyre, then that would be it.

We know we exist, we are Vampyres. To Shinai minds, we may not fit the bill as living, breathing, mortal creatures, but it should be pointed out that as far as Vampyres are concerned, “it is what it does”. We feed off the life force, we break religious laws and societal norms which result from ancient religious prescripts – and this tends to get us just the wrong sort of attention.

It is what it does.” – From the SA Vampyre Culture Center: [http://vampyreculturecenter.wordpress.com/misconceptions/what-is-a-real-vampyre/](http://vampyreculturecenter.wordpress.com/misconceptions/what-is-a-real-vampyre/)

Below is a quote from the preface of academic researcher Dr Joseph Laycock’s 2009 book “Vampires Today” on Vampyrism as a form of identity:

“Despite the media attention to vampires, the vampire community remains poorly understood.

What exactly is a "real vampire?" According to Laycock, a real vampire is first and foremost a self-designated label.

Monsters receive the vampire label from others; real vampires adopt it as an identity.

There is no universal definition of a real vampire. Some drink blood to sustain their health; some do not. Some are sensitive to sunlight; some enjoy the beach. Some feel vampirism is a medical condition. For some, vampirism is a religious or spiritual path.

Psychoanalyses sometimes ignores the vampire community and looks at vampires on a case-by-case basis. Yet another approach has been to consider the entire vampire community as sinister. Dawn Perlmutter, director of the Institution for the Research of Organized and Ritual Violence, contends that the vampire community is a network of cults that uses the Internet to recruit lonely and alienated kids. Laycock purports that both frameworks are inadequate, the former ignoring the cultural phenomenon in the production of identity and the latter ignoring individual vampirism.

To understand modern vampirism, one has to consider the experience of the individual vampire and the context of the larger community.

Vampires arrive at their identities through two entities: the sum total of ideas about vampirism, real and fictional (the vampire "mileau") and the
vampire community who informs how the elements/ideas are interpreted.

Formal vampire groups and vampire religions are only a small portion of the community. But networking is very important for individual vampires or groups to communicate ideas.

For over a year, Laycock gathered ethnographic data with the Atlanta Vampire Alliance vampires, attending business meetings and socializing.

Vampires are not just lurking in goth clubs but they're all around us. Laycock met vampires in the fields of social work, medicine, information technology, and law enforcement. To study real vampires is to study the state of the modern world.

To sum it up in a modernistic fashion, vampirism is a search for self.” – From “Vampires Today” by Dr Joseph Laycock

In the research paper “Social Work, BDSM and Vampires: Toward Understanding and Empowering People with Nontraditional Identities” by D.J. Williams, PhD of Idaho State University, who has studied and worked with the real Vampyre Community in the USA for several years, Dr Williams presents information about Vampyres and how social workers ought to better understand them in order to manage their needs when dealing with clients or patients who are participants in the VC. In this paper, Dr Williams addresses BDSM culture as well as that of vampyric identity, or the identity group of real self-identifying Vampyres, which is often associated with BDSM by casual observers as well as by some participants in both cultures, bringing some degree of overlap:

“Real Vampires”: People with a Unique Identity

Few minority communities have generated more interest and controversy, including reporting by media across Canada, than the real vampire community. The word “vampire,” of course, generates all sorts of images and emotions. Vampire myths have been present for many centuries across numerous cultures, including ancient Mesopotamia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Europe, Iceland, Malaysia, Scandinavia, South Africa and the Philippines (Curran, 2005; Melton, 1999). Indeed, throughout much of European history death was an extended process, wherein vampirism—the taking over control of corpses by demons, or souls of the dead entering other peoples’ bodies—was religiously and scientifically believed to be possible (Sugg, 2011). Pop culture, of course, capitalizes on these widespread, once mainstream, historical beliefs.

In contemporary vampire communities, the term “real vampire” is applied to distinguish members from various other vampire groups, including those who live lifestyles patterned after images of the vampire
(sleeping in coffins, wearing fangs, etc.), various social or religious entities formed around mystical and spiritual beliefs, and the large number of vampire role-playing enthusiasts (see Laycock, 2009). This large, diverse collection of social entities, including the real vampire community, is sometimes referred to as the vampire subculture or total vampire community. Because people in each of these different entities call themselves vampires, there can be some confusion about which people are being referred to when terms such as “self-identified” or “human vampires” are used.

Many self-identified vampire groups have been formed based on leisure-related processes, including meaningful lifestyle preferences and spiritual beliefs. Laycock (2010) explained that the real vampire community is formed around a common personal identity, rather than lifestyle. Unlike lifestyle vampires, real vampires define themselves based on a perceived need to consume, somewhat regularly, small amounts of blood or feed on “subtle energy” from other people. Such vampires understand this need to be a chronic and immutable condition that is not chosen (somewhat akin to sexual orientation), and satisfying this unusual need is essential for their physical, psychological and spiritual health (Laycock, 2010). Unlike lifestyle vampires, real vampires may or may not be interested in vampire myths and lifestyle practices. For real vampires, the essential feature of their vampirism is the chronic need to take energy from time to time in order to sustain personal health and well being. Real vampires may or may not enjoy wearing black clothing, sporting fangs, or keeping up with vampires in pop culture.

**Feeding: The Vampiric Process of Taking Human Energy**

Many vampires seek relationships with consenting partners, called donors, who may benefit from giving energy to their partners. The process of vampires taking energy from donors is referred to as feeding. Some vampires, called sanguinarians, actually consume tiny amounts of blood from their donors. Obviously, medical testing for blood-borne pathogens is strongly encouraged prior to the establishment of vampiric relationships. Like the BDSM community, the vampire community promotes consent, safety, and mutual respect among its members.

Not all vampires consume blood; many do not. Some vampires prefer taking energy psychically, and still others, called hybrids, feed on multiple sources of human energy. Like BDSM relationships, vampire partnerships may involve somewhat unconventional practices, but such relationships remain capable of facilitating and expressing love, trust, personal meaning and deep intimacy.
Marginalization and Vulnerability of Real Vampires

Similar to BDSM participants, real vampires often are framed as being extremely deviant based on longstanding, normalizing discourses from religion and medicine (Williams, 2008, 2009). To many outsiders, a person admitting having a real vampire identity may be assumed to be delusional or psychopathological in some way, or perhaps evil. Sometimes real vampires are assumed to be potentially violent and dangerous based on rare and extreme criminal cases (and highly visible via the media) wherein the offender claimed to be a vampire, yet was not associated or affiliated with the vampire community (Williams, 2008). Such overgeneralizations and stereotypes are unfounded and unjust. There is no available evidence that real vampirism is associated with criminality. Nevertheless, because of stereotypes and widespread misunderstanding, the real vampire community has recognized the need to be proactive in educating outsiders concerning vampire identities and practices.

The Need for Research on Real Vampirism

Quite admirably, the most comprehensive demographic data about the real vampire community to date come from the vampire community itself. “The Vampire and Energy Work Research Survey: An Introspective Examination of the Real Vampire Community” featured 379 questions, along with an advanced survey of an additional 609 questions (Atlanta Vampire Alliance, 2007). There were 650 respondents from vampires in three dozen countries, though the vast majority of respondents were from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Australia. Similar to studies on BDSM participants, results suggest that real vampires reflect considerable social diversity, including religious affiliation and spiritual beliefs, gender identification, sexual orientation, and education levels.

Because of widespread and legitimate fears of being misunderstood and discriminated against, the real vampire community has been reluctant to allow access to academic researchers into their community. Thus, very few scholars have addressed this topic (i.e., Laycock, 2009, 2010; Williams, 2008). Obviously, much more research with this community would be informative and helpful. However, available accounts and relevant literature suggest that real vampirism is not inherently psychopathological or dangerous (Williams, 2009).

Currently, the author of the present paper is conducting a qualitative study to gain knowledge regarding real vampires’ experiences and insights in disclosing their vampire identities to clinicians (i.e., social workers, psychologists, counselors, medical doctors). The nature and purpose of the study is similar to Hoff and Sprott’s (2009) study with BDSM couples that had attended therapy and disclosed their identities...
to therapists. Preliminary findings reveal that vampires are extremely fearful of being harshly judged by clinicians and labeled as being psychopathological in some form. Despite admonitions in helping professions to empower people, promote self-determination, and celebrate human diversity; real vampires seem to be skeptical that many clinicians will live up to such standards.

Vampires' group orientations may differ, but there seems to be nothing inherently wrong with simply claiming to be a lifestyle or real vampire. Many vampire practices, like all sorts of human practices including common adult sexual behavior, have the potential for being performed consensually, ethically and relatively safely between informed adults, or they may be unethical and violent.

Empowering Vampires and BDSM Participants: Suggestions for Social Workers

Social workers are in a position to help empower people with BDSM or real vampirism identities. People who practice BDSM or real vampirism continue to face stigma and marginalization from many sources. Although there has been more interest by the media on these topics, social workers should remember that increased visibility does not mean that these topics are accurately and justly represented; specific stereotypes can often be unintentionally reinforced (see Wilkinson, 2009). Social workers should become more aware of recent scholarship regarding these vulnerable populations, which is a primary purpose of this paper. Social workers may then be in a position to be supportive of these communities and to help educate others as appropriate. Still, BDSM and/or real vampirism may be difficult for some social workers to relate to. Available studies cited earlier herein show that despite good intentions, many therapists marginalize and oppress, rather than empower, clients with alternative sociosexual identities (Hoff & Sprott, 2009; Kolmes, et al., 2006; Wright, 2009). However, because the Internet has allowed more people with alternative identities to connect with others of the same identities and express those aspects of themselves, the chances of social workers encountering people with such nontraditional identities, but not recognizing it because of client secrecy, has increased in recent years.

In order to help empower people with BDSM or vampire identities, or at the very least avoid causing these clients harm, social workers should look carefully at their own social positioning with respect to important dimensions of human diversity, and consider how such positioning contributes to potential biases that could negatively affect clients. Social workers should also reflect critically on social discourses that address constructions of "deviance" and "diversity," as well as following
social work professional ethics that are firmly established for our profession.

**Social Worker Personal Awareness and Potential Biases**

Individuals differ on multiple dimensions of human diversity, including age, class, ethnicity, culture, disability, gender, gender identity and expression, sex, sexual orientation and identity, political ideology and religion. Each of these dimensions within a person come together and contributes to how other people may be (mis)perceived. Thus, it is important for social workers to be aware of their own positioning on each of these dimensions, which signify specific biases that could potentially harm clients who differ in some way. Social workers should continually ask themselves reflective questions about how someone from different positioning on various dimensions, such as a different culture, gender, religion, or sexual identity, might understand certain behaviors. This process helps expand openness and acceptance for those who differ from us."

Since the paper is targeted at social workers, much of what he says explains the reason why modern society perceives Vampyres and similar social behavior the way it does, and also projects that the constant of change may result in a more understanding and tolerant future attitude towards Vampyre and other subcultures which are presently misunderstood.

**“Critical Reflection on Discourses of Deviance and Diversity**

Consistent with developing increased personal awareness discussed above, social workers are taught to value and embrace human diversity. The term diversity within social work has positive connotations, while deviance often is perceived negatively. Although these terms would seem to bear considerable relation (at its simplest, deviance is different from a norm), the respective positioning (positive or negative) of these terms varies according to the social discourses in which they are located. Indeed, much of our professional knowledge has been, and still is, produced according to dominant social discourses that normalize, and this is specifically relevant involving practices involving the body (see Foucault, 1977).

For example, Psychopathia Sexualis, published by Richard von Krafft-Ebing (1886/1978), a professor of neurology, formalized professional understanding of sexual deviance (including sadism and masochism) and its sources, which were shaped by “sexual ideals” of his time. Deviations from “normal sexuality,” as it was then understood, were interpreted as perversions. Psychopathia Sexualis is largely the basis of historical misunderstanding of BDSM in medicine and psychiatry, and such misunderstanding continues within the helping professions to this day.
Common social discourses frequently overlap (i.e., prescriptions of western religion with psychiatry and also sometimes forensics), including in Krafft-Ebing’s work illustrated above. To consider further the historical overlap of religious and scientific discourses, it is noted that at the time of Krafft-Ebing masturbation was condemned (and had been for centuries) by Judeo-Christian religion, and the Swiss physician Tissot had previously convinced the medical community that masturbation was not just a sin, but was a major factor in disease and death (see Malan & Bullough, 2005). Tissot’s writings undoubtedly influenced the ideas of Krafft-Ebing. It was not until much later, especially after the landmark studies by Kinsey, when beliefs concerning masturbation changed significantly across society.

Not only do normalizing discourses often weave together in flavoring deviance as something negative, but Conrad and Schneider (1992) documented an epistemological shift, historically, from “badness to sickness” that has occurred in defining and interpreting deviance. In other words, the authoritative power of discourses, though often still interwoven, has changed. Whereas in western society sexuality largely has been historically defined and regulated from Judeo-Christian religious discourses, as observed in the example given above, eventually sexuality become increasingly interpreted and socially controlled by the language and practices of medicine and psychiatry. This major shift has impacted all of the helping professions, including social work. Interestingly, western social work emerged as a formal profession at a time when religious discourse was dominant, and many thoughtful and compassionate religious leaders worked tirelessly and admirably to establish our profession. However, social work increasingly has been influenced by the authoritative shift from religion to medicine and psychiatry, consistent with the observations of Conrad and Schneider.

While the term deviance has been positioned as something negative or collectively undesirable, human diversity is a far more positive term and is understood to be the vast range of differences among people, including those related to “age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation” (Council on Social Work Education, 2008). Noteworthy here is that several important dimensions of diversity listed above have been interpreted as deviant, or problematic in some way, not long ago. For example, homosexuality officially was considered a mental disorder, and thus the target for clinical intervention, by the American Psychiatric Association up until 1973. In the span of a few decades, variation in sexual orientation has progressed from being located in a more oppressive discourse concerning deviance to the more socially accepted term, diversity. This shift is substantial with obviously important implications to human beings with sexual orientations that are something other than heterosexual. The point here is not one of simply changing words (though this may be helpful in some instances),
but one of social work practitioners critically reflecting on the discourses and historical and cultural traditions that shape an understanding of both deviance and diversity. It is time that helping professions, including social work, considered the possibility of moving certain alternative practices, such as BDSM and real vampirism, from a traditional deviance framework to a more acceptable perspective of acknowledging human diversity. **Two decades of recent scholarship dictates that it is time for such a major shift to occur.**

It is far beyond the scope of this paper to offer a thorough critical analysis on sexual diversity and/or vampirism. However, academics and practicing social workers should remember that understandings of BDSM and vampirism are socially constructed within particular discourses according to processes involving certain people, time periods, places and cultures.”

In the conclusion, Dr Williams writes about the importance of understanding vulnerable subcultures and alternative identities, especially in the context of the “gatekeepers” of social acceptance – the social workers, psychiatric and medical professionals:

“Given the recent widespread popularity of BDSM and vampires in the media, it is likely that people with BDSM and vampire identities will garner increased visibility. Such visibility and the public scrutiny that occurs with it seem to already be happening. Both the BDSM and real vampire communities have existed for a considerable time, but they largely have remained underground for fear of members being misunderstood and discriminated against. It is important for professionals, including social workers, to become familiar with the myths and realities associated with these practices. Social workers are encouraged to seek new knowledge relevant to vulnerable populations that are served, be supportive of such people, and to help educate others when appropriate in order to help reduce marginalization and oppression. We should also continue to follow our ethical standards, and explore critically our own perspectives and biases in order to understand and address complex issues of diverse people and their meaningful practices.”

Name of article: “Social Work, BDSM and Vampires: Toward Understanding and Empowering Vulnerable, Invisible Communities”, author Dr. D.J. Williams, to be published in Canadian Social Work, Volume 15 Number 1, Fall 2013. Copyright: Canadian Association of Social Workers.

**Evidence & Proofs**

Unlike a religion or a philosophy which is a completely abstract thing, or a subculture based around a style of dress, or fashion or genre of music or other item of pop culture, much of Vampi(y)re subculture revolves around the need of self-identified Vampyres to “feed”. This need, or to be more precise, the claims that those who identify as Vampyres need to feed, results in a
demand for scientific proofs and evidence. The proof is not so much in what Vampyres do, as it is in how – or especially in why.

When it comes to finding evidence of what makes Vampyres “genuine”, it is hard to do, especially without knowing what to look for, and how to find it or measure it.

Most real self-identifying Vampyres claim to feed off prana or life-force energy, and whether they do so from blood, or using psychic means, these claims are often met with skepticism. Of course, some will even claim that Vampyres who drink blood, do so in order to give credence to their claims, as it is more visible than “claiming” to psi feed. The burden of proof, as usual, seems to rest on the Vampyre.

**CLARIFICATION:** In terms of sanguinarian Vampyres, it is held as a universal truth even in the VC that anybody can drink blood (or feed psychically) and call themselves a Vampyre – but that only a real Vampi(y)re HAS to do this in order to stay healthy.

However, producing actual evidence of these claims can be rather tricky. While no actual studies or research appears to have been done yet to either support or disprove the scientific or medical validity of the claims of sanguinarian Vampyres, or the effects or dynamics of sanguine feeding, or lack of feeding – there does appear to be some existing evidence to suggest that there definitely is something to the phenomenon of energy feeding, or psychic vampyrism worth investigating further.

**EVIDENCE:** Psychic Vampyres: Kirilian photography demonstrates not only the transfer of energy between Vampyre and Donor, but also the differing energy states of both subjects, before, during and after feeding.

Consecutive laboratory studies at Athens State University and the Parapsychology Foundation of New York, by Joe H. Slate PHD, produced definable results and photographic evidence demonstrating before, during and after energy emissions of both Psi Vampyres and donors during feeding sessions. Much of the findings of the studies also seem to confirm many of the experiences and theories held by Psychic Vampyres in the community. It is worth noting that Slate is not a fan of real psychic Vampyres, and has written several books warning against them, as well as promoting several “defensive techniques “.

A 2006 History Channel documentary, called “Vampire Secrets” includes a demonstration of this experiment, conducted on camera, and shows Kirilian photography of the electromagnetic field around a psychic Vampyre’s
fingertips before, during, and after drawing vital energy from a donor. It also shows the electromagnetic field around the fingertips of the donor.

**Some Informative Documentaries On Real Vampyres:**

The following are useful documentary video references designed to show with transparency what real Vampyres are – regular people with slightly different needs:

**Vampires – The Show (2012) Season 1: New Orleans** Season Trailer

![](image)

**Vampires – Episode 1: New Orleans** Feb 19, 2012
Vampires: New Orleans introduces the intricate subculture of Vampires in New Orleans. Vampire myths are broken down and the Vampire culture redefined as the Vampires themselves see it. Here you’ll find out who they are, how they feed and what they think about the rumors that they sparkle!

**Vampires – Episode 2: Meet Travis** Feb 27, 2012
Travis- a psychic vampire- shows us how he feeds, what he does for a living and introduces us to some important people in his life

**Vampires – Episode 3: Zaar Feeds** Mar 5, 2012
Belfazaar, or Zaar, gives us a preliminary look at how voodoo and vampirism intertwine in his everyday life as a vampire. He even gives us a first hand look at what it’s like to feed off of blood.

**Vampires – Episode 4: The Fangsmith** Mar 13, 2012
Get acquainted with New Orleans’ premiere fangsmith, Maven Lore, as he takes us into the world of fang-making.

**Vampires – Episode 5: NOVA** Mar 20, 2012
The New Orleans Vampire Association talks about the past, present and future and about how Hurricane Katrina changed the vampire community in New Orleans forever.

**Vampires – Episode 6: Travis’s Video Journal** Mar 27, 2012
Travis shows us his day-to-day through his own point-of-view using his flip cam. We get to see how his day plays out as he spends time with Josie, gets ready for the baby and goes out partying in the Quarter.

**Vampires – Episode 7: Voodoo Vampire** Apr 3, 2012
Zaar gives us the basics of Voodoo and explains how it works into his life as a Vampire.

**Vampires – Episode 8: Lady Jezebel** Apr 17, 2012
Pranic Vampire Jezabel DeLuna spends Mardi Gras reading tarot in Jackson Square and discussing how she feeds, her belief system, and how it affects her life.

**Vampires – Episode 9: Awakenings** Apr 24, 2012
Zaar, Travis and Jezabel discuss their awakenings, how they dealt with them, and the reactions of friends and family.


“Vampire Secrets is a 2006 docudrama about the mythology and lifestyle of vampires, produced by Indigo Films for the History Channel, and narrated by Corey Burton.

The documentary features the history of vampires from Indian (Hindu goddess Kali), Greek, and Chinese origins, and references to the Christian Bible and ancient Mesopotamia.”

