

# Steven Hassan M.Ed., LMHC, NCC

## Freedom of Mind Resource Center Inc., Director

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

[www.freedomfromundueinfluence.org](http://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 05/20//2018

- Doctoral student in Fielding's School of Leadership Studies - Organizational Development and Change (ODC) Ph.D. program 2017
- Forthcoming in 2018: 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.
- 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](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](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 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

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- Instructor at Harvard Law School Trial Advocacy program 2016 and 2017
- Boston University School of Medicine, Psychiatry Grand Rounds October 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Attorney Generals of Utah and Arizona concerning FLDS cult of Warren Jeffs
- 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 May 13, 2003.
- Affiliate of the New England Complex Systems Institute ([www.necsi.edu](http://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 counter-terrorism 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.

## PERSONAL DATA

**Age 63. Married with one son**

## EDUCATION

2017-	School of Leadership Studies Fielding Graduate University Organizational Development and Change (ODC) Ph.D. Program
1984-1985	Cambridge College, Cambridge, MA Masters in Education in Counseling Psychology
1977-1978	Boston University, Boston, MA Psychology major
Summer 1977	Yale University, New Haven, CT Psychology major
1971-1974	Queens College, Queens, NY Creative writing major

## 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
- 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, 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 (2015) *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](http://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 and available on web at [www.freedomofmind.com](http://www.freedomofmind.com)

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.

## IMPORTANT TV APPEARANCES ON EXTREMIST CULTS

September 17, 2014

CNN – ISIS and Political Cult Phenomenon

September 5, 2014

FOX25 Boston – ISIS Recruitment Techniques

## 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

## PROFESSIONAL ENDORSEMENTS

“Steven Hassan's approach is one that I value more than that of any other researcher or clinical practitioner. Hassan is a model of clear exposition, his original ideas are brilliantly presented in a captivating style. I am confident that readers of his new book, *Combating Cult Mind Control*, will share my enthusiasm for what this author tells us about how to deal with the growing menace of cults.”

Philip G. Zimbardo, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology, Stanford University,

Former President, American Psychological Association 2002

Author of *Influencing Attitudes and Changing Behavior*,

*Discovering Psychology*, and *Shyness*

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

“Steve Hassan is a compelling spokesman on the topic of cult mind control which encompasses issues of human identity and our innate psychological vulnerabilities and dissociation and its relationship to mind control, all of which are of innate interest to mental health professionals. In addition, he educates and challenges us to think about the forces and groups using mind control techniques in our culture, which is disturbing yet highly important to learn about.”

Mary K. McCarthy, M.D., former Director of Psychiatry Training, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

“Steven Hassan's writings and life work fill a critical need in our health and our lives. Health care professionals have long ignored the essential role that social psychology and influence play in our efforts to be healing. Beyond the skills of therapeutic persuasion in our own clinical effectiveness, too

many sources of undue influence pervade our culture to ignore its significance in health and illness. Our work must include investing in the resiliency of those for whom we care by teaching them to test their realities, to value their intuitions, to know their own minds. This is Hassan's mission. He succeeds largely because of his intelligence, passion and dedication. Those are contagious characteristics and just cause for due influence.”

Laurence I. Sugarman, M.D. F.A.A.P., A.B.M.H., Director and Research Professor, Center for Applied Psychophysiology and Self-regulation, Institute of Health Sciences and Technology, Rochester Institute of Technology; Past-President, American Board of Medical Hypnosis. Co-author, *Therapeutic Hypnosis with Children and Adolescents*, second edition.

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“Steven Hassan is one of our most eloquent defenders of freedom of the mind. For decades he has labored mightily on behalf of the majesty of the human spirit. His good work has brought psychological and spiritual relief to countless victims and families who have unknowingly stumbled into the clutches of mind control perpetrators. As a spokesperson for the ordinary individual’s right to be the master of his or her own thoughts and choices, Hassan has resisted the dangers and threats manufactured by manipulators who have sought to silence his courage. His new book will bring special hope for current victims, but it should be read by anyone who values individuality.”

Alan W. Scheflin, Emeritus Professor of Law, Santa Clara University Co-author of “Memory, Trauma, Treatment and the Law”; *The Mind Manipulators*; *Trance on Trial*; Recipient of sixteen awards in the field of mental health.

Please see [freedomofmind.com](http://freedomofmind.com) for a more complete list of endorsements and videos and [www.freedomfromundueinfluence.org](http://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/>

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