

SEX INITIATION IN A TANTRA CULT

“Nobody joins a cult. Nobody joins something they think’s going to hurt them. You join a religious organization, you join a political movement, and you join with people that you really like.”

Deborah Layton

“And the girls kept telling me I should sleep with him because this was a big chance for my evolution, the moment I would do that move, I would become an initiate and would have a special life. I would progress very much from a spiritual point of view. And that the master does me a big favour by sleeping with me.”

“I think that the main reason was, like, because I was troubled and depressed. And I was somehow completely lost. So I took the first lifeline I could get to. And as they were promising, like, increased well-being and stuff like that, I just thought that I’ll try it. And I believed pretty firmly that it’d help me.”

Reeta, Former Natha Finland Student

“I also did learn yoga, and... there were printed courses.”

Alina, Former MISA member

“My mother was a yogi, she was with ... she didn’t know anything about the weird side of this cult, she thought it was a perfectly legitimate place where you can do yoga and I wanted to see what it was all about so I joined.”

Roxana Former MISA member

“I was a minor, but I didn’t find out what actually happens in MISA until I became 18. Up until then I was entirely convinced that in MISA they only teach you yoga.”

Cristina, Former MISA member

01.

Joining The School

People often join the school because of their interest in spirituality, yoga and connecting with like-minded individuals. Some are curious about Tantra and want to improve their relationships.

All the schools in the Atman Yoga Federation follow the same curriculum, which consists of both theory and practice. The courses go on for many years.

Every week the students go to class and learn about a new topic. This way the students are drawn to new course material, and they bond over time with like-minded people within the school.

Bivolaru is described to the students as a special being with supernatural powers, with many older students and teachers believing that he has achieved enlightenment. **“He is someone who knows what the adepts need in their spiritual evolution”**. He is also praised for the hardships that he has withstood in the former communist regime in Romania. The most devout followers are given new names by Bivolaru. Renaming members is one way of binding them into the movement.

Bivolaru is openly worshipped in the schools, his picture decorates the yoga halls and it is displayed at every event the school organizes. However, because of the increasing controversies, the information about the spiritual master has been taken down from many school's websites in recent years.

02.

Sexuality

Sexuality is a significant subject within the tantra course. The sexual energy is seen as a tool for transformation. This is a distinction between having sex and making love, and sexual continence (sex without ejaculation) is strived for.

There are clear ideals for how men and women should conduct themselves, and separate classes for men (Vira) and women (Shakti) are offered in some of the schools. Women are encouraged to “open up” sexually, and it is accepted and encouraged for a woman to have sex with other women. However, sex between men is discouraged and seen as an obstruction to enlightenment.

Open relationships are encouraged in the school. Many students and teachers in the school have multiple lovers and some teachers even have sexual relationships with their students.

To receive some teachings, students go through so called “initiations” that are kept secret for those outside the school. These secret initiations can range from meditation techniques to sexual positions. Over time, keeping secrets become a norm for the students.

For some initiations, students need to send in photos of themselves in their underwear. It is believed that Bivolaru has the ability to see people's energetic auras, and in order to make a judgement whether they are fit for the initiation, he assesses the photos he receives. Many schools have also adopted this photo policy by order from Bivolaru. Even if you have no prior involvement with the school, you are required to send in photos in your underwear to attend many events/camps. This way Bivolaru has access to all of the women that attend his events. He then reaches out to his coordinators from the schools/camps in order to lure them to Paris so he can "initiate" them.

"Well, If you start from the fact that the erotic aspect is used as a tool of spiritual growth. – So then, naturally the yoga exercises start to be more about developing your shakti, your sexuality and gender awareness in such a direction that you will be readier and more able to experience that erotic side of yours."

Reeta, Former Natha Finland Student

"Several colleagues from the yoga course told me that it's very beautiful, that you come to transform, that it really helps you as a woman."

Alina, Former MISA member

"My mother was a yogi, she was with ... she didn't know anything about the weird side of this cult, she thought it was a perfectly legitimate place where you can do yoga and I wanted to see what it was all about so I joined."

Roxana Former MISA member

"The leader of Natha Helsinki – um, Finland, told me that our guru Grieg would like to meet me. I was told that we'd do lots of yoga, so I should take comfortable clothes with me, and we wouldn't go out much."

Reeta, Former Natha Finland Student

"Somehow I knew I was called to have sex with him, sort of. It wasn't a certitude. We weren't told..."

