

## TIPS FOR PREVENTION

1. **Know who you are** — don't let anyone analyze you, you know yourself better than anyone else
2. Be wary of people who want you to share intimate personal information.
3. Beware of people who are **excessively or inappropriately flattering** or overly friendly.
4. Beware of groups who subtly separate you from friends or family, or college, as a priority.
5. Demand that the organization **clearly identify themselves**.
6. **Do your research!** Check out their reputation using external sources before attending any events or meetings.
7. **Don't give out your full name, address or phone number** unless you know and trust the group asking for it.
8. **Check to see if a group is endorsed by the Center for Spirituality, Dialogue and Service and/or recognized by the university.**

## DESTRUCTIVE GROUPS ON CAMPUS

THE BOSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST, INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, THE BOSTON INTERNATIONAL CHURCH AND ASEZ WORLD MISSION SOCIETY HAVE BEEN PRESENT ON-CAMPUS OPERATING UNDER A VARIETY OF NAMES. THESE GROUPS HAVE BEEN **OFFICIALLY BANNED** FROM NEU RECOGNITION, AS WELL AS FROM MANY OTHER UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

WE ASSERT THAT A RELIGIOUS GROUP THAT PRACTICES DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIORS SUCH AS THOSE OUTLINED IN THIS BROCHURE DOES NOT BELONG ON THE NU CAMPUS. WE DO NOT ALLOW AGGRESSIVE PROSELYTIZING, HARASSMENT, EVASIVENESS, DISHONESTY OR UNCLEAR ADVERTISING.

## CONTACT CSDS

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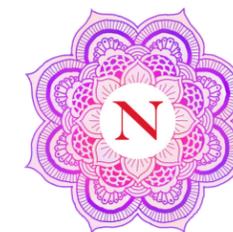
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[www.northeastern.edu/spirituallife](http://www.northeastern.edu/spirituallife)

IS THE GROUP I AM  
GETTING INVOLVED  
WITH HEALTHY FOR  
ME, OR **POTENTIALLY  
DESTRUCTIVE?**

A guide for making **safe judgements** about religious groups on campus

*Produced by The Center for Spirituality,  
Dialogue and Service at Northeastern  
University*



Northeastern University  
**Center for Spirituality,  
Dialogue, and Service**  
**CSDS**

## COMMON TECHNIQUES

1. **Group pressure, or "Love Bombing"** with excessive flattery
2. **Isolation or separation** from your friends and family
3. **Hypnosis** — heightened suggestibility with repetition, chanting, etc.
4. **Pressure to confess**, instill feelings of fear and guilt
5. **Sleep deprivation, inadequate nutrition**
6. **Confusion** — frequently offers new and/or complex doctrines to replace old values
7. **Absolutism** — insisting on unquestioned obedience, limits independent thought or action

THE STAFF AND SPIRITUAL ADVISORS AT CSDS ARE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING VIBRANT AND HEALTHY FAITH PRACTICES ON THE NU CAMPUS AND DISCOURAGE DESTRUCTIVE RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND HIGH-PRESSURE TACTICS.

## CHECKLIST OF WARNING SIGNS

- Are outrageous **time or monetary commitments** expected of you?
- Does everyone look, act and speak alike?
- Do I feel **pressure** from constant visits, calls or emails? Does it feel like too much, too fast?
- Am I discouraged from **making my own choices**?
- Is tragedy or a terrible outcome predicted to befall anyone who leaves the group?

### ASK YOURSELF: AM I ACCEPTED FOR WHO I AM?

- Does the group respect other beliefs or do they claim to have the only "truth"?
- Is the leader held in high esteem, almost to the point of divinity?
- Is the group critical? Do they make you feel **unworthy, guilty or ashamed**?
- Do they imply that you need them?
- Does the group hold its activities in higher regard than school or other things, like friends and family, that are important to you?

- Are they forthcoming when answering your questions?
- Are certain members believed to innately have more rights than others?
- Are my questions seen as signs of weak faith?

### DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE INVOLVED WITH A DESTRUCTIVE GROUP?

## HELPFUL ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

CSDS and Spiritual Advisors

617.373.2728

203 Ell Hall

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NEU Health and Counseling:

617.373.2772

"We Care" Office: 617.373.4384

## MORE INFORMATION

[www.reveal.org](http://www.reveal.org)

[www.factnet.org](http://www.factnet.org)

[www.icsahome.com](http://www.icsahome.com)