In a documentary called “The Secret Life of Vampires”, demonstrable effects of psychic vampyrism are shown. Note in the first clip, part 4 (from 6:28) to the second clip, part 5 (to 0:12) a Vampyre (Don Henrie) and 2 assistants appear to drain enough energy from a very vocal skeptic to make him collapse.

In a documentary called “The Secret Life of Vampires”, demonstrable effects of psychic vampyrism are shown. In part 5 (4:48 to 5:10) while Michelle Belanger is talking about how she seems to drain batteries in mobile phones and other electrical equipment, the freshly-charged batteries on the video equipment recording the interview, suddenly lose power.

SA Vampyre Academy Human Rights Advocacy, Links & Resources (Answers to the most common misconceptions about Vampyres and the VC) [http://vampyreaculturecenter.wordpress.com/misconceptions/the-vc-human-rights/advocacy-information-links-resources/](http://vampyreaculturecenter.wordpress.com/misconceptions/the-vc-human-rights/advocacy-information-links-resources/)

### 2. Deity In Vampyrism

Since ‘real’ Vampyrism is not viewed as a religion of its own volition by its participants, there are no deities or pantheons formally associated with the ‘real’ Vampyre subculture or community.
International surveys conducted by Suscitatio Enterprises LLC (VEWRS and AVEWRS, 2006-12) indicate that the majority of participants in the Vampyre Community identify with Pagan religions than those who identify with either Christianity or Satanism.

"2.3) The allegation that Vampyres are all Satanists:

Vampirism and Energy Work Research Study (VEWRS & AVEWRS), 2007-2009 – http://www.suscitatio.com: This study shows that of the multitude of religious affiliations within the VC, the 5th most common affiliation (in multiple choice format) is Christianity. This indicates that the 5th highest scoring religious affiliation within the part of the international VC which participated in the study, identifies as Christian – while Lucifarianism and Satanism only features at low to mid range affiliations – in fact, even Michelle Belanger’s Khepri spirituality, which is only about a decade old, scored higher in this study – with 45 respondents, compared to Luciferianism’s 33 and Levayan Satanism at 40. Responses of those who identified as Christian on the other hand, topped the 100 mark, and Neo Pagan, 155. The statistical facts seem to debunk the stereotype being perpetuated – yes, some Vampyres are Satanists – but like the general population, only a small percentage of them.” – From the SA Vampyre Culture Center: http://vampyreculturecenter.wordpress.com/misconceptions/the-vc-human-rights/advocacy-information-links-resources/

In South Africa, according to a still-ongoing survey of the SA VC by the South African Vampyre Academy, the two leading religions among local Vampyres are Paganism and Christianity, with Christianity being a close second – echoing the results of the international surveys conducted by Suscitatio.

The same surveys also indicate overwhelmingly that self-identifying ‘real’ Vampyres believe they do not have any choice in being Vampyres or vampyric people, but that they would be such regardless of whether they accepted this state. In the case of the South African survey (VVDFGS), the majority of participants would still personally identify as Vampyres even if it became illegal to do so, which is a strong indicator that being vampyric is more than just a “lifestyle choice” or even a religious practice.

The surveys mentioned above, as well as numerous polls conducted on Facebook to determine religious affiliation of Vampyres and other participants in the subculture, indicate together that participants do not consider their vampyric identity as being central to them AS a religion in itself, but that they identify AS Vampyres, while also holding to religions of their choice.

Claims therefore, that Vampyres are really “Satanists” are therefore wholly unfounded and part of the SRA propaganda lie.

When outsiders and critics view the practices of ‘real’ Vampyres, they point out the consumption of blood, and the energetic feeding and exchange practices, which they frequently equate with “occultism”, and to them, it seems
perfectly rational and reasonable to assume that Vampyrism is a religion, which they also then equate with Satanism. Much of this assumption is also thanks to SRA, which either never takes into account any explanations presented by its targets, or otherwise misunderstands, distorts, or misrepresents these. While Vampyrism is not a religion or new religious movement (NRM), because of the distinct overlap in practices and other religions affiliations of ‘real’ Vampyres, the Vampyre subculture is often lumped into the group labeled “the occult”.

The gray area in claiming that Vampyrism is a religion or part of the occult, or Satanism, enters the equation when looking at the practices of sanguine and energy feeding, both of which are considered to be practices which form part of various religions. The distinction in determining whether or not such acts are related to religious belief should ALWAYS center on the MOTIVE for these acts.

**CLARIFICATION:** ANYONE can drink blood or absorb energy from an animal, or from a donor – ONLY ‘real’ Vampyres do so because they experience what is for them, a real, deep personal need to do so, in order to remain healthy and balanced.

3. Vampyric Ethics & Values

**Vampyre Community Laws, Ethics & Guidelines:**

While the idea of community laws within the Vampyre subculture is objectionable to some, since much of the subculture exists as a way to express personal identity and as such, individualism, there is general recognition of an overriding need to adhere to and to promote at least one working set of community ethics or guidelines within the subculture.

Although there are other codes of ethics and guidelines, the best known such single guideline in the VC, which spans languages and countries, is the Black Veil. While this guideline has seen 4 major revisions since its debut in the early 1990’s, it is also heavily criticized by what seems to be a vocal majority in the community. Reasons vary, but the main reason given seems to be its association with the lifestyle group called the Ordo Strogoi Vii (OSV) which emerged from within the ‘real’ Vampyre Community at the same time as “the Sanguinarium”, and has for many years attempted to redefine (and effectively hijack) the identity group “Vampyre” from being an identity, into becoming a new religious movement with which anyone can identify if they choose, and to call themselves a “Vampyre”.

Contention has long existed between the OSV and the ‘real’ Vampyre Community because the OSV has attempted to redefine ‘real’ Vampyrism to mean something akin to a religious choice open to anyone willing to worship the founder of the OSV (via “E.L.O.R.A.T.H.”) and to buy the books and products of the OSV/Sanguinarium as a financial enterprise. The OSV
founder, Todd Hoyt, also contends that ‘real’ Vampyres are mentally ill and spreaders of disease. The ‘real’ VC maintains that the OSV is a religious cult group which is not part of the ‘real’ VC, nor representative of ‘real’ Vampyres.

Regardless of all the drama resulting from this contention, the Black Veil carries with it the bane of its undeniable association with the OSV and its controversial views which many in the ‘real’ VC find insulting, and understandably so. Also, since the founder of the OSV was one of the original drafters of the first (and fourth) version of the Black Veil, who also happened to have major stakes in the LARPing community of the time – where the original Sanguinarium originated, the Black Veil also carries an unfortunate and unbreakable association with LARPing.

In South Africa, the local VC has its own guideline – the Totum Lex Vampyrica (TLV), which was developed locally by House Valur, and which to date has also been translated into Spanish, and adopted for use in various local groups, and also as far afield as in India and Canada.

“While the Black Veil is known even among some of the solitaries we encounter, most find it to be unfitting and “too open” for our local circumstances.” “We drafted the TLV (Totum Lex Vampyr) in September 2010 and adopted it at House Valur. It covers pretty much the same ground as the Black Veil, but in more detail, is clearer and I suppose somewhat longer – but is exactly the sort of thing that we need in South Africa.

Shortly after completion, it was posted on several international forums and message boards, notably Spiritus Intus Alit and a few others, for comments and suggestions. These resulted in some refinement, and the final product (which has been periodically updated) is now available here: http://vampyreculturecenter.wordpress.com/vampyre-culture/vampyre-laws-and-guidelines/the-totum-lex-vampyrica-tlv/

“The Totum Lex Vampyrlica (Whole Vampyric Law)

The Whole Of The Law:
Laws of Nature
Laws of Disclosure
Laws of Community
Laws of the Need
Laws of the Embrace
Laws of Otherkin

LAWS OF NATURE:
1) OF THE LIFE: Vampyres are real living beings, not creatures of myth and folklore bound by symbols nor rituals of religion. We are born, we live, and we die like any other living thing. We have no special abilities marking us which the Shinai cannot master for themselves, should they wish it.
2) OF THE BLOOD: Vampyres have unique needs which define us as Vampyres, being the NEED to supplement our energy or prana in order to remain healthy. There are different ways to feed, being called PSI, Psionic, Psychic or Sanguine, but we are all of one blood, we are all Vampyres. Be advised there are others who can feed as we do, but they do it for different reasons, be it religious practice or magick, or fetishism. We are defined as Vampyres by our inherent NEED to feed, without which we will suffer ill health.

3) OF THE HEART: What we are is not a religion, even though there are some religions specifically for Vampyres. Being of the blood, our need to feed and all other advantages and disadvantages flowing from this need – is what defines us as Vampyres, regardless of our individual faiths, beliefs or value systems.

4) OF THE WORLD: Some believe that Vampyres are predators at the top of the food chain, looking down on all living things upon this Earth – but even if that is so, it also means that we are evolved enough to choose to live in harmony with those who surround us. We are born of Vampyres, and also from Shinai and Otherkin, which marks us as being as human as anyone else, and no better, nor worse.

LAWS OF DISCLOSURE:
Preamble: There are places in the world where we face danger for what we are, and unwise or accidental disclosure could endanger our lives, and the lives of others who form part of our community. Conversely, there are places where Vampyres can live openly without fear of repercussions. At times, these two extremes can be present in the same state or country, and so the House leaders must bear the responsibility for determining the conditions prevalent in our area, and the level of exposure deemed appropriate. However, in worst case scenarios, the following should apply:

1) KEEP THE SECRET – There are places in the world where we face danger for what we are, and unwise or accidental disclosure could endanger our lives. Our greatest protection from persecution by Shinai and those who do not care to understand, is the fact that they truly do not believe we exist. We have nothing to prove to them that will not expose us to them. We know what they are, and what we are – that they do not is to our benefit.

2) WEAR THE MASK – We as Vampyres are a part of this world and must live, work and share it with Shinai in the midst of their society, whether they know about us, or not. Live life as you will,
but in order to not expose our existence to the Shinai world in a way that draws negative attention and endangers us all.

3) HONOR THE LAWS OF THE LAND in which you find yourself, so that you will not expose our existence to Shinai through violating Shinai law or endangering the lives of others. Being Vampyre does not elevate us above Shinai or Otherkin, nor does it give us grant to abuse them.

LAWS OF COMMUNITY:
1) HONOR THE LAWS OF THE COMMUNITY in which you find yourself, so that you will not bring disrepute to yourself, or your Coven, House, or Community, should you belong. Do this as far as possible – except if this endangers your own life, or the lives of others.

2) SHOW APPROPRIATE RESPECT AND HOSPITALITY TO VISITORS FROM OTHER TERRITORIES – and show them your ways and laws – but allow them the freedom and respect to follow theirs so that you will not bring disrepute to your Coven, House, or the Community. Do this as far as possible – except if their actions endanger your own life, or the lives of others.

3) COMMUNITY FIRST – Vampyre Havens, Covens, and Houses are Vampyre places of safety first and foremost, therefore our laws and needs must take precedence over those of others among us. However these needs must be balanced with the wellbeing of the whole community as these are a part of our community and our extended family.

4) KEEP INTERNAL DISPUTES INTERNAL – within the Coven, House or Community, do not take them into the Shinai world or into public spaces where they can boil over out of control and harm our Community. Settle disputes quietly and discreetly.

5) DISPLAY A UNIFIED FRONT – other Vampyres outside our immediate community are our kindred, before the Shinai world, which is outside ours. As far as possible, present a stable and unified face to the outside world, even if it hides or obscures cracks in our relations with them.

6) EDUCATE OTHERKIN FRIENDS AND ALLIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY – Where Shinai, donors, and Otherkin mingle within our community and do not understand our ways, we should make the effort to educate them, teach them control and discretion, and make certain that they respect our ways, so that we can respect theirs.

7) RESPECT DIVERSITY – no single person or philosophy holds all the answers. There are many paths in life. Being
Vampyre is not a religion to be argued over, it is a state of being, a fact of our existence. Arguments over deities and belief systems are as pointless and improvable as arguing with Shinai over our own existence. Like Shinai society, Vampyre society is diverse and mutual respect is essential for cohesion and strength, the glue that binds us together.

8) CHOOSE THOSE WHO ENTER THE COMMUNITY WELL – living among Vampyres is not something everyone can deal with. Show restraint and care in choosing who to bring into the Community. Those who are immature, mentally or emotionally unstable, selfish and manipulative, have no place among us. They are dangerous and unreliable and may betray us in future. Whether Shinai, donors, Otherkin or the newly awakened – their actions, and their behavior in the community will reflect on you.

LAWS OF THE NEED (FEEDING LAW):

Preamble: This speaks of feeding. Ethical feeding applies across the board. In either case, common sense in terms of what we do and where or how we do it – and the question “does it cause harm?” should apply.

1) CONTROL YOUR DARKNESS – we are more than the Beast. While we are creatures of both darkness and light, we cannot allow our nature to control us. The Beast may be stronger in some than in others, but it must not be allowed to cloud our judgment or to influence our actions to the point where it endangers lives, or our community. We are more than this.

2) NEVER TAKE BY FORCE THAT WHICH IS NOT GIVEN WILLINGLY – Never cause willful harm to donors, and those who sustain and support us. At best, this will result in donors unwilling to trust another Vampyre – at worst they will report the abuse to Shinai authorities.

3) RESPECT THOSE WHO SUSTAIN AND FEED US – show them kindness. Without those who offer their essence to us, we would be in dire need. We cannot help being in need of what they offer, and these donors sustain us. For this great service, which they undertake at their own personal risk, they deserve to be respected and appreciated. They are not to be manipulated or drained of more than what they offer us of their own free will.

4) NEVER FEED OFF CHILDREN, THE OLD, THE SICK OR WEAK – Children are innocents unable to comprehend what you would need of them, making them unwilling. The old, sick and weak have little enough energy for themselves, and taking from them would do them more harm than a young, healthy donor. Old and sick people also take longer to heal and to replace that which they have lost.
5) FEED SAFELY – Do not feed from unsafe donors. Unsafe feeding endangers your own health and the health of the community.

6) FEED DISCREETLY – careless behavior, thoughtless feeding habits and public communion attracts unnecessary attention from those who would persecute us, and risks exposing us all. Feed in private as far as is possible.

7) CHOOSE WISELY TO WHOM YOU WILL DISCLOSE YOUR VAMPYRIC NATURE – when you disclose to a donor, choose donors who will be discrete about what passes between you and about what you are. Do not disclose to once-off donors, and especially not solely in order to feed. What we are is our own business, and not the business of other than those who enter our community to sustain us, and whom you can trust with your life – and their discretion.

LAWS OF THE EMBRACE (Welcoming and Assisted Awakening):

Preamble: This speaks of Latents as unawakened Vampyres, identified by their Beacon. This usage of the term “Embrace” implies assisting Latents in their Awakening, and describes everything within the range of welcoming into the community and simple mentoring, to the highly controversial subject of “Turning” – which some believe is possible, and others not. This paragraph is intended to serve both schools of thought on the matter.

1) NEVER AWAKEN LATENTS UNWORTHY OF THE EMBRACE – the insane, mentally ill, emotionally unstable, violent, untrustworthy and indiscreet. Neither those who have badly broken Shinai laws and are fugitive. They will be as much a danger to our community as they are to themselves. They are better off dwelling in ignorance – as are we, for sparing ourselves the burden of their unpredictable nature.

2) CHOOSE CAREFULLY THOSE WHOM YOU WILL EMBRACE – they are to be entrusted with the Secret as are you, they must be able to bear it and keep it responsibly and honorably. Their lives and actions in and out of the community will always reflect upon you.

3) A MENTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THEIR PROGENY – for at least while they remain Fledgling – which is fully (and no less than) a year after Awakening – but this period of apprenticeship may be extended by mutual agreement (Pacta), as dictated by circumstances. A Mentor should undertake to educate the Fledgling about matters
pertaining to Vampyrism and the community during this period, and assist them in any reasonable way possible to become a worthy and honorable member of their community. A Mentor’s responsibility ends at the Yearling ceremony/ritual (held either at the end of the Fledgling’s first year after Awakening, or at a later time agreed upon in their Pacta) where the Fledgling “comes of age” and is introduced to their House or community as a full, equal member by their Vampyre name.

LAWS OF OTHERKIN:
Preamble: This speaks of Otherkin, such as were, therians or other supernatural or magical individuals, as well as Shinai and donors who are a valued part of the House or the Community.

1) RESPECT OTHERS: the right for Vampyres to exist, and to co-exist among Shinai, as well as the need of Vampyres to feed in the way they do, and the right for Donors to choose freely to feed them.

2) RESPECT YOURSELF: and your own right to exist among Vampyres you are no lesser being simply because you are not of the blood. You are Otherkin, and are an essential and cherished part of the Community.

3) SEE TO YOUR OWN NEEDS: If you are a Donor, weigh your own needs and health with the needs and health of a Vampyre to feed from you, and in such cases, always put your own health first. A Vampyre cannot always tell if you are too weak or sick to feed without doing you harm.

4) KEEP THE SECRET: Be discreet – the Community depends on your discretion for their survival. Do not flaunt or brag to strangers or outsiders about what you are, or what passes within the Community or House. Otherkin can be a target for vigilantes and prejudice just as easily as Vampyres.

5) REPORT ABUSE: To the relevant authorities, whether inside or outside the community. Use your own judgment to gauge the degree of the offense and what actions will be required to set things right. Try to resolve matters within the Community in order to keep the Secret, or if externally, to do so while divulging as little as possible that does not have bearing to the matter.


“The members of the SAVA and community leader-figures understand all too well that neither we nor they can hold anyone to any such “community law”. Yes, it provides a sound base to teach new members coming into the community, and it works as well as any guideline in any other community or subculture – as long as people are adult and responsible enough to appreciate the need to apply it.
Another document which has been formally adopted by the SAVA and promulgated within at least 2 Donor groups as well as non-SAVA group, is the Donor Bill of Rights by Belfazaar Ashantison. Our motive for doing so is that it has become our aim to get things right here from the start.” – From “The State of the SA Vampyre Community 2011-2012” Report by the SAVA.

International community bodies, or foreign entities which are active in the international VC also promote less “dramatic” community guidelines, such as can be found on the website resource of the Atlanta Vampire Alliance (AVA), and locally on the SA Vampyre Academy information resource, the Vampyre Culture Site (http://vampyreculturecenter.wordpress.com/).

“The Donor Bill of Rights by Belfazaar Ashantison, with a supporting cast of good friends, Demoness Barbie, Maggie Bones, Spooky and his beautiful Des

Take this to the community as you need to, but this is now a copyrighted letter.

This Bill of Rights is to promote the continued safety of the most precious of gifts to us, their life essence. It is suggested that this be signed by both the vampire and the donor on a 30/60/90 day trial basis. After this, the contract can be resigned for an extended period of time which can be either the 30/60/90/ or 6 months to 1 year. At the end of these contracts, discussions can be made as to whether or not changes should be done. What will be allowed and what will not be allowed.

1) As a donor, I know that it is through my personal sacrifice that the vampires needs are met. It is my loving nature that allows this relationship to continue. It is my right to decline to feed the vampire for any reason.

2) As a donor to a vampiric being, it is my right to know that I am in a vampiric/donor relationship that will be mutually beneficial to both me and the vampire I am donating my life essence to.

3) I am the essence provider. It is for me to decide whether or not I am able to give of my essence to the vampire I am with. I must be allotted time to heal and regain my essence in order to better support my vampiric partner.

4) At no time should my wounds not be allowed to heal.

5) At no time should I feel stressed about giving of my essence, if at any time I feel stressed, I have the right to back away from the feed, without being or feeling threatened by my vampiric partner.

"United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
6) Should I feel threatened in any way, shape or form, I have the right to seek guidance and council from other donors and leaders of the vampire community.

7) As a donor to a vampiric individual, I have the right to know that my position as lover, friend, family, roommate should not be jeopardized by my not wanting to give of my essence. In the slang, “it should not cost me my ass to be a donor.”

8) As a donor, I should also respect the needs of the vampire and try to learn more about his/her feeding habits in order to help stabilize his/her imbalances in energy.

9) As a donor in a vampire/donor relationship, I realize that though I have many necessary rights, I must also take cares not to abuse the person I am donating my essence to. These same rights afforded me in this Bill of Rights should also be extended to the vampire I am donating too.

10) Ultimately it is my right to know that I will be safe in all aspects of the vampiric/donor relationship and should I ever feel that my safety is jeopardized, I have the right to walk away clear and free.

Ultimately, it is our (both the donor and the vampire) responsibility to insure that we are not abused. It is our (both the donor and the vampire) personal responsibility to leave a vampire/donor relationship that we feel is abusive in any nature. We can not be abused unless we allow ourselves to be.