Alina, Former MISA member

"So you find out that you received a holiday, you aren't told about any conditions, you aren't told anything, except that you have this extraordinary chance, this gift from Gregorian Bivolaru to go there... We were told that because of the harmony of our bodies we could go, because we're very spiritual beings."

Cristina, Former MISA member

03.

Invitation From The Master

When the female students have been in the school for a certain period and undergone some initiations, private invitations are sent by Bivolaru and communicated to the adept by a female initiate, who points out how extraordinary the adept's personality is and that the master's offer is truly exceptional.

All communication regarding the initiation is held secret and the adept is explicitly forbidden to speak about it. Sometimes small gifts are sent from Bivolaru, such as necklaces, these are seen as prestigious among the initiated women.

The sexual content and the conditions of the initiation are not described.

In some cases the woman is also asked to make a payment, but this is more akin to a financial deposit, which is usually returned after the event, because all the expenses related to the initiation are understood as a gift from the master.

04.

Arriving In Paris

Before Bivolaru was wanted by police for sex trafficking, he was able to have initiations in a villa in Costinesti, Romania, where yoga camps take place each year.

During the time of Bivolaru's hiding in Paris, all the transfers were kept completely secret, which means that neither the address of the Paris ashram inhabited only by women nor the place of the initiation, was known by the women.

Flight tickets are given to the women in the last minute. Since it is strictly forbidden to speak about the initiation, women do not tell their family, friends or partners about the invitation or where they are going. Often going away for weeks and months at a time.

When they arrive in Paris, they are picked up by chauffeurs. **They are disguised and blindfolded so that they cannot recall the locations of their stays later on.**

"We arrived at the airport. Then some guy came to pick us up from there. He then took us into this house, a big house. On the way there, we had to keep on these opaque- I mean, these super darkened sunglasses through which you couldn't see

anything, and we had hats on as well. And we weren't quite told why that was."

Reeta, Former Natha Finland Student

".. A driver picked me up, made me wear a hat and sunglasses so I couldn't be recognized"

Alina, Former MISA member

"We were told that that they were doing this so we couldn't tell anybody where we'd been and therefore wouldn't get into trouble"

Cristina, Former MISA memeber

"Yeah, so when we arrived at that house, taking away our passports and mobile phones was the first thing they did."

Reeta, Former Natha Finland Student

"I was in an apartment where there were at least 15 of us, at most we got to more than 20, we couldn't get out of the house until we were taken out by the drivers who would again make us wear the hats and glasses"

Cristina, Former MISA memeber

05.

The House

Yoga school MISA owns several different estates in Paris.

While staying in Paris, dozens of young women from Romania and other European countries are taken to a house.

There, they are practically held as prisoners. **Their belongings are thoroughly searched, their passports and mobile devices are confiscated.** Contact with the outside world is forbidden, with the exception of one phone call to parents, once a week, under strict monitoring. If any terminology like "yoga" or "Paris" is mentioned, the call would be cut.

Staff under Bivolaru live in the house to monitor the women.

Gregorian Bivolaru, also known as Grieg, doesn't usually live where the women live.

Preparation

During their stay in the house, which could stretch from days to weeks, the women are subjected to intense manipulation and coercion tactics.

The women are instructed to stand while their photos and videos are taken, and take vows of secrecy on their health and spiritual evolution. They are told exactly when to sleep, down to the exact minute, and forced to watch porn and listen to recordings of Bivolaru having sex with other women.

Any attempt to speak out about concerns are considered “satanic”, and are publicly shamed. They have to sign declarations to accept punishments ranging from: shaving their heads, and receiving humiliating cavity searches.

While at the same time, they are frequently reassured that they are doing everything of their own free will and would never be forced to do anything.

Some women were told to pay for the flight and accommodation should they cancel the invitation.

“And some of the girls who got there, they weren’t very taken with the idea of sleeping with this man, I don’t blame them, I didn’t want to either, he’s old, he’s a bit on the disgusting side really, with the long slimy hair and the long nails...”

Roxana Former MISA member

“There is manipulation, you believe that things you are doing are good, you think sleeping with Bivolaru is good, you believe lying about sleeping or not sleeping with him, or about meeting him is good. Because you are being told that you do it to protect him, to protect yourself as ignorant people can’t understand the things that you experience.”

Cristina, Former MISA member

“And he lived in this one room apartment. – And it was very very warm, and I’m not sure, I’m thinking maybe 40 degrees Celsius, or something like that, it was impossibly hot. And I was starting to feel a bit dizzy and there was a strong scent of mint in the air.”

