

Steven Hassan M.Ed., LMHC, NCC

Freedom of Mind Resource Center Inc., Director

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www.freedomofmind.com

www.freedomfromundueinfluence.org



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1976- Present

International experience consulting, counseling, researching, teaching, and assisting individuals with problems involving Undue Influence: brainwashing, mind control, unethical hypnosis, and destructive cults

Licensed Mental Health Counselor in 1992 (Commonwealth of Massachusetts #820)

Nationally Certified Counselor

Member of the Program in Psychiatry and the Law at Massachusetts Mental Health Center- A teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School

Founder, President, and Director of the Freedom of Mind Resource Center Inc. 1999

Director, Freedom From Undue Influence, a division of the non-profit Dare Association, Inc. 2017

- Private practice clinical work, consulting, teaching, researching, writing, media, and activism
- Leading Research on Undue Influence, its effects, and the law through Freedom From Undue Influence and the Program in Psychiatry and the Law

Hassan CV revised 04/23/2019

- Pursuing a Doctorate at Fielding Graduate University's School of Leadership Studies - in the Organizational Development and Change (ODC) Ph.D. program 2017 (resuming Fall 2019)
- 09/05/2018, Interview by Sarah Berman of Vice, https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/3kyxvvnxivm-jordan-peterson-and-the-reincarnation-of-ayn-rands-cult
- 8/02/2018, TEDx Beacon Street Salon, Is Technology Controlling Your Mind, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ev_zuiXTTzA&t=4s
- 7/26/2018, Human Current Podcast, Ep 94, <http://www.human-current.com/episode-094-a-complex-systems-approach-to-counteracting-mind-control>
- 7/22/2018, "A Complex Systems Approach to Counteracting Mind Control, Trafficking and Terrorism," Plenary Speaker, International Conference on Complex Systems (ICCS), Cambridge, MA (NECSI)
- 7/05/2018, "The Freedom of Mind Approach to Helping People Raised in Destructive Environments," presentation at Annual ICSA International Conference, Speaker, Philadelphia, PA
- 6/20/2018, Gizmodo, The Gateway Podcast about Teal Swan, Part 4 "Tribe"
 - Direct Link: [The Gateway Podcast](#)
 - Article: [How Internet Spiritual Guru Teal Swan Targets Desperate People Online](#)
- 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 2018, Instructor, Harvard Longwood Psychiatry Residency Training Program, Course Name: Helping people influenced by Undue Influence: Hypnosis, Destructive Cults and Traffickers
- 2/28/2018, NYTimes Podcast: Change Agent, episode #3, "The Talk", <https://www.nytimes.com/podcasts/change-agent>
- 2/12/2018, Interviewed by Michael Nedelman of CNN Health, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/02/13/health/brainwashing-mind-control-patty-hearst/index.html>
- 2/9/2018, Interviewed by Brendan Joel Kelley, South Poverty Law Center, <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2018/02/09/anti-lgbt-cult-leader-calls-followers-purchase-assault-rifles>
- 2/08/2018, Interviewed by Chauncey DeVega, Podcast, <https://www.salon.com/2018/03/06/is-donald-trump-a-cult-leader-expert-says-he-fits-the-stereotypical-profile/>
- January 16, 2018, Harvard Law School, participant in Trial Advocacy "Expert Witness" Workshop
- Jan 4, 2018, Interviewed by Court Lewis, American Variety Radio http://penmarketing.org/americanvarietyradio/PAST_SHOW_ARCHIVES/SHassan-Cults2_1-12&13&14-18.mp3
- 2018, Founding Member INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE, <https://www.intltj.com>
- International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis-US Branch (ISPS-US;) Boston, 12/3/17

