

## **Professor Ivan Zhelev Dimitrov, President of CRNRM (BG)**

### **The Role of Women in Cults in Bulgaria**

I am happy to welcome FECRIS which defends human and democratic values here today. This Conference is extremely important for Bulgaria because there are many new sects and cults in our country, in which it is necessary to provide information and prevention because people are not informed about the danger of sects.

Women are the first victims at many levels and above all mentally. They have a very wide age profile and are used as a "call product". They are somehow mandated for recruitment

Internet and Face Book are widely used media for recruitment, and the lack of information of Bulgarian women causes them to be caught up in groups that promise training, either in personal development, in New Age groups, mixing esotericism and astronomy or so that they themselves become gurus. These trainings are very expensive up to 300€ for a day.

There have been very serious cases, such as the death of a baby at birth, the death of a woman who has been forced to fast for several days. There are also suicides of young people who frequented the new religious movements.

The fact is that the lack of information and education are the real problem. Many movements exist as diverse as Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Falun Gong, groups of Christian Orthodox origin, occultists, purely Bulgarian gurus, clairvoyants, etc.