

Letter of Invitation to Research

Dear Cult Survivors,

I warmly invite you to become an esteemed participant in our ongoing research, where your invaluable input is greatly sought.

At the heart of this research lies a deep commitment to treating women with the utmost respect, honor, and reverence. I recognize the significance of your stories and experiences, which are pivotal in shaping our understanding.

I have prepared questions for you to facilitate a comfortable and sincere environment. These queries guide your answers, opinions, and remarks.

Your openness and willingness to share your thoughts will contribute immensely to the progress of this research. Your unique perspective holds tremendous value, and we sincerely appreciate your involvement.

Should you accept our invitation, I assure you that your privacy and confidentiality will be upheld with the utmost care. I am committed to creating a safe space where your voice can be heard and respected.

I look forward to engaging with you and learning from your extraordinary journey. Let us pave the way for understanding, healing, and growth together.

With warm regards,

Dr. Researcher Ozan Can Yilmaz

Your insights and personal narratives will raise awareness and support others affected.

Please approach the questions below carefully, prioritizing your well-being and knowing you can answer whichever you want. Feel free to draw from your experiences and provide specific examples that resonate with you. Your privacy and confidentiality will be respected throughout this process.

Thank you for your courage in speaking out and making a difference. Your contribution is invaluable.

1. As a cult survivor, can you describe the gender inequalities you experienced in language and actions within the cult?
2. How did the spiritual teachings, which placed men above women, personally affect you? Can you provide examples of specific situations or aspects where you noticed a power imbalance between male and female members?
3. In what ways did the cult perpetuate societal stereotypes and expectations regarding women's roles and responsibilities, such as caregiving and housework responsibilities? Did you witness women being discouraged or penalized for deviating from these traditional gender roles?
4. During your time in the cult, did you witness or personally experience any forms of indoctrination or mind control techniques that specifically targeted women? If so, could you describe these tactics and how they affected your thoughts, beliefs, and behaviors?
5. Were there any specific policies, teachings, or practices within the cult that normalized or justified the mistreatment of women and their bodies? How did these beliefs contribute to the abuse and exploitation of women?
6. Did you observe any instances within the cult where women were discouraged or prevented from pursuing leadership positions or roles of authority? How did this limitation on women's opportunities shape the overall power dynamics within the cult?
7. During your time in the cult, were any specific rituals or practices designed to exert control over women's minds or bodies? How did these techniques impact your autonomy and agency as a woman?
8. How did the cult's emphasis on male superiority and the subordination of women impact your aspirations and ambitions? Can you provide specific instances where you felt limited or discouraged due to these beliefs?

9. During your time in the cult, did you witness any forms of emotional manipulation or gaslighting techniques explicitly targeted toward women? How did these psychological tactics impact your self-worth and ability to question the cult's teachings?
10. Can you describe any instances where women within the cult were pitted against each other or encouraged to compete for the approval or attention of male leaders? How did this dynamic affect relationships and create divisions among female members?
11. As a cult survivor, can you describe specific instances where women were punished or ostracized for questioning or challenging established beliefs or practices? How did this create a climate of fear and control within the cult?
12. Were any specific rituals or ceremonies within the cult gender-specific or enforced gender segregation?
13. In what ways did the cult manipulate and exploit the concept of femininity or motherhood to exert control over women? Can you provide examples of how these manipulations affected your perception of womanhood and your role within the cult?
14. Were there any restrictions or limitations placed on women's access to education, information, or opportunities for personal growth within the cult? How did these barriers contribute to the perpetuation of gender inequalities and the suppression of women's potential?
15. Did you notice any intersections between gender inequalities and other forms of discrimination or marginalization within the cult, such as race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status? How did these intersecting factors compound the challenges faced by women within the cult?

You may write your comments directly on this document from the next page or send them in a different Word document.

Contact E-mail: ozancany24@univie.ac.at

Answers & Remarks

Your Name:

Country of Residence:

Contact E-mail:

(Please indicate if you prefer to stay anonymous)