- 11/9/2017, Heaven's Gate Podcast Interview, CNN- HLN,
<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/stitcher/heavens-gate/e/52232859>
- 11/03/2017, Interview by Sarah Berman of VICE,
https://www.vice.com/en_nz/article/kz3dv3/how-a-secret-society-that-brands-women-sold-empowerment
- 10/22/2017, Presentation at New England Society for Ethical Culture, “Undue Influence in the Digital Age: How to Protect Yourself and Others”
- 10/21/2017, Interview for an article in WYNT,
<http://wnyt.com/in-depth/boston-man-provides-insights-into-cults-hassan/4642578/>
- 10/5/2017, Harvard Longwood Psychiatry Grand Rounds: Title: Undue Influence: An Introduction to Destructive Cults, Mind Control, Brainwashing and Deprogramming
- On 9/11/17 spoke at the Ralph J. Bunche Library at the U. S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. on *Combating Cult Mind Control* and met with officials
- Presented paper on Anatomy of Undue Influence at the International Academy of Law and Mental Health in Prague, Czechoslovakia in July 2017
- Instructor at Harvard Law School Trial Advocacy program 2016 and 2017
- Boston University School of Medicine, Psychiatry Grand Rounds October 13th 2016
- Human Trafficking training for *My Life, My Choice* in Boston as well as for Joint Regional Intelligence Organization in California to help organizations assist sex trafficking survivors 2014
- Training for Attorneys General of Utah and Arizona concerning FLDS cult of Warren Jeffs
- The main speaker at National Amber Alert Symposium sponsored by U.S. Department of Justice 2009 about Jaycee Dugard and Elizabeth Smart and other victims like them
- Program for 4th-year psychiatry residents at Brigham and Women’s Hospital for fifteen years about cults and Undue Influence
- Former Clinical Affiliate in Psychology - McLean Hospital, Belmont, Massachusetts
- Cambridge Family Institute - guest faculty
- Harvard Longwood Department of Psychiatry weekly Grand Rounds on May 13, 2003.
- Affiliate of the New England Complex Systems Institute (www.necsi.edu)
- Have given lectures, workshops, and trainings for:
 - British Society for Medical and Dental Hypnosis – Scotland, October 2016
 - American Psychological Association
 - The International Congress of Hypnosis
 - American Society of Clinical Hypnosis
 - American Psychological Association - 2001
 - Eastern Regional Conference on Multiple Personality and Dissociation
 - Massachusetts General Hospital
 - McLean Hospital
 - Brigham & Women’s Psychiatry program for 16 years
 - Boston Psychoanalytic Society
- August 2015 Countering ISIS program at the Aspen Institute. One of 25 invitation only with State Department counterterrorism officials, Secretary Madeleine Albright, former Ambassadors, and other luminaries
- Have given lectures and seminars at hundreds of Universities, Colleges, Churches, Synagogues and Community Centers and for the American Bar Association's Conference on

Tort and Religion

- In addition, have appeared on many national television and radio shows, including: 60 Minutes; Nightline; Dateline; ABC, NBC, ABC Nightly News; Leah Remini: Scientology and its Aftermath; Oprah Winfrey; Today show; Good Morning America; Larry King show; CNN Anderson Cooper; CNN Special Reports; WBUR; NPR. A more complete list is available upon request.
- Co-developed the curriculum for “Ending the Game” (ETG), a ground-breaking “coercion resilience” curriculum that reduces the feelings of attachment to traffickers and/or a lifestyle characterized by commercial sexual exploitation, thereby reducing the rate of recidivism among sex trafficking victims

1985-1986 National Coordinator of FOCUS, a support and information group for former cult members.

- Administration
- Education
- Development of programs for both informational services and counseling support services
- Leading and organizing regional support groups

1979-1981 Founder and first President- Ex-Moon Inc., a nonprofit educational corporation serving as an information and support network for over four hundred former cult members.

Edited and published a monthly newsletter with a circulation of over one thousand. Gave hundreds of interviews, sponsored and participated in news conferences, lectures, and seminars about the Moonies. No longer in operation.

EDUCATION

2017- present Ph.D. Student Organizational Development and Change (ODC)
School of Leadership Studies Fielding Graduate University

1984-1985 Masters in Education in Counseling Psychology
Cambridge College, Cambridge, MA

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES AND AFFILIATIONS

- Licensed Mental Health Counselor #820 - Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Nationally Certified Counselor (NBCC) # 43226
- [Member of Program in Psychiatry and the Law](#)
- President of [Freedom from Undue Influence](#), a division of the non-profit Dare Association, Inc.
- [New England Complex Systems Institute](#) – Affiliate
- [Open Minds Foundation](#), Advisory Board Member
- [Child-Friendly Faith Project](#), Advisory Board Member
- Against Violent Extremism (AVE) – member
- The American Counseling Association- member

- Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association- member
- American Society for Clinical Hypnosis- member
- New England Society of Clinical Hypnosis (NESCH)- member
- International Society of Hypnosis (ISH), member
- Fox Valley Technical College- consultant/ instructor
- International Cultic Studies Association- member
- Co-Developer of [Ending the Game](#) Curriculum – designed to educate and empower commercial sex trafficking victims.
- Newton, MA Crime Prevention Commission Advisory Council Member

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCES

- Training in Strategic and Structural Family Therapy
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Dissociative Disorders
- Phobia and Panic Disorders
- Attachment Pathology
- American Psychological Association
- New England Society of Clinical Hypnosis
- International Academy of Law and Mental Health Congress
- International Society of Hypnosis workshops and conferences
- American Society for Clinical Hypnosis conferences
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- Ericksonian Hypnosis and Psychotherapy workshops and conferences
- Neuro-Linguistic Programming extensive training (NLP) 1980-1981

PUBLICATIONS

Hassan, S.A. and Shah, M.J. (2019) The anatomy of undue influence used by terrorist cults and traffickers to induce helplessness and trauma, so creating false identities. *Ethics, Medicine and Public Health* (2019) 8, 97-107. Elsevier Masson SAS. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jemep.2019.3.002>

Hankir, A. and Hassan, S. (2018). Psychological Determinants and Social Influences of Violent Extremism In S. Moffic, M.D., J. Peteet, M.D., A. Hankir, M.D. and R. Awaad, M.D (Ed.), *ISLAMOPHOBIA AND PSYCHIATRY: Recognition, Prevention, and Treatment*. Springer Publishers.

Hassan, Steven (2017) Brainwashing Young People into Violent Extremist Cults, *Freedom from Fear* magazine of The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute ([Unicri.it](http://f3magazine.unicri.it/?p=1353)) <http://f3magazine.unicri.it/?p=1353>

Hassan, Steven (2018) *Combating Cult Mind Control: The #1 Best-Selling Guide to Protection, Rescue and Recovery from Destructive Cults* Newton, Massachusetts: Freedom of Mind Press

Co-developer of Ending the Game with Rachel Thomas, Carissa Phelps and D'Lita Miller—an intervention curriculum for women who have been sex trafficked to understand pimp/ trafficker mind control www.endingthegame.com

Hassan, Steven (2012, 2013) *Freedom of Mind: Helping Loved Ones Leave Controlling People, Cults and Beliefs*, Newton, Massachusetts: Freedom of Mind Press

Hassan, Steven (2000) *Releasing the Bonds: Empowering People to Think for Themselves* Somerville, Massachusetts: Freedom of Mind Press
(also published in Russian, Chinese and Polish)

Hassan, Steven (1999) *Spiritual Responsibility: Cult Awareness* March/April issue of New Age Journal

Hassan, Steven and Surya Das (1996) *Spiritual Responsibility: Avoiding Abuses and Pitfalls Along the Spiritual Path* (1996) booklet

Shupe, A. & Bromley, D. ed. (1994). *Anti-cult Movements in Cross-cultural Perspective*. [Chapter Six: Strategic Intervention Therapy by Steven Hassan] New York: Garland

Hassan, Steven A. (1988,1990). *Combatting Cult Mind Control*. Rochester, Vermont: Park Street Press {also published in Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Italian, Polish, Czech and Russian}

Hassan, Steven A. (1984). *Exit-Counseling: Working to Undo the Shackles of Cult Mind Control*. Reprinted in *Cults and Consequences* (1988). Los Angeles: Los Angeles Jewish Federation.

HONORS

Jerusalem Medal given by Nahum Itzkovitz, Director General of the Israel Ministry of Social Affairs and Services, 2010

Recipient of the Margaret Thaler Singer Award, given by International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) 2014

Please see freedomofmind.com for a list of endorsements and videos and www.freedomfromundueinfluence.org for the non-profit research, publishing and development effort.

LinkedIn - <http://www.linkedin.com/in/stevenhassan>

YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/freedomofmindresourcecenter>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/cultexpert>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/FOMInc>

and

<https://www.facebook.com/freedomfromundueinfluence/>