While the concept of these community guidelines is not binding within the community in the legal sense, the guidelines and ‘law sets’ or codes of ethics promote good ethical practices within the community, and also reinforce the idea that members of the community should abide by the laws of the country or state in which they reside. They also serve to indicate that whatever passes between Vampyres and their Donors as described within their agreements, is voluntary and not forced in any way. Thus, these community guidelines or ethics promote a sense of good civic values, and create awareness of what is considered to be unsafe and unacceptable behavior.
4. How Do Vampyres View Life?

While the subculture itself is viewed as an entity or “community”, there are diverse views even on this within the subculture. Many choose to follow solitary paths, while others perceive themselves to be members of a community. Since Vampyres come from all walks of life, and are from diverse backgrounds, and also since being a Vampyre is an identity group and not a religion, there is no way to nail down a “Vampyre world view”.

5. Vampyric Identity

Self identified Vampi(y)res, i.e. those who identify themselves as ‘real’ Vami(y)res, do not view their vampyrism AS a religion, but as an expression of their identity of self. Those who self-identify as Vampyres also participate in their own religions of choice additional to identifying as Vampyres.

Why Use The Word “Vampi(y)re” To Identify?

“…why do we call ourselves ‘Vampyres’”? Surely this invites ridicule and hostility from those who do not understand, and don’t want to. Surely we don’t really think of ourselves as undead supernatural creatures of the night? We don’t – so why not call ourselves “something else”? If so, what?

“Vampiric people”? This too conjures up the image of the vampire. ‘Parasites’? “Leeches”? Yes, I’m sure you can see where this is going. “Sanguinarian”? Hmm – even that brings images of leather, studs, whips and chains. Face it, compared to the alternatives, “Vampyre” is the most appealing. Besides, these days people are crazy about the vampire genre. We’re hot property – indirectly, of course.” – “Vampyre Nature – Part 1: Awakening” SA Vampyre News: http://savampyreenews.wordpress.com/2012/03/20/vampyre-nature-part-1-awakening/

While ‘real’ Vampyres identify with the need or drive to feed that is portrayed in the fictional vampire, there are various reasons why individuals would adopt the theatrical image of the vampire, and our community has learned over time how to distinguish between them:

a) Lifestylers: These are people who simply like the fashion of the theatrical or fictional vampire, and dress accordingly. Sometimes these are referred to externally as “vampire Goths”. To the VC they are “lifestylers” or in the subculture jargon, “gaja” which means “fashion Vampyres”

b) Role players: These are people who participate in live action role playing games (LARP). In these games, which are organized with some solemnity, people meet up in order to act out live action
games in specially arranged venues, and dress the part of characters they play. In rare cases, some tend to carry the parts they play into the real world, and live the self-deluding fantasy that they are ‘real’ vampires. For this reason, when we find people claiming to be “Lord Such-and-such” who is 200 years old coming onto our groups, it is annoying. These people are often reminded that “this is not a LARPing group” and told to leave the role playing at the door, or bugger off. Role players are also referred to within the VC as “larpers”.

What also helps to muddy the waters a little, is the fact that some ‘real’ Vampyres also adopt the vampire lifestyle, and/or may also participate in vampire LARPs. However, most ‘real’ Vampyres who do so, understand when and where it is appropriate to indulge in these activities. Consequently there is a degree of overlap between ‘real’ Vampyre culture and lifestyle culture.

For instance, many ‘real’ Vampyres will wear Gothic vampire attire when attending Vampyre social events, sometimes even wearing prosthetic fangs and contact lenses. They do not however put on a pretense of being some fictional character while doing so. Some formal Courts in New York, or Paris or even Germany feature the lifestyle culture or fashion as part of the ‘real’ culture, but the distinction between what is ‘real’ and what is lifestyle is maintained.

The same practice is maintained in online and offline groups, with participants understanding that “larping” is not welcome in ‘real’ groups. Even where non-Vampyres participate in LARPs, they usually understand that to pretend among ‘real’ Vampyres outside of the gaming context, to be one of them, is not a very wise or welcome practice.

While some ‘real’ Vampyres view lifestylers and larpers as detrimental to the public image of the subculture, by drawing unnecessary attention to the community, others find it attractive and appealing and a part of their vampyric identity and heritage.

Vampyrism As An Alternate Identity Group:

At least two academic researchers have recently completed studies on the Vampyre Community/subculture not simply by observing from outside and from a distance and from a judgmental viewpoint, but by interacting with the community, immersing themselves in the culture and learning about it first-hand.

Individuals who identify as vampiric form part of what is increasingly being described today in medical, scientific and religious study circles, as “alternate identity groups”. Other identity groups (aside from vampires) include cultural or social phenomena such as Goth and Emo subcultures, BDSM and Fetish subculture, the Otherkin phenomenon etc.
Dr. D.J. Williams of Idaho State University who has worked with the FBI on this topic along with the research of Suscitatio Enterprises, LLC on the real vampire subculture. In 2011 he published his paper (Contemporary Vampires and (Blood-Red) Leisure:


Should We Be Afraid of the Dark? DJ Williams, LCSW, PhD - Idaho State University, Leisure/Loisir - Volume 32 (2) (2008); Pages 513-539) on the real vampire community which is the academic paper for understanding real vampirism at the moment. Another article by Williams is also quoted later in this document: “Social Work, BDSM and Vampires: Toward Understanding and Empowering Vulnerable, Invisible Communities”, author Dr. D.J. Williams, to be published in Canadian Social Work, Volume 15 Number 1, Fall 2013. Copyright: Canadian Association of Social Workers.


6. Vampyre Community?

The idea of a real community of Vampyres may seem like a very well-kept secret. The truth is, it isn’t. It’s been making the news for decades, in fact as far back as the 1980’s, people in America were doing TV interviews as self-identifying Vampyres – although granted, the media back then, and even now, always took a sensationalist “you’re kidding me, right?” stance – and of course, not everyone who was interviewed at the time was entirely credible.

The South African Vampyre Community is a diverse subculture. Only within the past 4 years has it coalesced to a point where there is online interaction between members of this subculture across the country. Only recently have self-identified Vampyres begun to be drawn to a nexus for the subculture, the South African Vampyre Alliance (SAVA).

For those who exist without the knowledge that there is an online community, the SAVA provides emotional and educational support, it is a dark and lonely path. For those who find the community, there is friendship and advice and support only a mouse-click away.
CLARIFICATION: The South African Vampyre Alliance (SAVA) is NOT a governing body of the South African Vampyre community. It is a community based organization which works to grow and develop the local community with reference to cultural and social events, and also acts as a voice for the community as and where required.

NOTE: It (SAVA) encourages participants to follow the law, and in fact does not knowingly welcome anyone who is guilty of crimes relating to sex offenses, or any other violent forms of crime.

The VC also has its own community guidelines, sometimes referred to as community laws, and to which participants of the general community – and especially within the SAVA (which is a closed membership organization) are expected to adhere. The SAVA, while not a governing body of the SA VC, is a moderating and developmental influence upon the young SA VC and subculture.

Merticus, a member of the Vampire community (USA) since 1997, who is very influential in the VC, was interviewed in 2010 by John W. Morehead. “Merticus is one of the founding members of the research company Suscitatio Enterprises LLC, the co-organizer for TWILIGHT (vampire conference-style gathering), the current administrator for Voices of the Vampire Community (VVC), organizer for the Atlanta Vampire Meetup Group, and a principal contributing author and researcher for the Vampirism & Energy Work Research Study (VEWRS & AEWRS). A native to Atlanta, GA, Merticus is active in both the online and offline Community; consulting not only with fellow members of the vampire community but also with academicians and the media on matters relating to modern psychic and sanguinarian vampirism.

He has contributed to numerous academic and general media articles regarding vampirism. Merticus defines the Vampyre Community as follows:

"The vampire community is very loosely defined as anyone who identifies as a vampire. This may also include donors of real vampires (sanguinarian or blood drinking, and psychic or energy feeding), vampire enthusiasts, vampire lifestylers, and even roleplayers. Sanguinarian and psychic vampirism is not a cult, religion, medical condition known as porphyria, a paraphilia or “Renfield’s Syndrome”, offshoot of the BDSM community, community composed exclusively of disillusioned teenagers, and it’s definitely not what’s depicted in fictional books, movies, or television. For those of us who identify with real vampirism, the saturation of interest in the vampire has resulted in a cross-pollination between folklore, fantasy, and fiction with that of our once relatively obscure community."

"The mainstream culture has increasingly become interested in exploring all aspects of the vampire archetype and the possibility of real vampirism. While there are some in our community who enjoy living the vampire aesthetic, vampirism is largely an amalgamation of physical, mental, and in some cases spiritual attributes. The pop-
cultural interest in the vampire has led to the intersection of vampire enthusiasts with that of real vampires. We now find ourselves educating growing numbers of the public that one is born with a vampiric nature and not turned, that we adhere to ethical and safe feeding practices, are of sound mind and judgment, and productively contribute to society. As long as television shows such as CSI are not seeking to intentionally demonize or marginalize those who self-identify as vampires, then I’m not concerned over their occasional explorations into the dark side of reality.” From Theofantastique: http://www.theofantastique.com/2010/10/10/merticus-interview-media%E2%80%99s-depiction-of-vampires-csi-las-vegas-blood-moon/

John W. Morehead, the Director of the Western Institute for Intercultural Studies, which makes its mission to educate Christians about new religions, and subcultures, and who had made it his mission in life to learn more about obscure religions, and counter-culture, such as Vampirism, Satanism, Wicca, Spiritualism, and other subcultures, as well as their role in modern society, was interviewed recently by Vampires.com.

"As to my "philosophy on the vampire subculture," I agree with fellow religion scholar Joseph Laycock in his great study ‘Vampires Today: The Truth About Modern Vampirism’ (Praeger, 2009), that while religion scholars tend to classify vampires beyond fictional literature, cinema, and television as a new religious movement, or as a subculture, it is probably best understood in general as a personal and social identity. I am more open to the possibility of considering those who self-identify in this fashion as making up a subculture at times, but an identity group is probably the best classification.

Of course this identity has not arisen in a vacuum, and there have been various sources of influence, including the vampire in folklore, literary fiction, cinema, and television, and most recently through other forms such as the Internet and various forms of gaming. In various ways these have contributed to what Christopher Partridge has called popular occulture, with literature and film being some of the strongest contributors. It is difficult, if not impossible, to know how the vampire community has evolved in relation to film in popular culture since the history of the vampire community is so speculative.

In terms of my thoughts on today’s vampire culture, as someone with a lifelong interest in horror, the Gothic, the paranormal, and the vampire, and as a scholar working in religion and popular culture, I think it is a fascinating time to become aware of and understand the contemporary vampire culture. There is an unfortunate history of the misunderstanding, stereotyping, and at times persecuting minority or marginalized groups, whether Catholics and Mormons in the past, or Wiccans and vampires in the present. Certain groups seem to push people's buttons more than others, which contributes to misunderstanding and fear, and vampires seem to be near the top of the list of such groups for people today, even as they have a higher
There are several statements or declarations on community within the global Vampyre subculture. Many participants tend not to take the community aspect of the subculture so seriously that they consider it a formal or rigid entity entirely apart from external society, but view it more like one would a sub-cultural community such as one might see among Muslims or Jews living in secular surrounds – with each of these having their own social circles, community groups and even “judicial councils” which determine their own way of life and manage and interact with internal and external entities accordingly.

The South African Vampyre Alliance (SAVA), a group central to the development of the South African VC as part of the global subculture, holds the following document as central to its view on the Vampyre Community and Sub-Culture:

"The Vampi(y)re Declaration of Community (http://vampyreculturecenter.wordpress.com/vampyre-culture/the-vampire-community/the-vampiyre-declaration-of-community/) released in early 2011 has been officially adopted by the SAVA and made visible in as many places as possible within the SA VC, on websites, groups and fora." - From “The State of the SA VC 2011-2012” Report by the SAVA.

"The Vampi(y)re Declaration of Community:

By Belfazaar Ashantison, Deacon Gray, Octarine Valur, Zerchan and Wraiths (names in alphabetical order.)

We who self-identify as vampiric people, and who adopt the name Vampi(y)re, recognize our need for community within the context of broader Human society, and our diversity, and hereby undertake to view all who, like us, identify as part of the Community of real living Human Vampi(y)res.

We stand united in cause and hope, for a greater spirit of Community, and do so in order to promote knowledge, understanding and awareness of the vampiric condition and those who experience it, both within and without the Vampi(y)re Community.

We have struggled throughout our history as a Community to understand our own condition, by means of our own experience, learning, interpretation, thirst for knowledge, researching, communicating and engaging with those of like minds and those of opposing schools of thought. We have sought the truth of the physical,
mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of our common condition. We undertake to seek out knowledge shown to be lacking when matters arise which we cannot adequately explain.

We affirm that our intentions for a Vampi(y)re Community are not for it to be a body politic, but rather that our common goals as a Community are to endeavor to understand our condition in all its variations; questioning and clarifying that which we do not understand so that we may present a knowledgeable front at all internal levels, while also discussing it with those outside our Community, and to express above all, to each other, our bond as a united Community of Vampi(y)res.

We recognize that some of us may express their vampirism in ways different to our personal expression or experience of vampirism, and desire that no member of this Community should suffer indignation, discrimination or persecution because of such differences, where no harm results or is threatened by implication of consequences to our Community.

We acknowledge that each Vampi(y)re and grouping of Vampi(y)res, may uniquely identify this need, whether culturally, spiritually or socially, as something which holds profound significance to that individual or grouping – and although we may not always agree on these matters, we undertake to treat one other with respect, debate our differences logically and kindly, as is appropriate.

We acknowledge that our Community is made up of Vampi(y)res and Donors, who form relationships with us in the context of satisfying our vampiric needs, sustaining us by their voluntary sacrifices and good graces – and that this good will could be endangered or lost through acts of abuse or neglect; and further, we acknowledge that they have joined with us to support those with the Vampi(y)re condition, and that all have contributions to make which will benefit the Community as a whole; and that an atmosphere of respect, admiration and consideration between both Vampi(y)res and Donors should always be considered of paramount importance.

We acknowledge the schools of thought that vampirism is a “physiological condition”, “spiritual condition”, “mental condition”, or “emotional condition” and any combination of these and that without the advent of conclusive medical and/or clinical testing, that which we name ourselves is tantamount to a common belief that there is something within us which sets us apart from the Mundane world around us.

We affirm that we are not above the Mundane world, but are part of it – differently oriented from the rest of Humanity and having a need that surpasses our current level of medical, scientific or technological understanding.

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
Therefore as a Community, we seek to broadly define vampirism as the need of an individual to supplement their personal vampiric need, however they choose to define it, from external sources – whether these be perceived as living or non living, and regardless of whatever method is employed, whether through consumption of blood or chi/prana; or via energy in blood or other associated material, or in any other form whether corporeal or non-corporeal; or one method in isolation or in combination with another; and the principle that those who express such a need, be defined as being Vampi(y)res – with emphasis on the standard that not one of us is to be judged as lesser or greater than another because of their means or methods of satisfying that need.

To these ends, based upon our common vampiric needs, and our desire for togetherness, association and community, we express our mutual agreement and our unity as one Vampi(y)re Community.”


It should be noted that while this document was developed and released internationally, the South African VC had a significant input in its creation and development.

Other groups exist internationally, such as the Atlanta Vampire Alliance, which maintains information resources, guidelines and ethics and a forum. Another well known group is the VVC, or Voices of the Vampire Community:

“The purpose of the Voices of the Vampire Community (VVC) is to develop friendly relations among the various Houses, Covens, Orders, organizations, and individual leaders of the vampire community; to encourage cooperation in solving community related problems and in promoting respect for the views, ideas, and opinions of others without seeking to establish a unifying or governing body; and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of groups in attaining these ends.

Founded in January 2006, the Voices of the Vampire Community (VVC) is an international network of diverse voices from the vampire community. Membership to the VVC is by invitation only and is based exclusively on the merits of an individual’s lifetime contributions to the vampire community. The VVC is not established as a broad representative body for everyone who operates a forum, House, or group. It is designed as a serious discussion network for matters that affect our community both internally and externally from the media, academia, law enforcement, and the general public. Membership to the VVC is not based on an individual’s social or viewpoint popularity. Prospective candidates are selected in a democratic process of
nomination and election by current members. To be nominated, an individual must meet the following criteria:

- Be an active participant in the vampire community and eager to involve themselves in various projects and discussions.
- Have previously demonstrated contributions to the vampire community on an intellectual level that exceeds average.
- Have previously displayed leadership qualities and proper behavior within the vampire community for an extended period of time.
- Have earned the deepest respect and trust of others; and in turn strive to afford the same respect, regardless of individual differences of opinion.

The VVC undertakes various projects to benefit the vampire community such as providing informational materials in the form of digital and print publications, podcasts, educational videos, and RSS feeds. We also work with the media, academia, and law enforcement to ensure the myths, misconceptions, and stigmas attached to real or modern vampirism are not adopted as the basis for their work or professional decisions.

The VVC is not a governing body and will never attempt to act as such within the vampire community. The VVC respects an individual's right of expression and a group's right to operate by their own guidelines. We will not police informational content or the behaviors of individuals within the vampire community. The VVC invites you to use the contact form available on this public website to submit questions, comments, or offer suggestions.” – From the VVC public site: http://www.veritasvosliberabit.com/vvc.html

The Vampyre Community In South Africa

The modern Vampyre Community in South Africa is fairly young in comparison to others around the world, some of which have existed more or less in their present form for up to three decades or more. One of the oldest known modern Vampyre groups (The Order of Maidenfear) dates back to at least 1966.

The advent of the internet and rapid progression in communications technologies enabled a growth-spurt in providing critical information, resources and communication with each other, but the basics are still very similar.

Some scholars regard the Vampyre sub-culture as an off-shoot of Goth culture which originated in the 1970's, but this is not truly the case, as there
have been indications that the identity-form of the self-identified ‘real’ Vampyre has been around a lot longer.

There are legends among local Vampyres, of places around the country where Vampyres and potential donors would meet once upon a time, clubs or venues that were once something, and then becoming something else, going back as far as the late 1970’s.

A survey conducted within the community have indicated that among self-identified Vampyres in SA who participated, several responded that some form of family knowledge involving Vampyre nature, history or traditions was imparted to them by elder relatives. (http://vampyreacademy.wordpress.com/vampyre-academy-formal-surveys/the-vampyre-vampyric-donor-focus-group-survey-vvdfgs/vvdfgs-preliminary-results-report-1/) This suggests two things: that Vampyre culture predates popular cultures such as Goth by an unknown factor, and that vampyric nature as we call it, may well be passed along family lines – if not by heredity, then by family tradition.

There is increasing evidence to suggest that the precursor of the modern Vampi(y)re community in South Africa, a system of independent and secretive families and clans, persists – sharing this time and space with each other

**Why Are Vampyres Secretive?**

Due to the occasional resurgence of SRA (“Satanic panic”) in the media and public sector, the Vampyre Community, which has always been secretive and closed about its practices until recently, has become increasingly uneasy about what sort of attention may be directed towards it.

“People who first hear about the real Vampyre Community wonder why it is the first time they hear of them. They wonder why Vampyres are not, or haven’t been, more open – and because Vampyres tend to live more hidden, covert lives, hiding their vampyric nature, or obscuring the truth about their nature – they assume, and some even allege – that Vampyres really “have something to hide”, or something to be ashamed of. They presume that because Vampyres hide or keep their nature secret, that they “must be up to no good”, and worse, in the vein of those whose paranoia transcends reason – that they present some kind of “threat”.

Allegations based upon ignorance, paranoia and the resulting fearfulness are quite a popular tool with vampophobic activists, particularly in the field of religion – and especially in religious fundamentalist groupings in exclusive, puritanical, prescriptive and structured religions like Islam and Christianity.

It is easy to paint another social grouping as a “threat” or “danger” – especially if the audience has no information to judge the merit of...
allegations they are being presented with. It’s easy to turn an audience against an outsider minority group, particularly if little or nothing is known about that group, least of all without that grouping being afforded the opportunity to defend itself against such attacks.

A particular favorite tactic of such activists, is to obscure, distort or entirely omit the known or widely available facts, and to simply create the false impression that any grouping which happens to be the focus of their attack is a direct enemy of their religious group, and is most frequently identified as such by the application of the labels “Satanists”, “witches” and “devil worshipers” – regardless of how little truth is in their allegations.

In modern society, many people who will cheerfully sit in an audience listening to sermons and speeches intended to incite fearfulness, paranoia and hate, do not have much interest in checking up on the “facts” they are presented with by the hate-mongers doing the inciting, and face it – groups such as “Satanists” tend to keep their heads down rather than to risk being identified in order to dispute the utter nonsense they are often accused of. Thus, such generalization and stereotyping of legitimate and legally protected faith groups continues virtually unopposed in public. It IS far safer to remain silent – after all, it’s not as if those who swallow the hate-mongers baloney would actually believe them anyway, is it?

