



European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Cults and Sects

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting 9-10 November 2020

Freedom of Religion or Belief: The Role of Digital Technologies and Civil Society Actors in Advancing This Human Right for All

The smear campaign against our federation has been going on for many years, mainly through websites. Organisations defending cults disseminate misleading information about the objectives and even members of our organisation, often through anonymous sites, but also on sites run by associations linked to controversial cults. These same organisations even bring these defamations to this meeting.

For some time now, all the websites of "cult apologists" have acquired a new boldness. Indeed, they publish enthusiastic articles on the recent document of the ***American Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)***, which condemns the "anti-cult movement" and even suggests that the American administration should oppose the work of the ***European Federation of Research and Information Centres on Cults (FECRIS)*** in international bodies such as the OSCE itself. Indeed, according to them, the anti-cult movement produces hate speech and denies human rights. Of course, this is part of the smear campaign that has been going on for many years against those who fight to limit abuses and defend the human rights of cult victims.

Let me conclude by saying that USCIRF is neither international nor neutral, nor is it an institution of the United States government.

It is used as a tool by those who want to eliminate us.

The French government, for its part, through its Minister of Citizenship, Marlène Schiappa, has just announced its will to strengthen the combat against sectarian aberrations.

Luigi Corvaglia

