

11 August 2022

To: Mr. David Miscavige
Chairman of the Board
Religious Technology Center

To: Mr. Tom Cruise
IAS Freedom Medal of Valor Winner

From: Rosemary Chicwak
Former Sea Org Member/Scientologist

Regarding: Resignation, Personal Plea for Freedom from Harassment, and Petition for Positive Systemic Change in Scientology

Gentlemen,

My name is Rosemary Chicwak. I am currently 75 years old. For possibly the first time in my life, I am finally in a healthy place. For the first time in more than 35 years, I am free. I write this letter for two purposes. First, please accept this as my formal (peaceful) resignation from the Church of Scientology, an institution for whom I devoted my entire adult life chasing the promise to ascend the bridge to total freedom. With this first request, I beg that I be allowed to live out the rest of my life without suffering the consequences imposed upon people determined by the Church to be "suppressive persons." In that regard, I am asking that no orders of a "Fair Game" nature be issued against me; that the Church not disparage me or my family; and that the Church does not direct anyone to harass me, follow me, annoy me, or invade my privacy now that I have decided that I no longer want to be part of the Church.

Second, and equally important to my first request, I implore the two of you use your unconstrained power as the leaders of the Church to make positive change away from certain specific policies that only cause harm to its present and former followers and give the Church a bad reputation. I have witnessed, firsthand, the inhumanity of the strict following of the policies to which I refer. Yet my suffering and the suffering of many others before me should not be in vain, as the Church does not need to stubbornly continue strict adherence to every LRH policy and tradition, no matter how outdated or objectively harmful to the peaceful living of others. Now that I am out of the Church and have access to public information, I see that other former members have spoken out about certain Church policies and practices, to no avail. Unlike some of the others, I am far too old and feeble to start a fight, not to mention that is not my way nor intent. I only hope to speak the truth of my story, be heard and understood by you, and that my respectful approach is appreciated and results in your enacting the necessary change in policy and practice that Scientology and its members deserve.

I address this letter to you, Mr. Miscavige and Mr. Cruise, because it is only the two of you who can effectuate the needed change within the Church. My choice to address this letter to you, Mr. COB Miscavige, is obvious - you are the undisputed leader of the Church and the only living person in this world able to honor my requests. I write to you Mr. Cruise because, while you may not be the actual head of the Church, your power to cause change and garner the following of other members is the only within the Church as great as COB Miscavige. Please read this letter, listen to my requests and, for the betterment of former and current Scientologists and Scientology, take affirmative action to make the changes I request. I write this letter with only pure intention. I would like to know the time I lost, the life I missed, and the harm I suffered, was not for nothing. If imparting my experience causes you to make change and help others, then I will be fulfilled. Gentlemen, you are my only hope.

While Mr. Miscavige, you know of my lifelong servitude to the Church and my specific circumstances with the Church for many decades, Mr. Cruise, you may not. So, while I will not bore you with painstaking detail, I provide minimal context for my various requests for change.

In February of 1987, during a difficult time in my life, Scientology promised me the opportunity to ascend the Bridge to Total Freedom, free of charge, if I joined the Sea Organization. I agreed, gave away all my worldly possessions, and moved to LA with my 10-year-old son, Michael.

After many months of manual labor and study on the PAC Estates Project Force, I graduated and was assigned to my first post as the Communicator/Secretary for Mr. Ronnie Miscavige Jr., Mr. David Miscavige's brother. This assignment had me in Los Angeles at the same location as my son, but by 1989 I was moved far away from him to the property known as "International Base" or "Golden Era Productions," located near San Jacinto, California. Scientology did not allow my son to accompany me. Even though he was very young, I was required to leave him behind. Even the families who are on the same base are only permitted very infrequent visitation with their children. The separation of children from their families should not happen, and this leads me to my first plea for help. Keep families in Scientology together. Please, **help me effectuate change.**