Roxana Former MISA member

“On the shelves, there were vibrators and erotic accessories and things like that. – When we arrived there, Grieg was having sex

with some other woman, and we had to wait for them to be done. Then he let us inside.”

Reeta, Former Natha Finland Student

07.

Bivolaru's Apartment

The women would be summoned to Bivolaru's apartment any time during the day and night. They are taken to another apartment for the initiation.

Again, they would have to wear the dark glasses and be driven away by the same drivers.

Once they arrive, they are left waiting in the entrance hall along with the other girls.

08.

The Initiation

The women are offered drinks with unknown contents before going into the initiation. Some women have reported impaired states of clarity.

The initiation can last several hours. During which, the women are asked to go through different sexual positions, as well as anal sex and to drink his urine. He exercises total control during the initiation, and if the woman make any errors, he berates them and becomes very aggressive.

No condoms are used during the initiation.

There have been claims of women catching sexual disease after being in the initiation. Bivolaru has publicly rebuked these claims.

“That first of all, the way that Grieg touched me, it really hurt. Then, he got me to do things which I didn't want to do at all, because you don't say no to an authority figure like that. And in addition to that, I was somehow still thinking that I'm supposed to trust him and believe what he says, because he's so wise and “godly”. – Well, Grieg asked me then, if I like to pleasure men orally. To which I replied, that I don't enjoy it much at all. – Then, I was nearly choking during that, because he handled me in a very rough way. And at that point, I, like... the attempt ended then, because I couldn't breathe. He didn't realize I was choking, I had to sort of tear myself from his grip. – And then he told me

off for being stubborn, stupid and a lazy slacker, because I wasn't able to complete this initiation."

Reeta, Former Natha Finland Student

"Then, I was really broken up about the experience, I mean, what happened at Grieg's, and didn't feel like talking about it at all, not in the slightest. But I was forced to be in my underpants and tell about what happened, on tape. And I did talk, then, – like, when... if I got another chance, I'd try harder, harder and more. And wouldn't, like, give up like that again... Then we were supposed to write a note... or rather, copy one... which said, among other things, that I have been here willingly, I have gotten gifts from Grieg and I haven't been forced to do anything. – I still remember, when I was writing it, [I thought that] I certainly don't agree with all this."

Reeta, Former Natha Finland Student

"And I was still crying when I left that place and I was feeling horrible, horrible, the driver didn't really care that much or if he did he didn't really say anything, and I got back to the apartment and the girls wanted me to share my experience."

Roxana Former MISA member

09.

Testimonial

After the initiation, the women are driven back to the house.

Before they get to rest, **they are forced to make a positive testimonial in front of a video recorder, naked**, about the wonderful experience they have just undergone.

Negative testimonials are rejected and they are not let go until they have given a positive one.

10.

The Bubble Bursts

It usually takes some time for the women to digest their experience.

Many women choose to not break the vow and stay in the school. A few women choose to go to the police.

Gregorian Bivolaru and his supporters have remained completely silent about what goes on in Paris. In the Finnish case, the documentary team contacted Natha Finland's representatives to offer them a chance to answer questions. The interview was never done, because their terms were not met.

To this day, Bivolaru is still luring women to Paris. He is still wanted by Finnish and Romanian authorities.

“And I tried to see him as my spiritual master and I couldn't, and it kind of broke me in half.” – – – Mentally I was going through these horrible loops trying to see, trying to understand and trying to figure things out and I was going just down, I was getting worse and worse and depressed and panic attacks and...”
Roxana Former MISA member

“Well, actually after that trip, I went... I left to North for a couple of weeks, that's where I'm from. And there I told one of my friends about this. I mean, like, I somehow had to tell what had happened. And my friend got me thinking about all this in a new way.”
Reeta, Former Natha Finland Student

“I had, about a year after that experience, a really bad psychological meltdown. Even then I couldn't make the connection between my experiences, the breakdown and that... like, really severe depression which was triggered in me at that time.”
Reeta, Former Natha Finland Student

“I was lying down on my yoga mat during one point, and I felt entirely lost and broken and I didn't know what to believe. – – – And I was just lying there on my back, and I said Enough. And when I said enough I just felt a wave of anger coming from deep within me, it was this horrible, horrible anger, I'd never felt anything like it in my life.”
Roxana Former MISA member

11.

Unresolved

In Finland, Reetta isn't the only Finnish victim. At least **twenty** Finnish women have been taken to be initiated by Bivolaru. Some of them have been to Paris several times.