Most who identify as Vampyres realize that while they have little to hide, there is plenty to lose by becoming openly known as Vampyres. While this country has a secular and advance human rights constitution, the government and its associated organs of state are fraught with religious fundamentalist influence, in the form of government employees who also hold ad hoc positions in Christian churches, mixed Afro-traditional and even the tiny little fanatical evangelical sects and cults which have popped up on every street corner over the past decade or so, espousing fundamentalist and separatist values in the name of religionISM. While it is unconstitutional to do so, government bodies – in the form of their staff – frequently refuse to carry out their mandated duties, even in such basic tasks as administration, for example in the cases of same sex marriage etc.

Bearing this in mind, it is easy to visualize scenarios where divorce situations end up in court, with vampyrism being employed by one partner against the other – or even by the state, in causing children to be taken away. It is also relatively easy to grasp that religious conservatives everywhere in society will take whatever actions they can against perceived Vampyres – such as depriving them of their employment, habitation, and whatever else they can.

Thus, it should make sense then to anyone wondering why they haven’t seen more Vampyres coming out on TV or in the news, or even at work or at tenpin bowling evening. It’s not because they are doing
something wrong, or have something to hide – it’s to avoid the nastiness and complications of those who would hate them if they knew. It’s to keep themselves – and their loved ones – safe.” –“Why Do Vampyres Hide?” by Octarine Valur:

Among international groups recognized within the VC, and also by academics these days, the Atlanta Vampire Alliance (AVA) has posted numerous appeals and warnings to participants of the VC over the years, including this one, which may go a long way towards explaining why most participants maintain anonymity and keep their participation in vampyric communities secretive.

“Real Vampire Community Personal Safety & Privacy Awareness – A sobering message to the participants of the vampire community

The vampire community was formed in part to promote the well-being of its members with a supportive social network. We’ve done an admirable job in promoting safer feeding practices, sensitivity and acknowledgment of donor concerns, and sharing the most effective ways to manage or conceptualize vampirism. We’ve supported one another as we discovered that it was acceptable to form our own identities, even if those close to us can’t or won’t be supportive. Despite our advances, we’ve fallen short at protecting our community from exploitation by both outsiders and subversive participants who exist among us. The most visible members of the vampire community should strive towards being more open to newcomers and willing to work with them on finding responsible resources. When newcomers find themselves in a leaderless environment they are more likely to encounter individuals willing to serve this role who have less than honorable intentions. The time has come to acknowledge and correct this problem.

Participants in the vampire community have a responsibility to one another to correctly identify, acknowledge, and remove illegal, abusive, and predatory behavior from our own milieu. We’re all aware there are predators and opportunists who want to capitalize on the popularity of vampires; using the vampire community as their personal one-stop deli counter of potential victims. Actively promoting a cultural set of values to which real vampires already tend to aspire is the strongest and most far-reaching way to undermine these individuals. If it’s widely known that real vampires promote safe behavior, healthy personal growth, and interactions between equally-powerful individuals on a level social playing field, then it’s far more difficult for predators, abusers, and opportunists to effectively pretend to be part of our community, or worse, to fool others into following them based on the merits of their supposed vampirism and charming charisma.

In building the vampire community, we’ve created a culture that encourages introspection, promotes individual health, and tries to meet
the needs of its individuals. We can also use these methods that are unique to the vampire community to address dangers and promote health at the community level as well as the individual level. We owe it to ourselves and those who participate in our community, both online and offline, to acknowledge that the vampire community is at risk for specific types of abuse. We must be willing to take the necessary steps to create a culture that lessens that risk to our participants. This also includes identifying community participants who choose to prey on others, create imaginary lives that have the potential to adversely affect those around them, or who commit crimes and engage in behaviors which pose a clear danger to the personal safety, security, and livelihoods of law abiding participants in the vampire community.

I. Avoid Enabling Or Encouraging Outright Fantasy

When an individual participates in discussions solely on the internet, others can only judge who they are as a person by what they write. While the same can be said for those who choose to reveal selective sides of themselves over the telephone or in person, it’s less likely to occur with the same degree of success. We’re a non mainstream community, whose discussion topics include spiritual or occult themes, and these themes can appear dramatic, compelling, and intense. We understand that simply by virtue of existing, a community dedicated to the support of real vampires will inevitably attract people with unstable emotional or psychological conditions who are drawn by the appeal of the fantastic. We must work to explicitly distinguish the vampire community’s disposition towards the dramatic from facetious rhetoric. It’s detrimental to us all to enable anyone’s confusion of fantasy with reality.

Our community has a strong appreciation for personal expression, which has given participants a wide margin of acceptability in use of dramatic and fiction-derived language, but we’re reaching the limits of what the community can tolerate without becoming abject enablers of outsiders’ ego-based fantasy and role-playing behavior. A culture appreciating and rewarding precise communication is far more valuable to us than a culture which allows metaphorical language to pollute the discussion with drama while helping predators blend in. Imposed social hierarchy, assigned personal titles, and arbitrary laws derived largely from role-playing games are counterproductive to protecting the community from abuses. We must be able to discern legitimate community members from outsiders or those who have simply borrowed terminology in hopes of a quick assimilation and a naive fan base who’ll succumb to their wishes or possible ulterior motives. Many predators aren’t easily identified as being either unstable or violent. The most dangerous are often those who are the most charismatic; assimilating into the crowd and rising through the ranks until they obtain the level of recognition or respect necessary to carry out their actions. If you have a feeling that something is not "right" about
someone then you should perhaps listen to your intuition; especially if others are in agreement.

Time is a valuable commodity, so we resolve to only spend it conversing with people worth our time; surrounding ourselves with those who are mentally and emotionally stable, grounded in reality, and those who don’t engage in or encourage dangerous behaviors. Observing the actions of others and measuring their loyalties over long periods of time will often reveal those who are truly deserving of your company. We have a responsibility to ourselves to understand what attracts us to someone, how they are viewed and treated by their peers, and how they respond to setbacks, refusals, or disagreements. This is how a safe and stable community can be built at a grassroots level: by individuals making better-informed choices about who to interact with. Pathological liars, mentally ill participants who constantly cause discord or whose delusions tear at the harmony of community interactions, and attempts towards establishing oligarchical power structures must not be welcomed in our community.

II. Acknowledge The Ways In Which We Are Targets

We’re a community of outsiders and identity seekers, and over time we’ve shared our experiences of building our hard-won senses of self over and against the disapproval of family or religion, despite lack of social support, or even in the face of outright sabotage by our peers. Many of us have a personal story in our past in which we had to choose between who we are and who someone else wanted us to be. Many vampire community participants are drawn to our discussions of identity because they are themselves in the process of developing those same personal tools of self-discovery, and may be facing adversity of their own in the process. The vampire community has become an incubator for individuals’ sense of self, both vampires and non-vampires; keeping it a safe space for such exploration should be foremost among our responsibilities.

The vampire community has always tried to be a safe space in which uncertainty is allowed. We allow one’s identity to remain a question without an immediate answer as individuals develop the tools to ask themselves who they are, and uncover their answers for themselves. As a non-authoritarian culture, vampires have always held that validation of one’s own experiences need not come from those in higher positions of respect or authority than oneself. The vampire community has supported this idea by encouraging individuals to “discover themselves” and to “be honest with themselves”, but we can be more assertive in reminding those on a path of self-discovery to maintain their own autonomy: that the checks and balances of logic and realism are better tools than the arbitrary mandates of others and that they themselves are the only ones they have to please.
If our community is intended to be a safe space for self-discovery, then we need to be aggressively aware that being uncertain makes one a target; opportunists will always be there to exploit any uncertainty and any weakness in one's sense of self. The vampire community can promote awareness of attacks upon the self by outlining probable patterns of attack: the offering of a ready-made identity in place of one's hard-fought search for identity; encouraging vulnerable individuals to sever ties with their current support network; blatant disregard of the health of a donor; asking for time, money, personal information, or sexual favors. We must be conscious, and encourage awareness, of the ways in which opportunists try to hijack the process of self-discovery in vulnerable individuals.

Encouraging or facilitating association and open discussion with those under the age of eighteen by adults is inherently problematic. This openness and lack of restrictive access on the part of the vampire community is often looked upon by predators as an opportunity to fulfill their fantasies. It's simply not safe for children or young teenagers to participate in the vampire community in unrestricted or unsupervised social networking environments. While we acknowledge that the search for identity is just as legitimate, and just as personally important (if not more so) in the young as it is in adults, we must also acknowledge the increased vulnerability of this demographic. Furthermore, the type of discernment that we intend to encourage can only come with maturity and experience. This is true for all at-risk groups: those new to the internet, those who are used to sheltered environments, but especially for the young and inexperienced. The internet vampire community can not realistically keep at-risk participants safe from potential abuse, and therefore can not ethically allow their interactive participation. The best way to serve the needs of those high-risk groups is to encourage every individual to engage in honest introspection free from the undue influence of others, and to only join interactive participation after they have developed a strong sense of self, and of self-defense.

Many of the aforementioned behaviors, at least in their beginnings, have largely flown under our radar as a community. Perhaps we've seen forum postings in which someone's recruiting members sight-unseen for their new “House” or “Clan”, or perhaps we know someone who was told that if they really want to "be a vampire", they should send some money to find out how. This strikes many of us as an off-note, but we don't know what to do to prevent it from occurring in the future. It's not an explicit illegal offense, but it erodes our culture and our purpose. We can work against this type of exploitation by directly addressing the problem with new and vulnerable community participants, pointing out the techniques used to undermine individuality, and by creating a culture that explicitly refuses to tolerate behaviors that subvert, rather than support, a developing sense of self.

III. Promote Aggressive Privacy, Personal Safety, & Identity Compartmentalization Techniques
We know that being different is a personal danger in our lives, and many members of the vampire community take steps to avoid having people who they know in a non-vampiric context discovering their nightside identities. To ensure our continued employment, involvement in our children’s lives, and avoid uncomfortable social situations, we’ve created a necessary aesthetic of privacy and of separation. However, when it comes to interactions within the vampire community, we don’t have explicit ideals about how much information to share with one another, how to trust or not trust one another, or what kinds of protections we might be wise to employ from one another. It’s not about being more honest and open nor is about having something to hide; it’s about keeping the power over your personal safety firmly in your own grasp at all times. It’s about being aware that exposing your private information on the internet, or trusting too easily in the real world, transfers the power from your own hand to those who receive your trust. If the vampire community is intended to be a safe space, part of enforcing that safety must include actively discouraging participants from making themselves less safe.

We can create a safer community by building explicit ideals about keeping one's personal identifying information secret on the internet and in real life to the best of our ability. We can discourage the use of personally-identifying email addresses, the sharing of names, phone numbers, or addresses, accessing vampire related websites from work computers, and especially the tendency to let one's Facebook (or other social network) serve double-duty for both nightside and dayside friends. Unless one’s identity was compartmentalized at the initial onset of participation in the vampire community, then that individual will be forever at risk to possible exploitation. Therefore, it’s important to monitor what information and conversations we engage in publicly, keeping track of what we’ve have shared about ourselves with others and being more cautious before giving freely of our trust.

Perhaps most importantly, we can remind ourselves that we can never know whether someone on the internet is really who they say they are, and build conventions of communication accordingly. We can discourage stalking, harassing, or malicious “outing” of fellow community members by promoting effective privacy as a community standard. We can teach and remind one another how to keep ourselves safe from harm, and how to recognize when we're placing ourselves into a situation in which we're dependent on someone else for our safety. These are not suggestions steeped in paranoia -- they are prudent measures in an age where our personal privacy is eroding and the means to manipulate others for personal gain are growing.

IV. Exercise Our Protections Under The Law

Opportunists know those outside the mainstream can feel rejected by society, and are less likely to believe they have normal social
protections or legal recourse. This might even be true in many places, if law enforcement is intolerant of diversity or if they've fallen for Satanic Panic conspiracy theories. Whether hostility from law enforcement is real or simply feared, the vampire community has a real and valuable right to the protections of law, and we have a responsibility to call on the law to protect both us and our fellow community participants if a predator creates problems in our local communities or online.

No one should be afraid to report serious abuses and work transparently with law enforcement to remove predators from our community. Likewise, when abuses occur, it’s important to see that police reports are filed, personally record detailed narratives and facts surrounding the event, and be able to present irrefutable evidence when official legal inquiries are made. In conjunction with law enforcement involvement, participants who personally experience abuses or witness them firsthand should report them to those in a position of influence or leadership for those in the community who may come into contact with the alleged offender. Too often, violent and abusive community participants can continue their abuses simply by moving to another city or state, where the community hasn't yet heard of their record. Community participants who have good communication with one another should be able to thwart such behavior, so long as they are armed with legitimate data such as official police reports, rather than rumors and gossip.

Through the responsible sharing on actionable and verifiable information concerning crimes, we can create a culture which predators, child molesters, and those who are abusive and violent, are afraid to approach or participate in, because they know they'll get reported immediately, charges will be pressed, and they'll be called out and held responsible for trying to make the vampire community their personal playground. We can create a culture that makes vulnerable participants aware of the potential for abuse and that real vampires behave in ways designed intentionally to promote individual safety and security.


The Vampyre Community And SRA Propaganda

Suffice to say, many people, especially “occult experts” believe that the Vampyre community or Vampyres, are an integral part of Satanist religion, and that the two are closely associated or intertwined somehow.
CLARIFICATION: It is not the aim of this project TO associate the VC with religion, but simply to clarify that it ISN’T a religion, least of all “Satanism” as SRA propaganda portrays it – that said, it is SRA propaganda which creates any such association.

As a classic example of scare-mongering around the Vampyre subculture, in late 2010 American news media was flooded with classic SRA propaganda which claimed a teenage girl had been abducted or lured into “the vampire cult”, and speculation was unchecked and went wild.

According to a South African website which displays a record of history as it affects the Vampyre subculture, under the entry for October 1 2010:

"16-year-old Shelby Ellis of Cobb County, Georgia takes a bus to her High School, then goes missing. Her worried parents log onto her computer and find that the last site she’d visited was Vampire Freaks.com. Naturally, they jump to the conclusion that she has been kidnapped and possibly ex-sanguinated by Vampyres. The following week, one of her school friends also vanishes, and soon after, a third. They hire a private investigator, who agrees with them that a "vampire cult" is at work. Within days, US local and national media is swept up in a vampire hysteria. Shelby remains missing for three weeks."


The furore went on for weeks as “breaking news”, as law enforcement searched for the missing teen and media speculated about the “dangers” of “occult groups”, interviewing “occult experts” and airing views which incited hatred against religious or identity groups.

Video:

Parents fear daughter in vampire cult :


At the height of the dramatic press coverage, the Atlanta Vampire Alliance released a statement (visible here: http://www.atlantavampirealliance.com/shelbyellis.html) criticizing the US national and local media for irresponsible reporting and stereotyping around
the disappearance of teenager Shelby Ellis, which is still blamed for generating vampire hysteria and even fueling the "satanic panic" response in hate crimes against the real Vampyre community.

“Notice To National & Local News Media
Vampire Cults, Gothic Crime, & Satanic Panic

The Atlanta Vampire Alliance [AVA] would like to express its disappointment with the news media, both national and local, in their decision to run sensationalized headlines about the very sober and serious situation of a teenaged runaway. We urge the news media to resist the temptation of sensationalism, and employ maturity and sensitivity rather than hysteria. There is categorically no such thing as "underground vampire cults," and employing the flawed language of hysteria at best shows a lack of respect for the facts, and at worst succumbs to flights of fancy which could serve to distract an ongoing search for a missing person.

We would also like to take this opportunity to point this coverage out as "teachable moment" in media hysteria. The insistence on using the term "vampire cult" is at once prejudiced, irresponsible, and poorly-informed; it relies on a series of common folk beliefs about "cults" which have been thoroughly and repeatedly debunked by experts. They have no place in serious social dialogue of any kind, much less in a discussion about a teenager who has run away from home.

The suggestion that such "cults" exist, and are indicated by their choices of music, clothing, or non-Christian symbols, is directly related to a cultural prejudice commonly known as "Satanic Panic." Satanic Panic is an urban legend which plays on religiously-generated fears of other peoples' religions and cultures to create an imaginary narrative of "cults" which practice criminal behavior in a pseudo-religious context. No such "cults" have ever existed, and the myth of the "cults" has been repeatedly debunked; but the prejudice created by the myth still harms innocent people today.

The discredited "satanic panic" narrative stereotypes a wide range of normal behavior as potentially dangerous. These normal behaviors include choices of clothing and music, the ordinary symbols of valid non-Christian religions, and even what novels one might read. Fear of these ordinary activities has led historically to censorship and the abuse of individuals wrongly accused of being "in cults," and feeds a vicious prejudice based solely on fear.

We would also like to note that the vampirefreaks.com social networking site is not a vampire-oriented website, and is not considered a participating entity in the online vampire community. Confusing the vampirefreaks.com social networking site with vampire folklore, fiction, or the vampire community is a mistake based
apparently on the site's URL. The vampirefreaks.com site, apparently in an attempt at stylishness, calls their interest-based user communities "cults." This should not be confused with any "cults," real or actual, of course. Perhaps this is where the "cult" terminology started getting tossed about the press, but if that's the case, the usage appears to be entirely facetious."

The AVA also urged the real Vampyre community to report Shelby's whereabouts if contacted by her.

"Notice To The Vampire Community:
MISSING, POSSIBLY ENDANGERED RUNAWAY
November 2, 2010

The disappearance of Shelby Ellis has come to our attention via the national news media. While we do not believe that Shelby Ellis has ever been in contact with the vampire community either online or offline, we encourage vampire community members to keep a lookout for any missing persons who may come into contact with us for any reason.

From what we can gather from media reports, the only link between Shelby Ellis and anything concerning "vampires" is the fact that she has a profile on the unaffiliated "vampirefreaks.com" social networking site, and her parents' statement that she sometimes dressed in Goth fashion. We know of no one who has ever met or spoken online with her, and don't think she's ever had any contact with the vampire community. It's unlikely that anyone in the actual vampire community will be contacted by Shelby, but sometimes news reports like the ones we're seeing may prompt a runaway to contact community members even if they had no previous knowledge of the vampire community.

Shelby Ellis is sixteen years old, and may be traveling to New York or Missouri. The news reports haven't said whether they think anyone is traveling with her. Please pass this on, and spread the word with both the Goth and vampire communities in those states, as well. If Shelby contacts you, please encourage her to call the Cobb County Sheriff's Office at 770.499.4600/4635 and/or her family."

As it turned out, Shelby Ellis was found by police in Washington, safe and sound, living with a friend of her own free will. As it turns out, she had run away from home because of "over-strict parenting" and Vampyres had nothing to do with her disappearance after all. At the end of the day, no crime was committed some would say – but what about the harm intentionally inflicted to the many participants in the subculture, in the form of malicious reporting?

Even AFTER the teen was found in the company of a friend, and even after the girl's parents denied that she had been involved in any kind of cult, the media continued to speculate for some time, in a sensation-seeking fashion,
whether she had been involved with “a vampire cult”, frequently bombarding viewers with images of the word “cult” and “vampire”.

At least one spokesperson for the Vampyre subculture was interviewed to provide objectivity, accomplished author Michelle Belanger, although she was not given much room to speak. In one video (http://www.fileden.com/files/2010/11/16/3017029/ARF%20Project%20Media/20101104%20Shelby%20Ellis%20Michelle%20Belanger%20speaks%20after%20she%20is%20found.mp4) TV interviewers claim Washington state is the “focal point of vampire culture” based on the fiction of the “Twilight” books and movies popular among teens at the time. While Belanger struggles valiantly to clarify the misconceptions surrounding the Shelby Ellis saga, in just under 1 minute ten seconds, the station airs images of “vampire cult” alternating with stills from “Twilight” movies. It takes a lot more than just 1 minute and 10 seconds to dispel misconceptions about a subculture most non-practicipants really know nothing about.

Whenever articles pop up on the radar where the press, media or law enforcement use the term “vampire” to describe a crime or the accused in a particular case, concerns are raised about journalistic accuracy and unfair stereotyping.

The Vampyre Community has learned to evaluate them using various guidelines and methods. The SAVA for example, evaluates SRA “vampire” articles according to the following model:

**The SAVA "Vamp(y)re Crime" Response Evaluation Model:**

When evaluating the news coverage of the crime or incident, consider the following points -

1) Accuracy in Identification? (A) The perpetrator is or considers themself to be a self-identifying/self-identified Vampi(y)re, and evidence of this can be found other than in statements or claims made by relatives, associates or witnesses to any crime committed, such as in a personal diary or blog, or Facebook profile etc. (B) The perpetrator is simply being labelled as a “vampire” because the media/law enforcement or witnesses/bystanders/other parties compared their behavior or particulars of their crimes to the fictional vampire stereotype, and are being called a "vampire" on account of the public misconception of what a 'real' Vampyre really is. No evidence of their alleged connection to or participation in the Vampi(y)re Community can be found.