As you know Mr. Miscavige, I was assaulted while in Sea Org. When Religious Technology Center learned of this fact, I was interrogated for multiple days as though I was to blame for being sexually abused, which as you know, is standard in Scientology. For the next several months, I was confined to a small section of the Int Base and made to do heavy manual labor and sleep in a trailer without plumbing or heat as a punishment for speaking out truthfully about my abuse. As we all know, there is no system in place for a staff member to report abuse of this nature without the threat of reprisal. In Scientology, a victim is required to explain on the e-meter what she did to cause the abuse—this practice follows LRH policy. Now that I have access to the outside world for the first time in decades, I have read about movements where women in similar situations have spoken out. Their courage in standing up to their attackers has helped give others strength and deter abusers. Anyone who is subjected to any type of abuse should be encouraged to report it without fear of repercussion and not made to feel they caused the abuse or will be punished for reporting. Please, **help me effectuate change.**

In late 2003, after his wife was forced by the Church to have a second abortion, my son Michael blew (escaped) the Int Base. Women should not be forced to have abortions, ever. My leaving the Church and entering the world, comes at an interesting time, especially on this topic. The Supreme Court just found that women no longer have a right to abortion and many states are now making abortion a crime. I can't understand how women outside the church are not allowed to have abortions and those in the Church must have abortions. Regardless, women should not be made to have abortions, ever. Please, **help me effectuate change.**

When you think about the inhumanity of forcing Michael's wife to abort, who could really blame Michael for blowing? Despite growing up in Sea Org, not knowing anything but Church policy, and having no contact with the outside world, his intuition told him this was wrong, so he escaped. The Church should not operate as a prison where the only way to leave before you die is to sneak past guards and escape. The concept of blowing should have no place in any religion and ought to be eliminated altogether. A religion, including Scientology, should not infringe on basic freedoms. Members should be able to leave without plotting an escape or fear of being hunted down or harassed for making the choice to leave. Please, **help me effectuate change.**

After Michael left, he was declared a suppressive person, which meant I was forced to "disconnect" from him (no longer permitted to speak to him unless the communications were at the direction of the Church and to promote Church agenda). I watched as the Church took my photos of Michael (including his baby pictures) and threw them in a bonfire, forever destroying the only memories that I had left of my son. It still breaks my heart

to think about how many years we lost together because of the Church. Parents should not be forced to disconnect and end communication with their children. Please, **help me effectuate change**.

Those in Sea Org knew how much I loved Michael and were afraid I would not continue to disconnect. Consequently, in March of 2004, I was loaded onto a bus and driven to Rehabilitation Project Force in Los Angeles (PAC RPF) with others from my base. We were informed that we were being kicked off the base for our crimes against humanity, mine for being the victim of abuse, and needed to be rehabilitated. Because of the indoctrination I had received on Scientology policy, and the Church's belief that the victim plays a role in any sexual indiscretion, this punishment did not seem as crazy as I now recognize it was. Over the next 6 years, I lived in overcrowded, dirty rooms, with little to no pay, secondhand clothes, improper diet, and was forced to perform heavy manual labor all day, every single day. We were treated as less than human and not provided any of the promised Church services to get further up the Bridge. We were treated worse than modern day prisoners, in every way. Regardless, these punishment/rehabilitation work camps should be abolished, as nobody has free choice whether to go and nobody is free to leave once there. That deprivation of freedom is just plain wrong. Please, **help me effectuate change**.

While at the RPF, I began to experience pain and numbness. When I asked for help, I was told that I would be fine and to continue working. The pain continued until finally, in September 2011, I collapsed. I was having a heart attack that required triple bypass heart surgery. I was quickly removed from the hospital by the Church and placed into a rehab facility for 19 days before I was moved into a berthing on the upper floor of the main Church building. I was sick. My room was cold, I had no medical attention, no one checked on me, and I was only given food when one of my roommates would remember to share with me. My misery was overwhelming. As soon as I was strong enough to stand, I was put back to work and routinely chastised for my inability to keep up and follow orders despite my pain. I spent every day for years thinking that I was going to die. Either from the pain or from starvation. These conditions are not ok for members with serious medical needs. There was no phone to call 911. And I was not permitted to call anyone on the outside, even during this time of physical and emotional suffering. That is not safe nor ok. Please, **help me effectuate change**.