In addition to Finns, young women from Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Russia and, naturally, from Romania, have been transported for Bivolaru to abuse.

Official statement from Natha Finland says “Natha teaches classical tantra, eroticism as a spiritual path, or how to harness the creative energies of eroticism for your spiritual growth. Before everything, it emphasizes love as a necessary prerequisite for practicing tantra, and also as a certain goal to strengthen love.”

Inside the Misa/Natha/Tara/Atman tantra sex cult sect

The experiences of Ashleigh Freckleton in Tara Yoga Centre London UK and Misa Costinesti Romania:

Three years before she was a contestant on The Bachelor, Ashleigh Freckleton survived a cult.

The following contains descriptions of sexual exploitation that may be distressing. There was a period in 2018 when Ashleigh Freckleton felt split in two.

There was the lucid, rational Ashleigh who was alarmed by what was unfolding around her, who knew the yoga school she'd joined was something far more dangerous, manipulative, and abusive than it claimed. Then there was the Ashleigh who'd been coerced and brainwashed into justifying it all, into unpicking her suspicions, one by one.

Ashleigh, who many will recognise from the current season of The Bachelor Australia, joined the school while living in London. She was 25, alone in a new city, recovering from a relationship breakdown, and searching for a purpose.

A deeply spiritual person, raised in the Catholic faith, she was contemplating studying yoga in India when a well-meaning friend recommended a yoga school with branches across Europe.

"This friend was so charismatic, and he was the first person I'd spoken to about spirituality who wasn't afraid to use the word God, who wasn't afraid to talk about all different types of faith, and synchronicity, and fate and destiny and life path, and all these sorts of things. I was like, 'This is my calling. This is the first person I've ever met, that understands me,'" Ashleigh told Mamamia.

"Eventually, he said, 'Look, rather than going to India, come to Romania and live for a month amongst all the yogis. It's one of the only true schools that teaches real yoga with a real guide.'"

After taking classes online for several months, Ashleigh flew to Romania in August 2018.

Ashleigh said when she arrived at the camp, she was made to take vows on her own health and spiritual evolution that she wouldn't tell anyone what happens in the program. She said she was then told to strip naked, was photographed and interviewed about her devotion to Him — the school's guru.

Ashleigh said her body was "screaming" at her that the situation wasn't right, that she should leave. But she'd been admitted into the program for free, she didn't have a job or a flight out of there for another month, and she said she was being told that her discomfort with her nudity was rooted in superficiality and that she'd need to overcome that to progress.

"Even though my body's telling me this is wrong, I'm shaming myself thinking, 'It's your ego. You need to spiritually evolve. You've got to push through, keep going,'" she said.

While the yoga and meditation provided a much-needed salve to her anxiety, she said it soon became clear they were only part of the program. They were mixed in with teachings about tantra, Hinduism, and Buddhism. There was Freemasonry propaganda, conspiracy theories, and anti-vax messaging. She said she was made to watch hours of footage of the guru performing supposedly miraculous acts like moving a compass.

Ashleigh also described a range of exploitative practices, many of which were sexual in nature. Women were encouraged to be intimate with each other. There were viewings of mainstream pornography that were said to encourage sexual liberation. There was an activity that was billed as being empowering to women that was essentially just a striptease contest. Finally, the program culminated in an orgy involving urine play, as urine was said to be 'charged with spiritual energy'. Ashleigh refused to participate.

The characteristics of a cult.

Cults are broadly defined by the three characteristics: A charismatic leader, who increasingly becomes an object of worship; a process of coercive persuasion or thought reform (commonly referred to as 'brainwashing'); and economic, sexual, and other exploitation of group members.

"There's that old adage that nobody joins a cult," Ashleigh said. "You don't join a cult; you join a yoga school, you attend a self-development seminar, you go to a wellness retreat, you join a political movement wanting to better the world," she said. "The people that join, they have very positive and good intentions, and they're exploited."

It's also important to note that intelligence is not among the factors identified in research about an individual's susceptibility to joining a cult. Instead, the commonly cited traits include those such as emotional vulnerability, lack of strong family support systems, situational stress and low socioeconomic status.

Ashleigh said the next, and final, step in her indoctrination was an initiation ritual in Paris.

She claims when she arrived at the train station she was put in a car, given a hat to pull low on her head, and a pair of sunglasses with tape on the inside to obscure her vision. After a roughly 40-minute drive out of the city, she arrived at a house with frosted windows where she said her phone, her laptop, cards and passport — any

connection with the outside world — was taken and locked in a safe.