2) Mental State? (A) The individual exhibited signs that they acted deliberately, premeditatedly, and within the bounds of what is generally accepted as the definitions of 'real' vampyrism (and associated with these definitions) when committing the acts they stand accused of. In short, (A) did they commit the acts they are accused of while
considering themselves to be a 'real' self-identified Vampi(y)re in the manner in which we define or understand the term? (B) The individual simply committed a crime in a mental state which suggests underlying mental disorders and/or trauma where they were experiencing some kind of mental lapse, delusion, episode or delusion clearly indicating that they require the treatment of a mental health professional.

3) Association with the VC? (A) The individual has at some time been (or is currently) a participant in, a member of, or associated with 'real' Vampi(y)res, the Vampi(y)re Community, or identified themselves specifically - in private forums, IRL groups, or publicly, with any definition of 'real' self-identified Vampi(y)res accepted within the Vampi(y)re Community. (B) The individual has never identified themselves as being a Vampi(y)re, needing blood or energy to survive, interacted on or offline with, or been connected to the real VC as it exists, in any way, shape or form. Whatever accusation is made by critics that the individual is a 'real' Vampi(y)re or a participant in the VC, this cannot be proved.

Guideline:

The evaluation framework is divided into two categories, A and B.

Category "A" indicates that a participant in the VC, a member of a known VC group, or a self-identifying "conventional" Vampi(y)re has committed a crime - and that more bad press specifically focusing on the real VC and subculture can be anticipated. Public responses from the VC if any, should focus on aspects such as community values, ethics and guidelines and the statistical facts that "most" Community participants are law abiding citizens, that the incident in question was an isolated incident, that the majority of the VC find themselves embarrassed by such incidents and do not as a rule associate with or approve of such acts etc.

Category "B" indicates that the worst the VC should have to worry about is some more bad "vampire" press, while nobody would have anything tangible to use against the VC based upon this incident. Public responses from the VC if any, should point out the known facts of the case, from the point of view of all points indicated as (B). It should also be pointed out that the association of the crime and perpetrator with the real VC is based purely on conjecture, general ignorance about 'real' Vampi(y)res and also the stereotype misconception created and fostered by myth, fiction, religious intolerance and movies like Twilight.

The need for any public response, and the degree of response necessary, is usually indicated by the kind and strength of response delivered by critics of the Vampi(y)re Community and subculture. A very harsh and critical response from the press or other body for example would warrant a more diplomatic and determined VC
response than say, a lesser critical one. In many cases, no connection between so-called "vampire crimes" and the real VC are ever made by the public or the media or press, or even law enforcement. Sometimes giving a response when the occasion doesn't warrant it can do more damage than good, by drawing attention to the VC when there was none directed at our community before – thereby unintentionally associating the VC with the crime or activities described in the criminal reports in the minds of those reached. Caution, fore-thought and diplomacy are advised.

The Regent of the SA Vampyre Alliance had the following to say about self-proclaimed "experts" in the occult in relation to their statements about Vampyre subculture:

"People who have expertise in a specific field will usually demonstrate a level of maturity when engaging with others, understanding that there is more than one point of view regarding every problem. They will not attempt to silence any who disagree by simply banning them from a group or attacking aspects of their character because they can't argue the point, or make sweeping general statements against the group they identify with. Experts in any field are generally involved in that field with lengthy periods of activity or presence and have some level of experience greater than someone not involved or who sits outside, looking in. Being an expert in physics does not make that person an expert in botany, likewise when it comes to religions and subcultures, being involved in one such field does not make one an "expert" in all similar fields, nor does the internal teaching of one field in its own relation towards others of necessity hold true to be the same for those other fields. That said, if you are looking for real experts in these fields, avoid the loud and boastful, the perpetually angry, the paradoxically inane, the pridefully vociferous, and the violently reactionary." – Octarine Valur.

Vampyre Fears Of Prejudice & Violent Backlash:

SRA propaganda played a critical role in the persecution of perceived "vampires" in Iraq in February 2012, when teenagers who had adopted Western dress and hairstyles were accused of being "vampires", drinking blood, practicing witchcraft, and of being part of the "emo" fashion or lifestyle. Much of this as it turned out later, was a conflation built into Islamist SRA propaganda, of these different religions, subcultures, and homosexuality, along with a great amount of exaggeration.

Numerous state propaganda videos showing Islamic clerics speaking against "vampires" in youth culture, and lifestyles such as "emo" are visible on YouTube.
Iraqi propaganda videos dating from 2009 fuel hysteria leading to the murder of an estimated 114 teenagers in February 2012 on accusations of being vampires, witches, gay – all under the misapplied label “emo”.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdSgE-L6-dE
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JetCE6p1eRg
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPxrvCTXY0Q
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9LNGnNhLG0

Unfortunately for the teenage and young adult population of Iraq, anything up to 100 or more people were killed by religious police during that period, with teenagers being even taken from schools and stoned to death by religious zealots, with full immunity from the state. The accusations of vampyrism were based entirely on SRA propaganda, conflation of the Vampyre subculture with goth and emo lifestyles, and other occult beliefs, and used to instill fear and terror in the populace – although the true reasons for this “cleansing” was to remove the visible signs of Western influence in the Muslim youth once the American presence in Iraq had ended.
The below article discusses the issue, providing links to videos and other articles in mainstream media:

“VC members were horrified last week by the news of the Iraqi massacres in which Islamist terror-militia abducted teenagers from schools and from the streets and brutally killed them. Pictures of several victims were circulated on the web over the weekend. An estimated 117 teenagers were reportedly marked for death specifically because they dressed in Western-inspired styles, wore non-traditional haircuts, or were identified as being gay. For some time before the massacres, Iraqi religious leaders and even the Ministry of the Interior are supposed to have released official documents, accusing those who identify as “Emo” of “sedition”, “witchcraft” and “satanism”. Of particular interest to our community however, is the specific accusation leveled against the victims, of being “vampires”. Were they really?

While numerous apparently official (and quite serious) references to “vampires” and “blood-drinking” have been made by Iraqi officials and clerics in recent times, the truth of these accusations as applied to the victims of this senseless slaughter is being disputed within the international community. It seems generally to be considered more likely that these references (like the accusations of “witchcraft” and “satanism”) are entirely based on assumptions made while religious leaders were looking for ways to scapegoat and demonize a cultural minority group – or to expand the scope and refocus interest in their cause – rather than serious references to actual Vampyres or a VC in that country.

Nevertheless, in Iraq, death lists were circulated, bearing the names of mostly children and youth identified earlier by Islamist terror-groups,
with warnings to abandon their “evil ways” immediately, or face death. “Al Mada reports that lists specifically of youth who are believed to be Emo have been posted on walls in Sadr City as well as the Shula and Kādhimayn neighborhoods — all heavily Shi‘ite districts — with threats to kill them. An anonymous official in the Sadr City municipal court told the newspaper that killers have the names of the young people who are Emo stored on their cellphones, to help “liquidate” them.”

Even videos released by Islamist groups on YouTube make it appear as though there is a concrete three-way connection between vampirism, “satanism” and homosexuality, and “Emo” culture is portrayed in these videos as embodying these aspects as well as being threatening, horrifying and aimed at inciting rebellion against religious supremacy in that country.

The first video listed here was released in November 2011, and the second from the Media Center For The High Islamic Board Presidency, on February 26, 2012. Several of the images in the first video are meant to connect “Emo” culture to vampirism and possibly to the Vampyre subculture. It is a well known fact that plenty of images of the real VC in places such as the USA where fewer restrictions on freedom of personal expression exist, are to be found on the internet. It doesn’t take a genius to work out that it is easy to splice together a sequence of unrelated images – say a vampire gathering, some Emo artwork, a few images of blood here and there, and some shots of people who indulge in body-modification, and to claim it represents what “Emo” sub-culture is all about. It doesn’t make it true. As is typical in propaganda designed to incite hatred based on any kind of characteristics and used to facilitate, justify and commission genocide – information is distorted, truths twisted, or facts simply made up. This is especially true when examining material in this case and comparing it to propaganda employed by human-rights abusing regimes from any era in history.

It is hard to ignore the similarities on paper, between this atrocity and the witch hunts and cases of vampire hysteria in history – and even the present. While traditional myth and fiction from all over the world portrays the undead vampire myth and vampirism as a danger to life, and would have us believe that priests and religious zealots should be hunting the undead and staking them, the reality we know as modern Vampyres is completely different. As local activists against witch hunts in South Africa say: “Accusation is not proof!” and yet, there have been at least 173 victims of witch hunts worldwide since January 1, 2012 alone. Notable also is the fact that all these murders have been carried out without any proof to back up their accusations.

Real living Vampyres are not the undead killers fiction portrays, and indeed, we are generally law-abiding people who can and do make immensely positive contributions to the societies we live in. The
assumptions made by the makers of these videos, and perpetuated in these works of pure propaganda and incitement to fear and hatred, are just so off the map as to be on a different planet altogether.

On the surface, many people can be forgiven for thinking news of this tragedy is a “hoax” because, look – the Arabs are off hunting vampires, and making actual reference to vampires in official documentation! Ok then, sounds too crazy to be true. But it’s not a hoax, not a joke. They have been brutally murdering kids for being kids – and they have been killing people for things that shouldn’t matter for years – and human rights violations shouldn’t be viewed as funny.

It is a standing view of human rights activists that nobody should die this way, least of all children, and least of all for the reasons used to justify this carnage.

It is quite clear to see where the cultural misunderstanding comes in. Most people in Iraq (or the Middle East) criticizing the subculture in this way, have a very basic, literal understanding of the world around them, including their culture, their own religion, and therefore it’s understandable why they believe the complete fabrication presented in these videos and spoon-fed to the slumbering, subservient and ignorant masses in Arab society. Homophobia also undeniably plays a significant role in this matter.

According Iraqi’s living outside the country, the term “Emo” in Iraq refers to gay people. “It is used by militias to refer to gay people. It’s no matter if you were a truly EMO or not, if they identify you a homosexual they will call you an EMO and of course will smash your head by a cement block.” Thus, it seems if you look or dress in the “Emo” style, you are considered to be gay – or if you are gay or an effeminate male or masculine female – or transgender – you are labeled “Emo”.

Showing such ignorant and easily-led people and fervent religionists material such as in these videos would be tantamount to dropping a match into a lake of kerosene. Fear and panic would inflame them, and motivate a negative reaction. The West, and in particular American culture, has been demonized and derogated in the Middle East for political reasons for a long time already – and this form of visual propaganda, coupled with a message repeated over and over again by religious leaders, inciting fear, paranoia, intolerance and hatred over the past several years, has together formed a powder-keg which could be set off at a moment’s notice.

Self-expression in such ultra-conservative societies, burdened by an over-abundance of religious extremism and fanatics – and an apparent lack of appreciation for the value of human life – is a risk that could easily cost someone their life. It appears that in this case, all it took was one little push to turn individual style into “dangerous threats to Islam” and self-expression into a new scapegoat – and a death-
sentence for 117 kids. Warnings of more murders, and new death lists have been circulated — and who knows how many more innocents will die in the weeks to come?

It is fairly obvious that those pushing these massacres forward have created the impression that the “Emo” subculture is the embodiment of sexual perversion, religious heresy and abomination, encompassing everything from homosexuality, transgender, other religions, “witchcraft” and “satanism” — which according to them, must be “eradicated”. The abduction, torture and murder of gay people in Iraq is not a new thing, and has been reported on internationally since as long ago as 2005 — but this event marks a turn in events, something which indicates a rise in intolerance for ANY diversity or independent thought or dissenting behavior — or secularism — in Iraqi culture.

Police units assigned to protect minorities against such attacks since the increase in anti-LGBT violence, have indicated their powerlessness to stop them, or to intervene. Amid accusations that the government of Iraq is directly complicit, anyone on the receiving end of this brutality seems completely defenseless. "Iraqi police squads who are specifically assigned to protect social minorities say they are almost powerless to stop the threats against gays and Emos. One officer assigned to the so-called social abuse squads said police are meeting with clerics to ask for help in urging the public against killing what he described as “the Emo or the vampires or Satan worshippers.”

A government official released a statement on the second of this month, claiming that there are “vampires in Baghdad, that they are “Emo’s” and that they “absorb blood from the wrists of each other”. According to how you translate it, he says that people consensually cut, and drink blood — behavior which would be consistent with the real Vampyre community — but by all accounts, this is simply an application of a stereotype designed to make “Emo” kids and culture appear heinous and threatening in order to gain support to snuff out any sign of diversity.

Are there real Vampyres in Iraq? Statistically speaking, there ought to be, and there probably are — but it’s increasingly unlikely that we will ever know. What can be said for sure is that there is no known VC in Iraq — and as days go by, decreasing chances that there ever will be.” — From ‘The Vampyre Connection’, SA Vampyre News: http://savampyrenews.wordpress.com/2012/03/13/the-vampyre-connection/

An article on Wikipedia also discussed the killings, which some sources claim continue to the present - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emo_killings_in_Iraq

While South Africa is not Iraq, it is easy to say that such things would “never happen here”, people in our own rural areas are burned, stoned and hacked to death on accusations of “witchcraft” — and in our cities, gay people fear for
their lives and are targets for so-called “corrective rape”. Vampyres prefer to remain in the shadows for very good reasons.

Similar videos and other media items are to be found from Christian SRA propaganda pundits circulating the internet, and there are even Christian warfare ministries in the USA focused on infiltrating and destroying the Vampyre Community in their cities.

In this video (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMAjdW-xinE) by Thug Exposed, a Christian warfare ministry active in American gangster culture, focuses on what it calls “Satanist vampire cults”, even enlisting the aid of so-called “ex-vampires” or “vampire occult survivors”, who add their own brand of craziness to the SRA phenomenon.

7. Vampyre Days Of Significance

While the relationship between Vampyres and their donors has always been one of gratitude and appreciation, it became a topic of interest within the international VC to set a special day to appreciate donors, which could be celebrated privately by donors and Vampyres, with the exchanging of gifts or other ways to demonstrate the appreciation of the donor by their Vampyre. This became an institution in the international VC in 2010, along with a special day to honor or commemorate Vampyres.

**October 1** is International Donor Appreciation Day, celebrating Donors who sustain Vampyres through their selfless generosity. Exchange of gifts between Vampyres and Donors is not uncommon.

**October 5** is International Vamp(ŷ)re Appreciation Day, celebrating the existence, value and uniqueness of Vampyre-kind. Exchange of gifts between Vampyres and Donors is not uncommon.

There are also some other days of local significance to the SA VC, being Human Rights Day and Founder’s Day.

**March 21** Human Rights Day (a general public holiday in South Africa). Vampyres appreciate their own diversity and the need to value their freedoms and civil rights as any other minority group, religious or ethnic, would.

**May 20** – Founder’s Day, celebrating the founding of the South African Vampyre Community, and the SAVA and commemorating milestones and achievements of the community.
8. Vampyre Jargon

Since Vampyres have their own subculture, there are terms in use within the community which have been specifically developed, adopted, or adapted to mean certain things within the context of the VC.

A few terms:

- Kin: used by Vampyres to describe a Vampyre, someone who is Kin.
- Kindred: used by Vampyres to describe Vampyre-kind.
- Nightkind: used by Vampyres to describe Vampyre-kind.
- Shinai: used by Vampyres to describe – non-Vampyres. A synonym for “mundane”.
- Sin Nomine: A term meaning “without name”. It refers to those who have been outcast from the community, perhaps through the violation of ethics, or for bringing shame or disgrace upon a group, or upon the entire community.
- Donor: a person who donates of themselves to feed Vampyres. Usually there is only one Vampi(y)re to a donor. Donors are sometimes referred to as “Swans”, “Black Swans”, or in the local VC as “Isdae”, with sub-classifications as to what sort of donors they are, according to what sort of feeding methods they facilitate.

The general lexicon of terms in use in the global VC is far too long to include here, but online resources are listed below:

- Vampyre Terminology (This is the local (South African) Lexicon of Vampyre Culture and Terminology, a glossary of terms and words relating to Vampyres in the local context.) [http://vampyreterminology.wordpress.com/vampyre-culture/vampyre-lexicon/vampyre-terminology/](http://vampyreterminology.wordpress.com/vampyre-culture/vampyre-lexicon/vampyre-terminology/)
- Glossary of terms about Vampyrism [http://www.religioustolerance.org/vampire5.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/vampire5.htm)
9. Vampyre Cultural & Organizational Structures, Vamp-centric Religions, Lifestylers & Role Players

Vampyrism is not a religion, and so therefore the best way to view the different aspects of the subculture is to look at the different kinds of individuals who identify as Vampyres or vampires for their own personal reasons, and the ways in which these differ. The way in which Vampyres organize themselves into groups, which in turn results in the structure of the Vampyre Community, will also be discussed in this section.

Organizational Structure:

Within the broader subculture, there are solitary Vampyres, that is, those who do not belong to groups. In some areas, these are known as ‘ronin’ Vampyres. Otherwise, Vampyre groups run on a hierarchy of Clutches, Covens, Houses and Orders. Religious groups, or to be more precise, Vampyre groups which focus on or meet for religious reasons are called “Temples” or “Shrines”. In some areas, groups meet or interact in a “Court” system, which includes all of the above structures, although this practice appears to be somewhat limited to the eastern part of the USA, and intermittently in Europe where the OSV has had some influence in the past.

Roleplayers & Lifestylers

Roleplayers are, in the common language, only “pretend vamps”. They do not seriously identify as part of the real Vampyre Community, nor do they identify as ‘real’ Vampyres, nor do they feed using psychic or sanguine or other methods identified with Vampyrism. Like lifestylers, they sometimes partake in social activities relating to the fictional or even Gothic roleplay of being “pretend vampires”, but most typically they participate in roleplay games in which the participants play characters in the game.

“Vampire role-players, otherwise called "fashion vamps", differ distinctly from human vampires in that they are "serious vampire fans and those who dress up in vampire clothing, live a vampire lifestyle (e.g. sleep in coffins), and primarily participate in RPGs such as Vampire: The Masquerade."[3]" - From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vampire_lifestyle

One of the best known vampire role playing games today is “Vampire: the Masquerade” and its spin-off games by the gaming company White Wolf. V:tM developed the game in the 1990’s, and rumors have abounded within the ‘real’ Vampyre Community, especially in New York, that the central mechanisms of the game had been based on New York Vampyre culture at the time.
Typically, role playing gamers do not carry their gaming persona out of the gaming context, meaning that they don’t interact as “Lord or Lady Verona, who is 300 years old and a vampire” etc when not participating in a LARP. These people are NOT real self-identifying Vampyres.

A Google search will deliver results for many “Houses” claiming to be vampire or “kindred” sites, but most of them will display the courtesy of mentioning that they are part of some or other “clan” within the context of the V:tM game universe, and not ‘real’ Vampyres. Thus it can be seen, art (in this case fiction) imitates life. These “Houses” are not ‘real’ Vampyre groups, and despite the sheer number of them (more than real VC Houses, with an approximate ratio of 3:1) nor do they form part of, nor do they interact with, the ‘real’ Vampyre Community. If they meet at all, it is online or in real life, and specifically for gaming purposes.

In SRA propaganda reporting, some journalists, or even religious critics of the Vampyre subculture may try to portray these groups of roleplaying gamers as the real VC, possibly with the intention to show how “large” the Vampyre “threat” is. This is a conflation and a blatant untruth.

In contrast, lifestylers are individuals who embrace the dress, behavior and accoutrements of the fictional vampire. You will also find much of this in the Gothic and BDSM communities, but these individuals are not Vampyres simply because they dress, act or look like vampires. Lifestylers also do not always pretend to be fictional vampires, nor do they necessarily participate in Larping.

What is common to both however, is that SOME real self-identifying Vampyres do fall into one or both categories because they happen to be real Vampyres who also enjoy playing roleplaying games (such as V:tM), or enjoy dressing the part too (i.e. Don Henrie). The difference however, is that in real VC groups, lifestylers and roleplayers and associated activities are not welcome if the individuals concerned are NOT actually real Vampyres and these are indulged in out of their respective contexts.

**Lifestyling As A Religion?**

When looking at the difference between lifestyle vampires and those who may view their vampyrism solely as a religious exercise, the crux of the matter comes down to feeding.

There are people who consume blood or take pranic energy for religious beliefs, and those who do so because they have no alternative – they do it because they know they will suffer for it if they do not. Of course, anyone can be taught to do these things, and anyone can dress like the fictional vampire, and anyone can call themselves such – but only real self-identified Vampyres NEED to feed.
The following are examples of spiritualities or religions which do not cater for ‘real’ vampyrism, but which simply use the image or identity of the vampire – or even the act of feeding – as a metaphor.