Finally, in February 2021, I collapsed while working on post and was rushed to a nearby hospital. I was dehydrated, suffering from pneumonia, and unresponsive. I was told that I was going to die because my heart condition had gone untreated for the past 10 years. After about three days of being on oxygen while hooked up to an IV, I started to slowly recover. Over the next 45 days, I remained hospitalized, receiving much needed medication, oxygen, and physical therapy. When I became strong enough to leave the hospital, the Church Medical Office informed me that I was "a risk to keep on the base" because if I required medical attention, emergency services would have to enter the premises, something that the Church wanted to avoid at all costs. All people should have access to proper treatment and medical care. Please, **help me effectuate change**.

When I was finally sent out to pasture at a non-Church run facility, I discovered the internet, something that I had never been allowed to use during my time in the Church. Before then, I had no idea how the outside world operated. I had been deprived of access to the internet, deprived of access to freely make telephone calls or send text messages to the outside world. I had been strictly confined in a world where I had no freedom nor ability to access outside information. That is not ok. Please, **help me effectuate change**.

For decades, I was paid \$50.00 per week for the 70 hours or so of work that I was performing each week for the Church. After 35+ years as a Sea Org Member, I am left with no savings, no assets, my body is broken from an untreated heart condition, and I am no further up "The Bridge to Total Freedom" than I was decades ago. I lost my family and all that should have been a free life, following false promises without the ability to leave. As of last month, I remained on the payroll of the Church, receiving the usual \$50.00 per week. Upon honoring my request for formal resignation from the Church, I expect to be removed from Church payroll. I am finally

reunited with my son, Michael, and truly enjoying the taste of freedom, something most fundamental to all non-Scientologists.

Scientology's strict adherence to the writings of LRH, without even the slightest deviation, must change. Not in every way, of course, but at least in the ways I mention above. While I regret my lifelong devotion to Scientology, I am not advocating the abolishment of the religion in all forms—only those policies and practices that infringe on individuals' freedoms. This letter is a request for change in hope that the hundreds of people still working for the Church, that I consider friends, are treated better than I was, and that the life of Scientologists and ex-Scientologists can improve.

I hope that the tone of my letter and my desperate plea is appreciated by both of you. I do not write to condemn the Church. Instead, I am hopeful that the Church can exist in a way that is not so harmful. If the Church is willing to deviate from its rigid, literal, following of every LRH word, the change I have requested is possible. And, the two of you can be heroes, as the two who invoked these humanitarian changes, and resurrected the Church and its dwindling reputation.

Lastly, I stress my plea not to be harassed as suppressive persons have been in the past. I am a good and nice human being and want to have this time, reconnecting with my family and making up for lost time, without having to look over my shoulder or fear the Church is coming after me. I hope we can all agree that there should always be free choice for every human being in this country. If a person decides to leave, as I have now, the doors should swing open both ways allowing people to walk in or out without consequence. The scarlet stamp of suppressive person should end as should the harassment that accompanies that stamp. If someone speaks positively about the Church after leaving, great. If someone has something negative to say, that is their right too. I ask you one last time Mr. COB Miscavige and Mr. Cruise, please, help me effectuate change.

I want to make sure you get this letter so that you can make the changes I requested. By August 24, please send me an email to the following address - chicwakr@gmail.com - confirming that you received this letter. If I don't hear from you then I will find another way to make sure you receive it so that you can help me, and others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary Chicwak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary Chicwak

CC: Reports Officer, Religious Technology Center
Watchdog Committee Chairman, Church of Scientology International
Executive Director International, Church of Scientology International