The ritual involved meeting the guru for the first time and, ultimately, sleeping with him. Ashleigh refused. She said she was given promises that if she proceeded she would receive his divine energy, that her demons would be exorcised, that her beauty would be enhanced, her breasts would grow and she would have more sexual charisma.

"They promised the whole world at your feet, if you go through with the initiation. And they say that if a woman gets the opportunity and she says no, then she is stubborn, stupid, superficial. She's completely lacking any aspiration for spiritual evolution, and she's destined for a life of suffering and negative karma," Ashleigh told Mamamia.

Ashleigh said she didn't know where she was, nor have any means to escape. And the warring sides of herself were louder than ever.

"I felt like I was losing touch with reality. It felt like [the guru's] claws were grabbing my brain and like pulling it out from underneath me. I had to write letters to myself in my diary and tell myself to stay lucid, because I was so afraid," she said.

"I was terrified of what brainwashed Ashleigh would do. I didn't trust that I would have the strength to say no to [the guru]. When you're sitting there in front of him, naked, how do you say no to someone of that level of authority, even though every part of your being is screaming at you that it's wrong?"

Ashleigh said that when she was made to watch a testimonial video of another woman who'd just completed the initiation, a naked woman who Ashleigh said was "clearly not OK", that's when the rational side of herself won.

After eight days, she managed to negotiate her way out of the initiation and was expelled from the program, condemned.

"When I got to a hotel, I just collapsed on the floor in my room. I was in France, no one knew that I was there. I had to lie to my family. And I didn't know what to do," she said. "That brainwashed part of me was still there. It took months after coming home to Australia to really understand what had happened."

Ashleigh was ultimately diagnosed with PTSD as a result of her experience. But she began a path to recovery with the help of a psychologist and the support of her family.

"We were just sitting one Sunday around the table, and I don't even know how it came up. I just lost it. I started crying, and I just told them everything," she said. "Mum and Dad just held me and they were like, 'It's not your fault, you didn't do anything wrong.' But that was the hardest part, telling them.

"I didn't want to hurt them, because they gave me everything growing up. It's because I've got such strong family ties that I was able to get myself out in the first place. People that don't have that in their lives, they end up in there and they don't ever leave."

Another critical part of her recovery has been research and awareness-raising. She's now studying psychology with a view to conducting research to further our understanding of cults and cult dynamics. She also operates an Instagram page, CULTivate Awareness, in which she shares details of her story and prevailing research about the tactics employed by cult groups.

It's previously been anonymous, but now she's choosing to speak up, to own her experience, and turn it into something that may be beneficial to others like her. It's still a work in progress, but, she said, so is she.

"I'm still learning to trust my intuition and my instincts again. But I've learned that I'm a lot more resilient than I ever gave myself credit for," she said.

"I often thought that I was the underdog, and I've always thought that I'm not enough and that I need to be more and to do more. And this has helped me to learn that I am. I am enough."

After this interview got published the students of Tara Yoga centre UK became aware of this scandal and left the school. Tara Yoga centre UK made all kinds of false accusations against Ashleigh.

This is the reply from Ashleigh to the accusations made by Tara Yoga centre UK in their open letter against her first testimony on MamaMia:

"Hi, everyone, I'm Ashleigh and I run the CultivateAwareness page.

This is the first story I think that I'm posting of myself and I wanted to come on here today to talk about something that's recently been brought to my attention, which is an open letter that was posted on the website of the cult organisation that I escaped from.

It essentially denies any allegations made against them and employees a tactic often used by abusers that I posted about before, it's called DARVO and it refers to Deny, Attack, Reverse the Victim and Offender roles.

So I'm going to post the content of the letter here and just unpack a little bit, because I think it's really important to address what organisations often do.

It is not the first time that I've seen an organisation do this, but this is often what they'll do, in response to any allegations made against them or their leader.

I've split the letter into three parts as I go through the letter but also because this isn't just about this organisation or this cult.

You actually see very similar things in other groups so you may say something really similar happening in a different organisation and this may resonate with you.

The first thing I wanted to touch on so I've highlighted different sections.

They say that "the accusations range from them being a cult purpose is to groom women as sex slaves for senior male teachers and our yoga practices being forms of torture".

So what did actually done is warped the allegations into something that used for the most part in on a technicality not true.

So they haven't actually address any of the allegations made against them, they've just changed them and then denied those false claims that they've made. I don't know if they makes...