**The Ordo Strigoi Vii (OSV)**

**CLARIFICATION:** Having once originated within the real Vampyre Community in the very early 1990’s, this is a spiritual movement NOT for real Vampyres, but for non-Vampyres attracted to the “mystique” of the vampire.

However, having been spawned within the VC, and not being a part of the VC, this belief system – though independent of the VC, causes much confusion in the public view about what real Vampyrism is and isn’t, and some would argue, creates a negative public image for the actual VC.

This movement is therefore not considered to be a part of the real Vampyre Community, though it does appear to be included in the overall vampire sub-culture in some views, and many individuals and groups have been inspired in some ways by the cultural influences of the OSV.

Some sources allege that the Sanguinarium (the progenitor of the OSV movement) originated as part of a LARP (Live Action Role Playing) game, and that its founder was an avid laper.

The originator of this business enterprise, Father Sebastiaan, who is an entertainer, events organizer and fang-maker, has stated most emphatically on numerous occasions that the OSV (formerly known as the Sanguinarium) is not part of the real Vampyre Community. In fact, Sebastiaan has taken to frequently describing sanguinarian and psychic Vampyres as being mentally ill and disease carriers. His rise to notoriety within the VC is documented in this article: [http://savampyrenews.wordpress.com/2012/12/12/the-obfuscation-of-father-sebastiaan-inc-an-illuminating-investigation-for-the-vampyre-community-by-octarine-valur/](http://savampyrenews.wordpress.com/2012/12/12/the-obfuscation-of-father-sebastiaan-inc-an-illuminating-investigation-for-the-vampyre-community-by-octarine-valur/)

The movement appeals to anyone who can afford the wares sold by the OSV merchandising machine, including books on spiritual vampirism written by and (some claim ghost-written for) Father Sebastiaan. Those attending his events have to pay to enter – as well as bring a copy of one of these books with them. It has become a tendency for those within the real VC who have earned his displeasure, particularly local community leaders who do not buy into the franchise, to be banned or ejected from his events.

The principles and mechanics of this spirituality seem to closely follow Atheistic Satanist teachings, and also somewhat coincidentally...
resemble works of other religious or spiritual groups within the Vampyre Community at large, such as Temple of the Vampire (ToV).

This movement has gained some small following in the South African arena, particularly among the newly awakened who do not understand that this is a spirituality designed for non-Vampyres, and that their Psychic or Sanguine nature will be suppressed or even viewed with scorn or outright hostility by the movement.

Vampcentric Religions And Belief Systems Within The VC

While it is argued by the Vampyre Community that to be a Vampyre and to self-identify as such, is not a religion in and of itself, many Vampyres are eclectic in their personal belief — and though many identify as atheist or agnostic, statistically most in the international VC statistically identify as part of the Pagan or Christian conglomerates.

Thus, identifying as a Vampyre is not viewed as a being a religion in itself, but there are also spiritualities and religions specifically tailored by Vampyres and for Vampyres within the Community itself.

Internationally, there are numerous examples of religions catering specifically for self-identified Vampyres. Some of these are blends of Vampyric spirituality, or the focus on deities of significance to Vampyres with other pre-existing religious foundations, such as Wicca, Kemetism, or even Shamanism.

The Path Of The Kherete (Kheprianism / Kheretism)

The most well-known vamp-centric religious movement is the spirituality of House Kheperu, or Kheprianism, which has since its founding in the 1990’s grown into a worldwide philosophy called the Path of the Kherete, founded by world renowned author, TV personality and psychic vampire, Michelle Belanger.

“What the Kherete Are

The Kherete Project is House Kheperu’s attempt to answer a desire we have seen among many people and groups within the community. This desire is both to have something to be a part of, as well as to have a template to work off of in the developing of their own groups and practices. Kherete gives people a word to identify with and define themselves. It’s also an attempt to actually present our material in a way which is aimed at a more specific audience — one which already has familiarity with the community and with our general material.

The subjects that make up the Kherete material are inspired in large part by the teachings and system of House Kheperu,
which is best described as raw energy work. Not reliant on any particular belief system, the Kherete material is "plug n' play," or can be worked into most systems without causing ideological differences.

What the Kherete Are Not

House Kheperu is not going to be certifying Kherete individuals or groups. In order to do that we'd really have to get to know each group and each member of each group – an extremely time-intensive process. Because we can't actually watch over each group to assure that our word means what we want it to, we aren't going to try to legitimize anyone. This is a rather open approach to the whole project." – From “Path of the Kherete": http://kherete.org/kherete.php

Unlike the pseudo-Vampyre spirituality marketed by Ordo Strigoi Vii or the Sanguinarium, the Kheprian religion is focused on real Vampyres, though more specifically upon psychic vampyrism.

**The Kemetic Order of Asset Ka**

The Aset Ka (The Kemetic Order of Asset Ka) is an occult order based in the city of Oporto, Portugal, Aset Ka is known for its traditional approach to magick and vampirism, studying a very different variety of occult arts, philosophies, and practices.

Its traditions are based on Left Hand Path, Black Magic and Dark Occultism, mixing Luciferian and Setian philosophies with Egyptian Magick, practicing mystical Vampirism and studying chaos magick and chaotic energies, as well as different forms of High Magick, energy work and rituals, considered highly elite in the wide occult studies spectrum.

"Just a small note directly from the Aset Ka to anyone seriously and maturely seeking the true Asetian knowledge.

There is no Asetian or anyone directly involved with the work, teachings and projects from the Aset Ka exposing or debating information related with magick, vampirism or spirituality, anywhere outside of the Order's internal and official network, temples and havens.

This is the first rule of thumb for those that are new to this kind of knowledge and are interested in developing themselves spiritually or metaphysically, to focus on the importance to stay out of all the fuss and noise that always wanders around the Aset Ka thematics and everywhere where Asetianism is mentioned or debated.
For your own evolution, stay away from the majority of the nullity that can be found around the subject and keep a strong, decided, unshakable Will towards Illumination. There are no Asetian products being sold in stores, there are no Order members making comments in forums and there are no publicly accessible Aset Ka havens. Do not let yourself be fooled by ignorance.

The Aset Ka is not out there to be found. So never take any information regarding it, positive or negative, as reliable. All true information about Asetianism or the Aset Ka that is made public is always confirmed officially by the Order. No exceptions.

Asetian knowledge has always been copied and mimicked throughout history by a myriad of other traditions, groups and projects. There are always people trying to take advantage from what they do not fully understand and cannot comprehend, but that they find alluring. This is observed daily in what concerns the Aset Ka. While that will never cease to happen, even when its influences are not so obvious to the unaware, people that are truly seeking for the source of this wisdom now have no reasons to follow the wrong faces of our path.

We seek no followers out of blind faith. We are a spiritual family. One united by loyalty, understanding and an unshakable bond, an immortal one... the eternal gift of Aset.

Unlike many other Orders and traditions, we do not profess having the one definitive path to religion. What we do have is the definitive Asetian knowledge and spirituality, and this path is by no means for everyone.

So is this the only true form of spirituality? No, it isn't.

Asetianism is for an elitist few, a group of evolved beings sharing their immortality and working towards constant evolution.

After this banner of awareness if someone is still willing to be taken into delusion and fall into the abyss of ignorance, it is now their own choice to remain blind.

May Aset bless the path of those worthy of Her Essence...

At the service of Her Highness Aset, Order of Aset Ka." - [http://www.asetka.org/remark.shtml](http://www.asetka.org/remark.shtml)

While Vampyres in general tend not to view their nature as a religion, the Asset Ka can be described as a religion FOR Vampyres, because
they have constructed their religious views around this nature. They do tend to classify vampyrism and other associated aspects of the culture differently.

In South Africa:

In South Africa, there are a few local groups catering specifically for the spiritual needs of local Vampyres:

**Ordo De Luna Draco Opacus**

“Ordo De Luna Draco Opacus or the Order of the Dark Moon Dragon is a vampyric dark pagan temple founded by Ps (Priestess) Gabrielle Draegan on Samhain 2012 (southern hemisphere - 30th April). Ps Gabrielle Draegan is a member of House Valur, a Vampyre coven in Mintaka, (the Eastern Cape) South Africa.

The purpose of the order is to create a spiritual home for vampyric Pagans who might find other Pagan paths (like Wicca) lacking or not suitable for their vampyric nature.

The temple welcomes all Vampyres who are drawn to the dark Pagan path. The temple defines being “dark Pagan” as to acknowledge and to work with ones shadow-self and nocturnal energies and to celebrate the darker half of the year. Energy work and blood magic are an integral part of this temple. The dark goddesses Hekate and Lilith are worshipped along with the vampyric archetype of the dragon.” – Ps Gabrielle Draegan.

**CLARIFICATION:** Blood magic within the context of vampyric spirituality and ritual is very much the same as in most other occult settings. It is the ritual use of one’s own blood in very small amounts in order to affect the outcome of a magical working by giving more energy to it.

This group meets only in real life settings, and does not have any online presence.

**The Iron Temple**

“A Spiritual Place of Seeking & Understanding of our Evolution. Helping each other to grow through the massive shifts and changes we are all going through. For those that Self-Identify as Vampyres, Wolves, Hybrids, Angelkin, Dragonkin, Pagans, Witches & All Those That Seek.” – The Iron Temple: [http://irontemplesa.wordpress.com/](http://irontemplesa.wordpress.com/)
The Iron Temple is not a Vampyre religion or spirituality, but more of an inclusive system which views vampyric nature as just one aspect of a whole person. To summarize, this group leans toward “Hybridism”, which blends beliefs about Otherkin identity with Vampyric nature, meaning that it addresses the spiritual issues of an individual in such a way as to embrace vampyric nature along with Otherkin identity simultaneously.

The Temple Of Lilith

This is a vampyric group based in Mpumalanga, South Africa which has no online presence and meets in real life only. Its only deity is Lilith, who is worshiped as the spiritual Mother of Vampyres.

Favored Deities Among Spiritual Vampyres:

Religious groups and spiritual individuals who incorporate their vampyric nature into their spirituality tend to favor deities from mythology or ancient cultures. A few of these are included below, with a brief description of why they are considered of interest to Vampyres.

Lilith

Lilith is perhaps the most popular Vampyre goddess, and has numerous modern adherents in many communities and subcultures, including not the least of which are some feminists who view her as a heroine for usurping the patriarchy and according to tradition, perpetually suffering the wrath of “God” for it.

“Lilith, the goddess portrayed as the mother of Vampyres. Today in our modern world, she is a symbol of the feminist movement – of feminine independence, strength and empowerment. Over the centuries, her name has endured as a killer of infants, a drinker of their blood, a taker of lives, and even as a succubus who comes for men in the night. But is this really the case?” – From SA Vampyre News – “Mother’s Day For Vampyres”: http://savampyrenews.wordpress.com/2012/05/13/mothers-day-for-vampyres/

"Ancient Babylonia had tales of the mythical Lilitu, synonymous with and giving rise to Lilith (Hebrew) and her daughters the Lilu from Hebrew demonology. Lilitu was considered a demon and was often depicted as subsisting on the blood of babies. However, the Jewish counterparts were said to feast on both men and women, as well as newborns." "An alternate version states the legend of Lilith/Lilitu (and a type of spirit of the same
name) originally arose from Sumer, where she was described as an infertile “beautiful maiden” and was believed to be a harlot and vampire who, after having chosen a lover, would never let him go. Lilitu (or the Lilitu spirits) was considered to be an anthropomorphic bird-footed, wind or night demon and was often described as a sexual predator who subsisted on the blood of babies and their mothers. Other Mesopotamian demons such as the Babylonian goddess Lamashu, (Sumer's Dimme) and Gallu of the Uttuke group are mentioned as having vampiric natures.” – From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vampire_folklore_by_region

Lilith is famously recorded in the Epic of Gilgames. She is widely viewed within the Occultic community as the “Mother of Vampyres”.

“According to the site “Lilith — Mother of Vampires: In more contemporary interpretations of Lilith’s story, she is considered to be the earliest account of the Vampire. When Lilith was banished, all of her children were destroyed by God. Lilith’s answered this violent act by vowing to feed off of the children of Adam, namely, human beings.” "Her title as, “Mother of Demons” has been exchanged for the title, “Mother of Vampires.” Her importance to Vampire myths and legends is, then, quite apparent. Without Lilith and her numerous incarnations there might very well be no Vampires.”

“The Hebrew Lilith that we know today came about when the Jewish patriarchy sought to remake Lilith as being “evil” in order to stop their own people from worshipping her, and also because of the patriarchal society they ruled. Women who dared to stand up to men, and who refused to obey their husbands would not be looked upon with kindness in that society – so it was a way to make her look bad, and evil – and her Godly punishment was to serve as a warning to other females who might have dared to usurp male authority and dominance in Jewish society of the day – and for centuries hence.

The mechanism for this was quite logical and practical: “In Kabbalistic tradition, Lilith was made the first wife of Adam. Some sources say that Lilith was Adam’s spirit wife. Other sources claim that Lilith was fashioned from the earth at either the same time as Adam or before Adam. This made Lilith Adam’s equal.

As Adam’s equal, Lilith refused to lie on her back while Adam took the dominant position in sex (missionary style). Lilith believed that they should make love as equals (the beast with two backs). Adam was adamantly against this, wanting his wife to be submissive, and Lilith left the Garden of Eden.” – Some versions claim that she was driven out and cursed by God, after angels sent after her could not convince her to return to a life of
servitude. God is then supposed to have given Adam Eve – “a docile woman of the flesh.” – From SA Vampyre News – “Mother’s Day For Vampyres”:
http://savampyrenews.wordpress.com/2012/05/13/mothers-day-for-vampyres/

Hathor/Sekhmet

“Sekhmet's appearance in Egyptian mythology is that of a lioness, similar to that of Bast, who first appeared as a lion goddess, and whose appearance diminished to the domesticated cat, after Sekhmet's cult grew. The difference in the two was the ferocity of Sekhmet, called as in the title, The Scarlet Lady or Avenger of Wrongs. As the Egyptians faced more threats to their civilization, and as their own social natures changed, some would say for the worse, they desired a more bloodthirsty goddess, --it helped explain the savagery of wars and battles.

Sekhmet protected the pharaohs, and led them to battle; but she was also the protector of women, particularly during childbirth or the menstrual cycle. Her lioness form was chosen because it is the female lion who hunts, --the most aggressive gender in many species is the female. Egyptians believed the scorching wind in the desert was the breath of Sekhmet; the death and destruction of enemies were soothing to her heart.

Sekhmet's bloodthirsty nature was celebrated; great festivals were held after battles to soothe her, and tame her wildness. The festivals were also held in order to avert the flooding of the Nile. When the Nile flooded, it turned red from the silt, --it looked like blood, and the Egyptians prayed that she would drink the excess to keep the Nile from overflowing and destroying crops and homes along the river.

A later myth about Sekhmet surfaced when the Egyptian god Ra became the primary religious cult. Ra created Sekhmet from an eye of fire, given to him by his mother, in order to destroy mortals who threatened Upper Egypt, --these mortals being Lower Egypt. But in the myth, she was not satisfied by the bloodshed after the battle, and instead went on destroying and killing mortals. Ra tricked her by turning the Nile red as blood, so that she would drink it; he used beer tinted red with pomegranate juice. Sekhmet became so drunk that she gave up slaughter and became an aspect of Hathor, the goddess of love, mothers, and joy." From Vampires.com:
http://www.vampires.com/sekhmet-the-scarlet-lady/
These two aspects of what is perceived by adherents within the Vampyre Community as one deity representing the best and worst in Vampyre nature, is fairly popular as a Vampyre goddess figure.

Nyx

A Greek night goddess.

"NYX was the goddess of the night, one of the ancient Protogenoi (first-born elemental gods). In the cosmogony of Hesiod she was born of Air (Khaos), and breeding with Darkness (Erebos) produced Light (Aither) and Day (Hemera), first components of the primeval universe. Alone, she spawned a brood of dark spirits, including the three Fates, Sleep, Death, Strife and Pain.

Nyx was a primeval goddess usually represented as simply the substance of night: a veil of dark veil of mist drawn forth from the underworld which blotted out the light of Aither (shining upper atmosphere). Her opposite number was Hemera (Day), who scattered the mists of night, or Eos, the goddess of the dawn.

In ancient art Nyx was portrayed as a either a winged goddess or charioteer, sometimes crowned with an aureole of dark mist."

– From Theoi.com:
http://www.theoi.com/Protogenos/Nyx.html

The relevance of certain deities to Vampyres in real life sometimes crosses over into fiction. In the recent House of Night series of novels (soon to be made into a movie) Nyx is portrayed as an absent goddess who is the sponsor of a school for teenage vampires. Ancient history does not bear this connection out however, but the association between the night itself personified, and Vampyres in real life has predated this modern association for some time in the Vampyre community.

Hekate

"HEKATE was the goddess of witchcraft, the night, the new moon, ghosts, necromancy and crossroads. She had few public temples in the ancient world, however, small household shrines, which were erected to ward off evil and the malevolent powers of witchcraft, were quite common. Her most important cults were those of Eleusis and the island of Samothrace, where she was worshipped as an associate-goddess of the Mysteries.

In classical sculpture Hekate was depicted in one of two ways: either as a woman holding twin torches; or as three woman standing back to back and facing in three directions. According to Pausanias, Alkamenes was the first sculptor to portray her in
this so-called Triformis style. There is a good example of an Hekate Trimorphis in the Vatican Museum and also one in Antiquities Museum of Leiden." – From Theoi.com: http://www.theoi.com/Cult/HekateCult.html

Kali

"The Hindu myths contain a lot of stories of vampire like demons. The bloodthirsty goddess Kali is, essentially, a vampire. She’s similar to the also bloodthirsty Egyptian goddess, Sekhmet." "Some myths of Hinduism say that the goddess was born out of another goddess; Durga. Kali was said to have sprung out of Durga’s forehead in a moment of crisis, to help Durga defeat the demons of this world. Some Hindus believe that Kali has existed from the beginning of time.

Kali’s thirst for blood originated in her killing of the great demon Raktabija. Raktabija had a magical ability; every drop of blood that fell from his body was able to create thousands more demons like him. Kali destroyed him by piercing him and drinking all of his blood as it gushed out.

There are stories of Kali dancing a bloodthirsty dance of destruction, much like Shiva in his Nataraja avatar. So deadly and destructive, Kali nearly destroyed the whole cosmos in her thirst for blood and devastation, before the god Shiva was able to stop her.

This vampire goddess is still worshipped in temples today, by millions of Hindus around the world. She is also recognized by some Indian Muslims, and has been incorporated into various Obah traditions of the Caribbean. Her devotees regard her as a loving mother goddess, who can destroy death itself. The goddess would traditionally be honored with a blood sacrifice. Animals are still sacrificed in her honor, especially in Calcutta, the city named after the goddess, “Kali Ghat.”" – From Vampires.com: http://www.vampires.com/kali-vampire-goddess/

10. Symbols Associated With Vampyrism

“Throughout history there have been symbols associated with Vampyres. Some of these were Shinai in origin, referring to Vampyre-kind, and often the fictional vampire – and some were Vampyre in origin, referring to Vampyre-kind.

The Ankh
The Ankh is the most well-known, and certainly the most popular symbol to be associated with Vampyres...
today. Kemetic (ancient Egyptian) in origin, the Ankh is a symbol of eternal life, death and rebirth. In Kemetic lore, the Ankh started out as a literal transcription of the thoracic vertebrae of a bull. It then became a hieroglyph that was representational of the word ‘life’. In religious terms, it represented eternity and fertility.

According to Wikipedia, it was also known as key of life, the key of the Nile or crux anksata (Latin meaning “cross with a handle”), was the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic character that read “eternal life”, a triliteral sign for the consonants ḫ-n-ḥ. Egyptian gods are often portrayed carrying it by its loop, or bearing one in each hand, arms crossed over their chest. The Ankh also symbolizes sanctuary.

The Ankh as a Vampyre symbol: In more recent times, the Ankh has been modified and stylized to emphasize a dagger-like or fang-like quality. The Kemetic (ancient Egyptian) symbol for life and vitality, often interpreted to mean immortality. The Ankh came to be heavily used by Vampyres due to its original meaning, not due to an obsession with immortality. Egyptian Gods were depicted holding the Ankh to represent that they were the source of life. Vampyres wear an Ankh to symbolize that they take in life, be it energy or blood.

While the traditional style of Ankh is still popular among Kin, many variants designed specifically for Vampyres have been marketed over the past few decades.
The Dragon

The dragon has been a modern symbol of the Vampyre ever since the time of Vlad Tepes, “the Dracula” – and since Bram Stoker modeled his Vampire count upon “Vlad the Impaler” – but it was not always thus.

Since there is much evidence in ancient Sumerian records relating to vampire-like beings and entities, much of the research that has been conducted is of interest to us. The original Sumerian civilization descended from the Ubaid, a proto-Aryan, Pictish culture which itself originated in the region encompassing Carpathia, Transylvania and the White Mountains (where the Greek gods originated) and which later became known as Scythia.

It has been suggested that the Sumerian gods (the ancient deific royal family) were imported with the Ubaid Picts from Transylvania, Carpathia and Scythia. “Scholars relate” that the name Sumer is pronounced Shumer, the sh for s indicating a linguistic relationship with early Goidelic, and thus it is closely related by pronunciation to the Gaelic Sumaire, meaning, as we know, a vampire and a “reptile” – a Dragon.”

In the time of Vlad Tepes, the symbol was used as the mark of an Order of Christian Knights during religious wars of the 15th century between Orthodox Christians and invading Muslim Turks in Eastern Europe. It is believed that Vlad wore this image as a medallion during his lifetime. The Order of the Dragon was founded in 1408, by Sigismund, the King of Hungary, and Vlad’s father was a member of this order. “Dracula” derived his name from the Order of the Dragon, Dracula means “Little Dragon”. Vlad’s father, Vlad II, received the
surname of Dracul, meaning ‘dragon’, when he was inducted into the Order in 1431. Dracula himself was inducted into the Order when he was five years old.

The ouroboros, also a magickal and alchemical symbol – is the image of a dragon or serpent circled, devouring its own tail – and is a Chinese symbol for the Vampyre.

**The Rose**
The rose (and in particular, the blood-red rose) has come to be a symbol of love, of life and of blood. The thorns symbolize the pain, risk or threat of injury which can come with these associations. As a Vampyre symbol, it is a poignant and sentimental one. Black roses too have become associated with Vampyres, symbolizing death, loss, regret, sorrow and mourning.

In Shinai fiction, authors assert that Vampyres are partial to black roses because “in tandem with the death symbolism, the black rose symbolizes for vampires their own eternal life through death. In many vampire novels and movies, the vampire gives his mortal love a bouquet of black roses. Often the most powerful of the vampire clans will have the black rose on their crest to identify their belonging. The novel, “A Dozen Black Roses”, by Nancy Collins, uses this symbolism extensively.” – From the Vampyre Culture Center: http://vampyreculturecenter.wordpress.com/vampyre-culture/vampyre-lexicon/vampyre-symbology/symbols-associated-with-the-vampyre/

11. **Symbols Incorrectly Associated With Vampyrism**

This image shows symbols which have nothing to do with ‘real’ vampyrism, or the ‘real’ Vampyre subculture, but which some mis-associate with real vampyrism.

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
These are symbols created for role players or Larpers active in the White Wolf game “Vampire: the Masquerade”.

These symbols as depicted, as well as most other symbols which appear in fictional writing or film-making are fictional, and are not in any way associated with the ‘real’ Vampyre subculture.

12. Vampyres & The Law

Vampi(y)res around the world are often portrayed as being borderline-dangerous cult-members. They are defamed by so-called “occult experts” who misread and misunderstand Vampyre culture and perpetuate these shortcomings through proselytizing their misinterpretations to the media, fellow members of their own religious groups, and to law enforcement.

Many try to link the subculture to crime and criminal acts, and to portray the entire subculture as being “Satanic” or part of Satanism. Participants in the VC are often associated with criminality, when the reality is overwhelmingly the opposite.

According to a global survey of the Vampi(y)re Community by Suscitatio Enterprises LLC, only 2.44% of respondents who are participants in the global VC were ever convicted of any violent crime.
The real legal concerns of the Vampyre subculture globally differ from region to region. In places where occult belief and/or practice are made into criminal acts by repressive law-makers, the existence of the communities themselves becomes a fact fraught with much secrecy, risk and personal danger.

In places where there is freedom of religion, life is easier for those in the subculture, however, there is always the concern about prejudice and personal safety on the part of the individual, should they be exposed to public view as a participant.

In South Africa, the South African Vampyre Alliance is conducting its own survey of the local Vampyre community. The currently released results for this survey are visible here: http://vampyreacademy.wordpress.com/vampyre-academy-formal-surveys/the-vampyre-vampyric-donor-focus-group-survey-vvdfgs/vvdfgs-preliminary-results-report-1/
This indicates that 81% of respondents – a clear majority – have NO criminal record. This calls into question the allegation by critics of the subculture that “Vampyres are criminals”. Further, 13% indicated imprisonment, 6% a record without imprisonment, and none indicated that they are listed on a sex-offender’s register. It should also be noted that the SA VC is significantly smaller than the survey group of the Suscitatio Enterprises surveys, since that was global.

Together with the above, there is the matter of which practices would constitute legal infringements, or criminal acts.

In terms of psychic or energy vampyrism, there is little which can be proved in a court of secular law, which determines the outcome of cases based on laws of evidence, and since nobody can prove psychic vampyrism as a criminal act in a court of law, it is unlikely that the subculture need fear any legal actions from this angle. Accusations or claims of victimization by means of psychic or energy feeding (as with any other supernatural acts) is not known to be admissible as evidence of any form of crime in this country.

**Note:** Despite the impracticality of proving acts involving psychic activity or energy (including rape by tokoloshe, curses etc) in court, the SAPS has these listed under various points of interest on the internal memo which activated the ORC unit in 2012.

However, most typically, outside interest in the VC – especially from law enforcement bodies, is in respect of sanguine, or blood Vampyres.

Regardless of how things have transpired in the global VC, the South African Vampyre Alliance has worked to keep the local community’s activities above
board, ensuring that ethics and guidelines are circulated, increasing levels of awareness of safety protocols in terms of interaction and donor practice within the community.

The SAVA has also made its stance on criminality public in a clear understandable way, visible on its information site:

“A Note To Law Enforcement Agencies

We as a community strive to operate within the laws of the land in which we live.

As a rule, participants in the self-identified Vampyre Community do not commit forceful acts upon others in the context of their vampyrism, but conduct their activities within the confines of consensual and mutually agreed-upon arrangements.

In general we work to exclude (or more to the point, preclude) from our communities those who act recklessly or who show no regard for others, or respect for our own customs and community guidelines as well as for the law in general.

Should any law enforcement body or similar agency wish to contact us for inquiries or to engage with us for any reason, please use our contact form.”

“Vampyre Subculture & “Satanic Crime” – A note to law enforcement, journalists and the media:

To clarify the misconception being perpetuated that Satanism and Vampyrism are perceived as one and the same thing by alleged “occult experts”:

Certain aberrant and criminal behaviors are being attributed to Vampyrism as a subculture and conflated with Satanism as a religion, while the truth is that the two have little or nothing to do with each other. Behaviors which have nothing to do with Vampyrism or the Vampyre subculture:

• Sucking blood from dead bodies,
• Human or animal sacrifice,
• Cruelty towards animals or people,
• Sexual abuse or exploitation,
• Forcibly obtaining blood from people, to consume or to use in rituals or to sell to others for muti purposes,
• Violence,
• Drug abuse,
• Robbery, vandalism or similar tasks or “rites of passage”,
• “Satanic rituals” involving any of the above.
It must be stressed that these activities are NOT part of the Vampyre subculture or society. These are trends or traits which have nothing to do with Vampyre culture.

The Vampyre community strives to exist and operate within the scope of shinai (non-vampyre) law.

Within the Vampyre community there are clear ethical guidelines which specify what is and what is not acceptable in the community – and behaviors such as these are NOT acceptable within our community.

There are participants in our community who associate with each other and form small local groups in their own areas for the purposes of support and social activities, however large-scale public gatherings are rare in this country.

Given the hostile nature of some pubic interest in the subject, it should be understandable that most participants prefer to remain anonymous and to communicate under their nightside or Vampyre names. It is very easy for an unsympathetic public to jump to conclusions and claim that this choice is because “they have something to hide” – however, they conveniently forget that anonymity protects people from very real and open hostility and potential dangers or persecution and victimization.

The word “coven” is used by certain alleged “occult experts” to describe Satanist groups – while in reality, few Satanists actually use that word, preferring to use terms like “grotto”, “pylon”, “temple” etc. This generalization serves to stereotype other religions and subcultures which happen to use the term “coven”.

In the Vampyre culture we traditionally have “clutches”, “covens”, “houses”, “temples”, “clans” and “courts”. The Pagan religion uses “covens”, “circles”, “shrines”, “temples” etc among others. It should be obvious that there is significant room for error here. If people hear the word “coven” they are very quick to jump to the conclusion that it is in the context of Satanism and to persecute these people as “Satanists”.

**Vampyrism and Religion:**

Satanism is not Vampyrism. There are HUGE fundamental differences. Satanism, like any other spiritual belief system featuring the worship of deities, is a religion.

The Vampyre subculture is NOT a religion – it is a form of cultural identity group which includes various practices based upon their own personal experiences and needs. The Vampyre culture is NOT a religion, nor is it coupled to any religion.

This should serve to clarify that identifying as a Vampyre is not a religion, but like anyone else, a Vampyre can belong to any religion of
their choosing. Statistics from surveys conducted within the VC have revealed that there are far more Pagan and Christian Vampyres than any other religious affiliation in our community.

In a religion such as Satanism (depending on the type of Satanism) there may be rituals involving the use of blood, and even the consumption of blood – however the difference between being a Vampyre and someone who drinks blood as part of a ritual should be obvious – but simply isn’t discernable to a lay-person.

In simple terms, anybody can drink blood.

- A self-identifying sanguine Vampyre consumes small amounts of blood because they feel that if they do not, they will suffer ill health for the lacking.
- A person who consumes blood as part of a religious ritual does so for the purposes of the ritual and not for the same reason as the Vampyre.
- The Vampyre also requires no ritual to consume blood and also does not use the blood for purposes of any ritual or magical outcome.
- The sanguine Vampyre views blood consumption as the taking of a kind of medication for an as yet undiagnosed medical condition, such as one would take a pill or a shot for diabetes.
- The non-Vampyre who consumes blood for other reasons would view the consumption of blood as part of his or her religious ritual practice or conducts this as part of a sexual fetish.

Vampyres who do consume blood are a minority within the VC, and those who do consume human blood, do so with the voluntary assistance of someone close to them, in private and with consent of the donor. Others may make use of “stock” blood from abattoirs or obtained from butcheries, packaged meat products etc. The average quantity of blood consumed by sanguine Vampyres is about a tablespoon a week.

There are also other kinds of Vampyres who do not consume blood, but who feed via psychic or other energy means and from a variety of different sources.

Should you as a law-enforcement official, or a journalist, require a statement or interview on the topic of Vampyrism, vampyric people, self-identifying Vampyres, Vampyrism as an identity, please post your requests and/or comments in the Contact form.

Thank you.”

The statement can be viewed here:
http://savampyrealliance.wordpress.com/a-note-to-law-enforcement-agencies/
**Sanguinarian Vampyres & The Law In SA:**

The biggest legal concern for most Vampyre community groups lies in relation to it in terms of the practices of sanguine Vampyres, in particular those who obtain and consume human blood. To ignore this aspect in a document of this nature would be folly, and also wholly irresponsible. It would also be naïve to think that such questions surrounding blood consumption would *not* be asked.

Within the Vampyre subculture, there are those who consume blood. Most will attest that they do so for reasons of maintaining their health, but while the reasons they do so are not at the center of this portion of this document, the means in which they obtain and use the blood, is.

In South Africa, the production, storage, transportation and end-use of blood and blood-products is regulated by the Human Tissues Act.

The leaked internal SAPS memo activating the Occult Related Crimes unit in 2012 focuses on this in point 5: “Vampirism and joint infringement of the Human Tissues Act”.

Since the context of this point is not expanded upon, it is difficult to extrapolate what their actual focus will be when it comes to the Vampyre subculture. Presumably the word “joint” refers to people who obtain or consume blood as well as those donating or supplying it. Thus, assuming a law enforcement agency were to act against anyone for conducting vampyrism under the auspices of this law, their attention might be on both Vampyre AND Donor.

**Human Tissues Act - South Africa:**

**Removal of tissue, blood, blood products or gametes from living persons**

55. A person may not remove tissue, blood, a blood product or gametes from the body of another living person for the purpose referred to in section 56 unless it is done-
   (a) with the written consent of the person from whom the tissue, blood, blood product or gametes are removed granted in the prescribed manner; and
   (b) in accordance with prescribed conditions.

**Use of tissue, blood, blood products or gametes removed or withdrawn from living persons**

56. (1) A person may use tissue or gametes removed or blood or a blood product withdrawn from a living person only for such medical or dental purposes as may be prescribed.
   (2) (a) Subject to paragraph (b), the following tissue, blood, blood products or gametes may not be removed or withdrawn from a living person for any purpose contemplated in subsection (1):
(i) Tissue, blood, a blood product or a gamete from a person who is mentally ill within the meaning of the Mental Health Care Act, 2002 (Act No. 17 of 2002);
(ii) tissue which is not replaceable by natural processes from a person younger than 18 years;
(iii) a gamete from a person younger than 18 years; or
(iv) placenta, embryonic or fetal tissue, stem cells and umbilical cord, excluding umbilical cord progenitor cells.

(b) The Minister may authorise the removal or withdrawal of tissue, blood, a blood product or gametes contemplated in paragraph (a) and may impose any condition which may be necessary in respect of such removal or withdrawal.

The Human Tissues Act:

The Human Tissues Act only potentially affects sanguine Vampyres who consume human blood. While this falls essentially within a “grey area”, as sanguine feeding is consensual and non-harmful, the number of Sanguines who consume human blood is relatively small in comparison to the size of the over-all community. There are a few technicalities that need to be discussed within the Act.

**Conditional Drawing Of Blood:**

Point 56 (2) of the Act only appears to forbid the drawing of blood from a human subject IF the donor is “a person who is mentally ill within the meaning of the Mental Health Care Act, 2002 (Act No. 17 of 2002)” – which is one of the reasons why many guidelines within the community urge Vampyres to seek out mentally stable and healthy people to act as their donors.

Still, many laws governing “mental illness” are rather flexible and open to interpretation, and may even be manipulated in a court to include people willing to either cut or self-injure, or allow themselves to be injured by another in order to produce a small amount of blood for the purposes of vampyrism. People who habitually self-harm, such as cutters for example, are considered to suffer from a form of mental disorder or illness, and so it is considered unwise and even unethical in the community to engage a cutter as a donor.

Point (1) by contrast appears to rule out ALL blood removal practices for ANY reason by any person unless they are medical practitioners and in the context of medical treatment authorized by the Minister of Health. Viewed in the context of this one point alone, this makes any and all removal or use (including by implication, consumption of blood), a criminal offence.

However, this point could also be argued legally, to include other forms of blood-play not associated to vampyrism and feeding, for example, biting, scratching or activities related to BDSM subculture. To demonstrate why this is such a “gray area” in terms of the law, to current public knowledge, nobody
has been arrested or charged with such activities within either a BDSM or Vampyre scenario.

However, to just argue that “nobody has been arrested or charged on this point yet” is denialism – the point is that it could happen. This is subject to police “turning a blind eye” to “minor violations” and perhaps considering the consensual acts of adults in private that do no quantifiable harm as “not worth pursuing”. Secondly, if a donor is not aggrieved at how they are treated, they will likely not report a crime such as assault, and/or the drawing of blood under the Human Tissues Act, meaning that the police would not know that any crime has been committed unless someone comes forward to lay a charge. This would also make this gray area a very complicated and difficult one to police.

That said, this point also lays bare another matter which can best be used to describe the nature of the relationship between the Vampyre and the donor – the issue of TRUST. It has happened in the past that Vampyres have been the subject of investigations where charges have been laid against them by disgruntled former donors and/or relationship partners after the souring of the core relationship.

**Legal Precedent In South Africa?**

In, a 2012 court case in which the custody of two minor children was awarded to one parent; allegations of ‘vampirism’ and blood drinking were made by one party in court.

“While this woman appears to have lost custody of her child because of being perceived as a Vampyre (and “satanist”) and for allegedly consuming human blood with another consenting adult – at least she was not imprisoned for that, so as far as a legal position governing what transpires between consenting adults in terms of Communion and the sharing of blood and feeding, the incident places some light at the end of the tunnel – in that no further actions against her by the state seem to be pending.” – From Child Custody Case Concerns SA Community, SA Vampyre News: 

The important thing to note here is that despite allegations of blood-drinking made in court as part of the child custody case, NO CHARGES were laid against the plaintiff in terms of the Human Tissues Act, nor does it seem that this mention received any further investigation.

At any rate, point 55 a) is certainly a compelling argument in favor of the Vampyre-Donor contract which formalizes many Vampyre-Donor relationships.
within the community, and which is a set agreement of what is and isn’t acceptable within these relationships in terms of feeding or donation.

Usage of the same form of contract is advertised and promoted within the BDSM community or subculture to protect against later claims or charges should matters between voluntary and consenting adults later turn nasty.

The important thing to take into account is that those Vampyres who do obtain and consume human blood consume small amounts at a time, and that they do so with the aid of voluntary donors.

**CLARIFICATION:** The difference between a donor and a victim should be obvious enough to not have to expand upon here, but suffice it to say, in the Vampyre subculture we do not speak of “victims” in the context of feeding, but donors.

Donors are treated with the utmost respect, and donations take place in private, with whatever takes place being between “consenting adults” as the saying goes.

Without someone coming forward to claim assault or press charges or give evidence relating to some kind of harm, or without someone being caught in the act, (or being entrapped or coerced or even tortured to admit to any wrong doing) nobody can prove that anyone actually did contravene this act, other than pointing at a few articles or posts or comments on Facebook, which would all amount to hearsay and not actual evidence that any crime had been committed. Further, without any such complaints, it should be argued that there would be no reason for law enforcement to act against anyone.

Even if it could be proved that some individuals had consumed actual human blood, it would be simply proof that one or two individuals had indulged in what amounts to private mutually agreed upon consensual acts, and not assault or violent abuse or serious self-harm, or even “ritual abuse”.

**Consumption Of Non-human Blood:**

Further, there are non-human sources for blood, which some sanguines make regular use of. These include:

**Live Animal Donors:**
In this scenario, Vampyres take small amounts of blood from living animals, such as livestock or other domestic animals in a humane manner.

**Blood From Abattoirs Or Butcheries:**
Some obtain blood from packaged meat products, or in containers directly from slaughter-houses. Of course, since Vampyres require the life force or energy in the blood (NOT kilojoules or nutrition), the fresher this is, the better. Dead blood, blood older than a few hours, will be of
no use to the Vampyre. This might seem like an all-too-easy “fix”, but even this method poses challenges to the Vampyre. Most stores sell “clean” meat without any remaining blood content, and then there is also the risk of parasitic infection, depending on the source of the meat. Pig blood of course is one source warned against in the VC as it is full of transmissible parasites.

**Hunting & Fishing:**
Some Vampyres hunt and fish and put the blood from the animals, fish or poultry hunted/caught to good use. This is a good way for outdoorsy sanguines to keep their needs private.

It would be remiss of us were it not to be noted that not all sanguine Vampyres find animal blood to be palatable, or sufficient for their needs. According to some, lower animals have a different energy to humans, and while it can sustain them, it requires a greater amount to achieve the same effect. Many sanguines resort to using animal blood via these methods when donors are not available. On the other hand, animal blood can sometimes be just as difficult to acquire than human blood.

None of these methods, as stated, by itself constitutes a criminal offense, either under the Human Tissues Act, or under laws governing the treatment of or cruelty towards animals, presumably as long as legal conventions on the humane treatment of animals are kept to.

Within the international Vampyre Community, there are community guidelines about animal use and abuse, which are discouraged within the subculture.

**“The Vampyre Community & Animal Use**
Vampyres as people care for and enjoy the company of animals as much as anyone else. However, sometimes circumstances arise where Vampyres may make use of animals as donors or sources, and it is at this point that certain ethical issues come into play.

The Atlanta Vampire Alliance, a leading body in the international community, has issued several statements, clarifications and community guidelines surrounding the issues of animal use and abuse, some of which have been adopted and supported by local community bodies like the South African Vampyre Alliance (SAVA).

1. [Official statement from the Atlanta Vampire Alliance (AVA), Atlanta Georgia, January 20, 2013.](#)

2. [Atlanta Vampire Alliance (AVA) official Community Ethical Guideline, issued on January 22, 2013.” – From the SA Vampyre Culture Center:](#)
Why, if those who self-identify as Vampi(y)res make use of donors and other methods of feeding/energy sources etc, are there cases where some people will attack others or even kill supposedly for blood?

Real self-identifying Vampyres, even sanguines, DO NOT have to kill in order to obtain blood. This cannot be emphasized strongly enough. This sort of "vampire" can only be described in terms of the label “tabloid prophecy fulfillers”, or even “legend trippers”.