The women aren't groomed to be sex slaves per se are for senior male teachers, they're actually groomed to be sexually exploited and abused by the master or the Guru or the spiritual guide whichever term you want to use to refer to them, not senior male teachers as they say.

The yoga practices are not forms of torture, not by any stretch of the word.

The yoga practices themselves are pretty awesome.

If you engage in things like yoga meditation, eye gazing rituals, ecstatic dance, you are gonna have physiological, biological responses in your body, they're gonna make you feel pretty good, so the yoga practices themselves are not torture.

Locking someone away from society and psychologically abusing them is torture, two very different things.

I also wanted to touch on the comment that they seek to empower women absolutely that is what they seek to do, but they in the process of that also perpetuating a system of abuse that is not in the least fit empowering for women, it's just masking it that way.

You know, you tell me how I'm telling a woman that she's manipulated by demons and completely riddled with them which is what I was told, that I'm a stupid, superficial fluctuating woman, destined for a life of suffering and negative karma and because I didn't want to surrender my body to the Guru, tell me how that's empowering. They're not.

They're giving a false dichotomy, I was given a false dichotomy, I was told that you do this and you have the world at your feet you don't do it and you were essentially everything in the world is wrong with you and everything is gonna wrong. It's not empowering.

The next point I wanted to touch on in the next part of the letter and is their claim that the allegations are false and unsubstantiated and that no evidence is provided or no significant evidence.

Consider this evidence: testimony is evidence. I know that, because they tried to refute everything that's been said against them by putting their own testimonies at the bottom, which you see, testimonies is evidence.

So consider this your evidence and on that: nobody from the school is ever tried to contact me to find what I had to say or to substantiate my claims in any way, they simply denied it or the guru simply denied that.

He and I quote said that my claims were lies as big as the Milky Way galaxy, very poetic I thought.

They also make the claim that the allegations are coming from a limited number of individuals. Limited or not, they are still coming, the claims are still coming and abuse ignored is abuse perpetuated so listen up.

Then we go down to their next point which is "we're intend on pursuing legal proceedings against individuals making these damaging allegations.

I wonder why people are afraid to speak up, I wonder why people are afraid to speak out against abuse or against the school. Can you think of any other reasons?

There are a lot: there is a shame, there is guilt for a lot of the women who've been subjected to this abuse, there is the pain that you will bring to a lot of really kind and loving people, very close friendships that you've made with people that are still in the school, there is the fear of legal proceedings, there so many reasons why people don't come forward and this is just a part.

Then they make an appeal to people's I guess desire to be smart or you know having the common sense, no one wants to be lumped into the group of people that doesn't have common sense so say you've shown common sense by not judging without

evidence and trusting your own experiences.

What they're essentially saying in one of two things: either people such as myself are liars and nothing we say is truth or we're not lying but our trauma doesn't matter.

It doesn't matter that I have a diagnosis of PTSD that I received from a psychiatrist that I had to seek help from because I can't function without a pretty hefty dose of antidepressants, I can't sleep without medication.

You can't tell me that just because I had a negative experience and 10 other people had a positive experience that my trauma doesn't matter.

You can't say "trust your experience, don't worry about hers" because if that's what you're gonna do, I seriously invite you to review your moral compass.

They then sign off by saying that they include some testimonies "in the hope that such honest sharing from people with direct experience will be considered more valuable than the defamatory claims".

So my honest sharing of my direct experience is considered I guess invalid in that respect but also... yeah, they're saying that there is no evidence and yet they're trying to put their testimonies there as evidence.

This is my evidence on the other side.

I'm rambling and I'm not actually making sense but, look, I can't give you a systematic review or randomised control trial to demonstrate what is happening here, all you have is my word and my testimony, I can't give you more than that because they're pretty tight on their practices of silencing people.

So on that note, if anybody recognises the organisation about which I am speaking, perhaps you know somebody in the organisation or you've encountered it yourself and you're just you have some doubts or some questions by all means, reach out to me, I'm more than happy to speak to you about my own experience and to tell you very openly and honestly about what is going on.

Another thing that you can do is ask the teachers, actually ask them: are you sending women to be "initiated" by the Guru? Is that happening?

Just watch them squirm, they'll either deny it or dance around the topic, they're really good at dancing around the topic, they won't actually give you a straight answer, so if you do wanna put the pressure on, actually go and ask the teachers that question.

If you've made it this far, thank you so much for watching, I hope that this has been in some way beneficial to you and have a lovely weekend."

Trafficking in persons: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

*United Nations Convention against Transnational
Organized Crime*