The Matter Of “Vampi(y)re” Tabloid Prophecy Fulfillers:

While there are numerous examples of “tabloid prophecy fulfillers” who commit violent or abusive acts and then claim to be “vampires”, most typically these individuals turn out to be mentally affected in some way, or this is a variation of the “the Devil made me do it” defense, to get off on the grounds of an insanity plea.

It is worth noting that no or extremely few criminal cases are known where a perpetrator committed an attack on another person for the purposes of obtaining blood, without the clear presence of mental affectation or illness being a major contributing factor. It is therefore logical to conclude that the vast majority of cases of “media vampires” killing or harming people against their will for the purposes of obtaining blood, are cases of SRA reporting, where the connection between the crime and the “vampire label” is made by the media in the pursuit for sensation and sales, and not on the facts of the case at hand – where often it is the only thing which makes this connection. Too often, individuals accused of criminal acts, and whom have never been known to have interacted with or formed part of the subculture, are accused of being “vampires”.

The Vampyre Community subculture as a whole has its own internal ethics and guidelines which act to preserve the subculture by encouraging participants to keep the laws of the countries or states in which they reside, while also promoting various ethical and moral standards as affect their vampyrism.

Further, criminal elements are disassociated from the Vampyre Community as a whole, with internal warnings being circulated about such matters – and to a degree, the VC considers itself to be “self-policing”.

“Modern vampirism and crime - Tracey Wigginton gained the nickname “The Lesbian Vampire Killer” after she killed a man in 1989, purportedly to drink his blood. Other serial killers and similar delusional individuals have killed people, believing themselves to be vampires and in need of blood to drink. However, the vampire subculture as a whole does not associate themselves with these individuals, stating that they are not real vampires, and that the subculture does not promote violence or crime in any form.[2] Crime as a whole is rarely associated with vampirism.[8]” - From Wikipedia:
D.J. Williams also briefly discusses the relationship between criminality and the Vampyre community in his paper “Social Work, BDSM and Vampires: Toward Understanding and Empowering People with Nontraditional Identities”:

“Sometimes real vampires are assumed to be potentially violent and dangerous based on rare and extreme criminal cases (and highly visible via the media) wherein the offender claimed to be a vampire, yet was not associated or affiliated with the vampire community (Williams, 2008). Such overgeneralizations and stereotypes are unfounded and unjust. There is no available evidence that real vampirism is associated with criminality. Nevertheless, because of stereotypes and widespread misunderstanding, the real vampire community has recognized the need to be proactive in educating outsiders concerning vampire identities and practices.” - Name of article: “Social Work, BDSM and Vampires: Toward Understanding and Empowering Vulnerable, Invisible Communities”, author Dr. D.J. Williams, to be published in Canadian Social Work, Volume 15 Number 1, Fall 2013. Copyright: Canadian Association of Social Workers.

Conclusion:

The Vampyre Community is an international phenomenon that transcends national boundaries. What we’re defending here in South Africa is inalienable human rights – and our constitutional freedom of religion, AND the right of self-identified Vampyres (and Witches, Pagans and Satanists) to exist peacefully under the same laws as people of any other religion, race, culture or creed. This entire project is an effort to disconnect the concept of implied automatic criminality from that of the presumption of guilt based on association of the individual with a religion or belief or identity.

Sources and further reading on Vampyres:

a) The Atlanta Vampire Alliance (AVA) - http://atlantavampirealliance.com/educational.html
b) The SA Vampyre Culture Center - http://vampyreculturecenter.wordpress.com
c) Suscitatio Enterprises LLC – http://suscitatio.com
d) The Vampyre Academy - http://vampyreacademy.wordpress.com
e) SA Vampyre News (SAVN) - http://savampyrenews.wordpress.com/
CERTIFICATION

ENDORSEMENT:

Endorsement represents the following:

1) Each religious or sub-cultural authority, whether an individual or a group, signified by inclusion in the relevant listing below, certifies the content of the general portions of this site and/or document, AND the relevant portions of the site and/or document pertaining to their own specific religious group or sub-culture, as reasonably true, accurate and a correct reflection of that group.

2) Additionally, the intent of the Project as a whole, as stated in the “About” portion of the website and/or document is supported and endorsed by these authorities, giving consent to be associated with the Project, the website information resource and the document.

The following authorities, being respected individuals or groups within their respective religions, communities and/or subcultures, endorse this Project:

Pagan religion – The South African Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA)
Bronwyn Katzke – Editor, Penton Pagan Magazine

Satanist religion – The Church of Satan (CoS) – Atheistic LaVeyan Satanism
Ordo Luciferi – Luciferianism

Vampi(y)re subculture – The South African Vampyre Alliance (SAVA)
The Atlanta Vampire Alliance (AVA)
Suscitatio Enterprises LLC
Dr D.J. Williams

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The content of this site and/or document as a whole is endorsed as a reasonably true, accurate and correct reflection of the religious and sub-cultural groups represented in this Project, signified by inclusion in the relevant listing below, and symbolizing support for the intent of the Project as a whole, as stated in the “About” portion of the website and/or document, is supported and endorsed by these authorities, which or whom did not participate in the compilation or creation of this summary – and further, giving consent to be associated with the Project, in both website information resource and document form.

The following authorities, being respected individuals or groups within their respective religions, communities and/or subcultures, fields of academic research or expertise, endorse this Project as a whole:

Academic:
John W. Morehead, MA in Intercultural Studies from Salt Lake Theological Seminary, Director of the Evangelical Chapter of the Foundation for Religious Diplomacy and Director of the Western Institute for Intercultural Studies.

Dr D.J. Williams, MSW, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Social Work, Sociology & Criminal Justice at Idaho State University. He completed doctorate and postdoctorate studies at the University of Alberta, and has conducted research in Canada and the United States. He is an expert in the areas of forensic social work and deviant leisure.

General Human Rights:

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
Governmental Agencies:

Legal:

Theological:

Other:

COMMENTARY:

"1) Excellent paper, well written and organized
2) Not enough people are made aware of South Africa and SRA propaganda. . . for this I commend you." – Etu Malku, Ordo Luciferi (Luciferianism)

"My friend, let whoever you lecture know that an official media rep from The Church of Satan gave you their support….VERY well done!" – Corvis Nocturnum, occult author, publisher (Atheistic Satanist)

“I think this is a fine resource. I appreciate the acknowledgement of my small contribution in the end. I hope it helps with the situation in South Africa and beyond, and I look forward to seeing the final product. I will promote it when that is appropriate.” – John W. Morehead – MA in Intercultural Studies from Salt Lake Theological Seminary, Director of the Evangelical Chapter of the Foundation for Religious Diplomacy and Director of the Western Institute for Intercultural Studies.

“The entire document looks very interesting and informative. Excellent!” – Dr D.j. Williams, MSW, PhD.

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ADDENDUM A: The Constitution of South Africa

ADDENDUM B: The Promotion of Equality Act (Act No 4 of 2000)

Protections of the Act against unfair discrimination on the grounds of religion are found in Chapter 1, paragraph 1:

"(xxii) "prohibited grounds" are--

(a) race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth; or

(b) any other ground where discrimination based on that other ground--

(i) causes or perpetuates systemic disadvantage;

(ii) undermines human dignity; or

(iii) adversely affects the equal enjoyment of a person's rights and freedoms in a serious manner that is comparable to discrimination on a ground in paragraph (a);"

and under Chapter 1, paragraph 2:

"2. The objects of this Act are--

(a) to enact legislation required by section 9 of the Constitution;

(b) to give effect to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, in particular--

(i) the equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms by every person;

(ii) the promotion of equality;

(iii) the values of non-racialism and non-sexism contained in section 1 of the Constitution;

(iv) the prevention of unfair discrimination and protection of human dignity as contemplated in sections 9 and 10 of the Constitution;

(v) the prohibition of advocacy of hatred, based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion, that constitutes incitement to cause harm as contemplated in section 16(2)(c) of the Constitution and section 12 of this Act;" of this Act.

Under Chapter 2, paragraphs 10 to 12, the Act addresses discrimination and incitement of hatred to cause violence or discrimination against anyone protected under the other sections of the Act.
"Prohibition of hate speech

10. (1) Subject to the proviso in section 12, no person may publish, propagate, advocate or communicate words based on one or more of the prohibited grounds, against any person, that could reasonably be construed to demonstrate a clear intention to--

(a) be hurtful;

(b) be harmful or to incite harm;

(c) promote or propagate hatred.

(2) Without prejudice to any remedies of a civil nature under this Act, the court may, in accordance with section 21(2)(n) and where appropriate, refer any case dealing with the publication, advocacy, propagation or communication of hate speech as contemplated in subsection (1), to the Director of Public Prosecutions having jurisdiction for the institution of criminal proceedings in terms of the common law or relevant legislation.

Prohibition of harassment

11. No person may subject any person to harassment.

Prohibition of dissemination and publication of information that unfairly discriminates

12. No person may--

(a) disseminate or broadcast any information;

(b) publish or display any advertisement or notice, that could reasonably be construed or reasonably be understood to demonstrate a clear intention to unfairly discriminate against any person: Provided that bona fide engagement in artistic creativity, academic and scientific inquiry, fair and accurate reporting in the public interest or publication of any information, advertisement or notice in accordance with section 16 of the Constitution, is not precluded by this section."


http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/56231/65195/E00ZAF01.htm
ADDENDUM C: The South African Bill of Rights

Below are the points of the South African Bill of Rights which govern the freedoms of religion, association, right to privacy and expression, which are frequently violated by unethical press, non-compliance from the Press Ombudsman, or the SA Human Rights Commission, and also directly by religious organizations such as Christian warfare ministries and self-proclaimed “occult experts” including the SAPS and its occult crimes task force.

“14. Privacy

Everyone has the right to privacy, which includes the right not to have -

their person or home searched;
their property searched;
their possessions seized; or
the privacy of their communications infringed.

15. Freedom of religion, belief and opinion

Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion.

Religious observances may be conducted at state or state-aided institutions, provided that -
those observances follow rules made by the appropriate public authorities;
they are conducted on an equitable basis; and
attendance at them is free and voluntary.

This section does not prevent legislation recognising -
marriages concluded under any tradition, or a system of religious, personal or family law; or
systems of personal and family law under any tradition, or adhered to by persons professing a particular religion.
Recognition in terms of paragraph (a) must be consistent with this section and the other provisions of the Constitution.

16. Freedom of expression

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes -
freedom of the press and other media;
freedom to receive or impart information or ideas;
freedom of artistic creativity; and
academic freedom and freedom of scientific research.
The right in subsection (1) does not extend to -
propaganda for war;
incitement of imminent violence; or
advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or
religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause harm.

17. Assembly, demonstration, picket and petition

Everyone has the right, peacefully and unarmed, to assemble, to
demonstrate, to picket and to present petitions.

“18. Freedom of association

Everyone has the right to freedom of association.”

The full text may be viewed on the SA Government website:
ADDENDUM D: The South African Press Code

SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS CODE
(http://www.presscouncil.org.za/ContentPage?code=PRESSCODE)

Preamble
The press exists to serve society. Its freedom provides for independent scrutiny of the forces that shape society, and is essential to realising the promise of democracy. It enables citizens to make informed judgments on the issues of the day, a role whose centrality is recognised in the South African Constitution.

Section 16 of the Bill of Rights sets out that:

1. “Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes:
   a) Freedom of the press and other media;
   b) Freedom to receive and impart information or ideas;
   c) Freedom of artistic creativity; and
   d) Academic freedom and freedom of scientific research.

2. “The right in subsection (1) does not extend to
   a) Propaganda for war;
   b) Incitement of imminent violence; or
   c) Advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause harm.”

The press strives to hold these rights in trust for the country's citizens; and it is subject to the same rights and duties as the individual. Everyone has the duty to defend and further these rights, in recognition of the struggles that created them: the media, the public and government, who all make up the democratic state.

Our work is guided at all times by the public interest, understood to describe information of legitimate interest or importance to citizens.

As journalists, we commit ourselves to the highest standards of excellence, to maintain credibility and keep the trust of our readers. This means always striving for truth, avoiding unnecessary harm, reflecting a multiplicity of voices in our coverage of events, showing a special concern for children and other vulnerable groups, and acting independently.

We adopt the following Press Code:

1. Gathering of news

1.1. News should be obtained legally, honestly and fairly, unless public interest dictates otherwise.
1.2. Press representatives shall identify themselves as such, unless public interest or their safety dictates otherwise.

2. Reporting of News

2.1. The press shall take care to report news truthfully, accurately and fairly.

2.2. News shall be presented in context and in a balanced manner, without any intentional or negligent departure from the facts whether by distortion, exaggeration or misrepresentation, material omissions, or summarisation.

2.3. Only what may reasonably be true, having regard to the sources of the news, may be presented as fact, and such facts shall be published fairly with due regard to context and importance. Where a report is not based on facts or is founded on opinion, allegation, rumour or supposition, it shall be presented in such manner as to indicate this clearly.

2.4. Where there is reason to doubt the accuracy of a report and it is practicable to verify the accuracy thereof, it shall be verified. Where it has not been practicable to verify the accuracy of a report, this shall be stated in such report.

2.5. A publication shall seek the views of the subject of critical reportage in advance of publication; provided that this need not be done where the publication has reasonable grounds for believing that by doing so it would be prevented from publishing the report or where evidence might be destroyed or sources intimidated. Reasonable time should be afforded the subject for a response. If the publication is unable to obtain such comment, this shall be stated in the report.

2.6. A publication shall make amends for publishing information or comment that is found to be inaccurate by printing, promptly and with appropriate prominence, a retraction, correction or explanation.

2.7. Reports, photographs or sketches relating to indecency or obscenity shall be presented with due sensitivity to the prevailing moral climate. A visual presentation of explicit sex shall not be published, unless public interest dictates otherwise.

2.8. Journalists shall not plagiarise.

3. Independence and conflicts of interest

3.1 The press shall not allow commercial, political, personal or other non-professional considerations to influence or slant reporting. Conflicts of interest must be avoided, as well as arrangements or practices that could lead audiences to doubt the press’s independence and professionalism.
3.2 Journalists shall not accept a bribe, gift or any other benefit where this is intended or likely to influence coverage.

3.3 The press shall indicate clearly when an outside organisation has contributed to the cost of newsgathering.

3.4 Editorial material shall be kept clearly distinct from advertising.

4. Dignity, Reputation and Privacy

4.1. The press shall exercise care and consideration in matters involving the private lives and concerns of individuals. The right to privacy may be overridden by a legitimate public interest.

4.2. The press shall exercise care and consideration in matters involving dignity and reputation. The dignity or reputation of an individual should only be overridden in the following circumstances:

4.2.1. The facts reported are true or substantially true;

4.2.2. The article amounts to fair comment based on facts that are adequately referred to and that are true or substantially true;

4.2.3. The report amounts to a fair and accurate report of court proceedings, Parliamentary proceedings or the proceedings of any quasi-judicial tribunal or forum; or

4.2.4. It was reasonable for the article to be published because it was prepared in accordance with acceptable principles of journalistic conduct and in the public interest.

4.3. The identity of rape victims and victims of sexual violence shall not be published without the consent of the victim or in the case of children, without the consent of their legal guardians and it is in the best interest of the child.

4.4. The HIV/AIDS status of people should not be disclosed without their consent, or in the case of children, without the consent of their legal guardians, and only if it is in the public interest and it is in the best interest of the child.

5. Discrimination and Hate Speech

5.1. Except where it is strictly relevant to the matter reported and it is in the public interest to do so, the press shall avoid discriminatory or denigratory references to people’s race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth or other status, nor shall it refer to people’s status in a prejudicial or pejorative context.
5.2. The press has the right and indeed the duty to report and comment on all matters of legitimate public interest. This right and duty must, however, be balanced against the obligation not to publish material that amounts to:

5.2.1. Propaganda for war;

5.2.2. Incitement of imminent violence; or

5.2.3. Advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause harm.

6. Advocacy

A publication is justified in strongly advocating its own views on controversial topics provided that it treats its readers fairly by:

6.1. Making fact and opinion clearly distinguishable;

6.2. Not misrepresenting or suppressing relevant facts; and

6.3. Not distorting the facts.

7. Comment

7.1. The press shall be entitled to comment upon or criticise any actions or events of public interest provided such comments or criticisms are fairly and honestly made.

7.2. Comment by the press shall be presented in such manner that it appears clearly that it is comment, and shall be made on facts truly stated or fairly indicated and referred to.

7.3. Comment by the press shall be an honest expression of opinion, without malice or dishonest motives, and shall take fair account of all available facts which are material to the matter commented upon.

8. Children

The Bill of Rights (Section 28.2) in the South African Constitution states: “A child’s best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.”

8.1. The press shall therefore exercise exceptional care and consideration when reporting about children under the age of 18. If there is any chance that coverage might cause harm of any kind to a child, he or she shall not be interviewed, photographed or identified unless a custodial parent or similarly responsible adult consents, or a public interest is evident.

8.2. Child pornography shall not be published.
Child Pornography is defined in the Film and Publications Act as: Any image or any description of a person, real or simulated, who is or who is depicted or described as being, under the age of 18 years, engaged in sexual conduct; participating in or assisting another person to participate in sexual conduct; or showing or describing the body or parts of the body of the person in a manner or parts of the body of the person in a manner or circumstance which, in context, amounts to sexual exploitation.

8.3. The press shall not identify children who have been victims of abuse, exploitation, or who have been charged with or convicted of a crime, unless a public interest is evident and it is in the best interests of the child.

9. Violence

Due care and responsibility shall be exercised by the press with regard to the presentation of brutality, violence and suffering.

10. Headlines, Posters, Pictures and Captions

10.1. Headlines and captions to pictures shall give a reasonable reflection of the contents of the report or picture in question.

10.2. Posters shall not mislead the public and shall give a reasonable reflection of the contents of the reports in question.

10.3. Pictures shall not misrepresent or mislead nor be manipulated to do so.

11. Confidential and anonymous sources

11.1. The press has an obligation to protect confidential sources of information.

11.2. The press shall avoid the use of anonymous sources unless there is no other way to deal with a story. Care should be taken to corroborate the information.

11.3. The press shall not publish information that constitutes a breach of confidence, unless a legitimate public interest dictates otherwise.

12. Payment for Articles

The press shall avoid shady journalism in which informants are paid to induce them to give the information, particularly when they are criminals - except where the material concerned ought to be published in the public interest and the payment is necessary for this to be done.

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ADDENDUM E: Ethics of The South African National Editor’s Forum (SANEF)

Sanef is committed to promoting and supporting ethical discourse and conduct in the South African media.

The media’s ability to produce accurate, fair and honest journalism is directly related to ethical decision making by media workers.

Reporters cover tragedy and trauma, crime and corruption, investigate complex business stories, and cover politics, war, religion, racial and cultural issues – all while maintaining the trust of their sources and of news-makers. This section outlines the codes of conduct and ethics codes of some media organisations. You will also find a list of publications relating to ethics in the media and links to organisations doing work in this field.

South African journalism codes of conduct and ethics:

In 2002, the media representatives who were present at the Sanef Skills Indaba committed to making their codes of conduct and ethics available and public. The codes can be read in full and downloaded in this section.

DOWNLOADS

- BCCSA Media Codes of Conduct (168.17 KB) Media Codes of Conduct. The Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa (BCCSA) was established by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) in 1993 to adjudicate and mediate complaints against a broadcaster that has signed its Code of Conduct.
- SA Press Code (150.81 KB) Media Codes of Conduct. The Print Media Industry set up the office of the Press Ombudsman and an Appeal Panel to mediate, settle and, if necessary, adjudicate complaints about what has been published in newspapers and magazines in accordance with a Code and Rules of Procedure.
- Guidelines on Confidential Briefings (154.20 KB) Sanef Guidelines on "Confidential briefings and sources" was adopted at Sanef Council on

“United In Our Diversity In Pursuit Of Our Common Interests”
Version 01.00
30 May 2004 in Durban. SANEF’s values of openness, transparency, non-racialism and the public interest informs our approach to confidential briefings, whether given to a group or an individual journalist.
ADDENDUM F: Correspondence: SAPRA and SA Press Ombudsman

20080731 Witchcraft Dog spell to trap victim Witness

20080807 Inyanga rescues child News24

20080814 Woman gives birth to cups IOL

20080815 Woman gives birth to cups Despatch online

20081020 Halloween - Do you know Witbank News

20081026 Halloween – Prime recruiting time for Satanists Sunday Tribune

20090325 ‘Kat dalk in heksedaad bedwelm’ Die Burger

20090514 PO dismissal

20090514 Request for Appeal

20090518 RULING OF SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS COUNCIL

20111127 Graveyard Monster In the footsteps of the Welkom witch Sunday Tribune

20111127 Graveyard Monster PO Response

Appeal for review of complaint dismissal by Press Ombudsman Joe Tholoe