

Aline Terpstra <aterpstra@phullon.nl> 9/1/2020 8:00 PM

Appeal by mental health practitioners: do not accept Grapperhaus¹'s responses to sado-pedosexual ritual abuse!

To j.voordewind@tweedekamer.nl • s.vandergraaf@tweedekamer.nl • pieter.omtzig@tweedekamer.nl • c.vdstaaij@tweedekamer.nl • jvoordewind@solcon.nl

Dear Mrs Van der Graaf and Messrs Omtzigt, Van der Staaij and Voordewind,

The undersigned mental health practitioners are – or have been – involved to a greater or lesser degree in the treatment of clients who have been – or are still being – abused by members of a sadistic pedosexual network. You are probably aware that your colleagues Ms Kuiken, Mr Van Nispen, Mr Westerveld and Mr Van den Berge recently asked parliamentary questions about ritual abuse in one such network in response to the recent Argos² broadcast (see note 1) and about the performance of the *Landelijk Expertisebureau bijzondere Zedenzaken (hereinafter LEBZ)*³. We would like to appeal to you as a matter of urgency not to accept Mr Grapperhaus's responses to the first set of parliamentary questions and to take a very critical look at his responses to the second set of questions. Below is a brief explanation of what our involvement is in this theme, followed by the four reasons underlying our decision to issue this appeal.

As practitioners, our objective is to guide people (some of whom have suffered extremely severe damage) towards recovery. In cases of sexual abuse, it is not our aim to report that abuse to the police and the decision regarding whether or not to file a report is not usually addressed during therapy. Most victims of sexual abuse, and certainly those who have experienced abuse in the context we are discussing here, would not dream of reporting their abuse to the police. After all, many of them have little or no trust in the police and/or the legal system, they are aware that police interrogation may reawaken trauma, they understand that there is a high risk that filing a report will prompt reprisals from within the pedosexual network and they know that the chance that the perpetrator(s) will be brought to justice (thereby increasing the victim's level of safety) is tiny. The establishment of the *LEBZ* in 1999 only served to make even slimmer the already very slim chance of victims of ritual abuse receiving legal protection under our democratic rule of law.

For the four reasons laid out below, we want to ask you to use your influence to bring about a thorough revision – or indeed the complete discontinuation - of the *LEBZ* and to initiate a new investigation into the incidence of ritual abuse within organized sadistic pedosexual networks.

1. Most current and former members of the *LEBZ* are demonstrably and severely biased.

Suppose you own a Tesla. Some time ago, a car thief dragged you from your car using violence. As a result, you are now paralyzed. How much faith would you have in the legal system if you learned that your report of the incident had been submitted to a panel of 14 medical 'experts', the vast majority of whom do not believe that car thieves exist and are of the opinion - and are on the record as having stated - that patients with paralysis don't realize that their symptoms are imagined or that their GP has used the power of suggestion to persuade them that they are paralysed?

This is an illustration of what happens within the *LEBZ*. In a mail to Argos, former *LEBZ* member, Peter van Koppen, called their investigation into ritual abuse 'a danger to public health'. In 2016, Paul

¹ Grapperhaus = Dutch Minister of Justice and Security

² Argos = Dutch radio programme in which investigative journalists examine the stories behind the news.

³ LEBZ = Dutch National Team of Experts on Extraordinary Cases of Sexual Abuse

van den Eshof (a member of *LEDZ* until 2019) claimed in the Dutch EMDR⁴ magazine that ‘ritual abuse is little more than a nineties media hype’. In a documentary produced by the *Kenniscentrum Transgeneratieel Geweld* (Knowledge Centre for Transgenerational Violence), Ineke Wessel makes similarly biased remarks. If we look at publications by many current members (including Van den Hout, Huntjens, Otgaar, Raymaekers, Horselenberg and Wessel), we find that many of them home in on ‘false memories’, a psychological phenomenon that was blown out of all proportion in the eighties to undermine the credibility of women reporting ritual abuse. Van den Hout even used the term in the title of his book⁵ in which he alleges that ritual abuse is nonsense and even equates it to belief in kidnap by extra-terrestrial beings. The vast majority of the members of *LEBZ* are of theorists and solitary scholars. However, there are many highly experienced practitioners and theorists who hold a completely different view. How come they have never been invited to join the *LEBZ*?

Add to all the above the fact that the *LEBZ* is responsible for training the entire Dutch national police corps to detect false reports of crimes, you will realize that you, as the paralyzed victim of a Tesla theft, stand more chance of getting justice via your medical panel than a victim of ritual abuse in the Netherlands.

2. Following the Argos broadcast, the official objective of *LEBZ* was changed.

This was clearly a cover-up. Let’s be honest: a change in wording is a far cry from a change of heart. The original stated objective of *LEBZ*, namely to prevent false accusations being levelled against possible perpetrators of ritual abuse, was removed and replaced. The police say that this was never the intention. The suggestion that for decades members of the *LEBZ* failed to notice that their official objective was ‘to prevent false accusations being levelled against possible perpetrators’ is of course in itself utterly implausible. And even if that were the case, it would disqualify from office those members of the *LEBZ* who, it would appear, have never taken the trouble to find out what their own objective is. But the truth is that members’ purported ignorance is simply a lie. In a Twitter post, Sanne Terlingen points out that in 2012 the police quoted exactly the same – and only! – *LEBZ* objective in an official police presentation, namely ‘the timely identification of false accusations’. The presentation in question can be found on internet (Dutch only):

<https://www.ggdghorkennisnet.nl/?file=8397&m=1335954778&action=file.download>

3. Grapperhaus’s decision not to carry out further investigations into pedosexual networks linked to ritual abuse is a choice that is costing children’s lives.

The major German abuse case currently pending (see note 2) illustrates the fact that the more thoroughly you investigate, the more you find. The fact that in the Netherlands a simple appeal for information elicited 140 responses from victims of ritual abuse/sadistic sexual or pedosexual abuse speaks for itself. If you also consider the fact that the Netherlands is known to be a major distributor of child pornography via internet, then surely there is every reason for the Dutch police to follow the German police’s example. What is more, in light of the above information, it is extremely unlikely that organized pedosexual violence, whether or not it takes place in the context of ritual abuse, stops at the border. Far from being a reason not to investigate further, Grapperhaus’s argument that only three cases of ritual abuse have been reported in the last seven years (his response to questions 3 and 7) is precisely the reason why more active investigation is urgently needed.

4. There is an urgent need for research into how victims’ access to due process can be improved.

Franziska Schubiger, chief of criminal investigation in Switzerland, conducted research into how to improve truth finding in the context of taking statements from complexly traumatized victims of sexual abuse (see note 3). Her particular focus was on victims of ritual abuse with a dissociative

⁴ EMDR = Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing

⁵ *Hervonden Herinneringen en andere Misverstanden* (Recovered Memories and other Misconceptions)

identity disorder (DID). She argues that the methods used when taking statements from these victims must be improved. Similar improvement is urgently needed in the Netherlands. Without it, victims like these do not stand a chance of gaining access to due process.

We sincerely hope that you will not allow the wool to be pulled over your eyes in this matter but that you will take a stand on behalf of the victims we and our colleagues treat.

The last signatory, Aline Terpstra, would be more than happy to meet with you to clarify our position further.

Kind regards,

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Practising therapist
BCZ⁶-registered therapist

T.A. (Talitha) van Neerbos,
BIG-registered child and youth psychiatrist

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(+ Two BIG-registered persons, well known by the Dutch editor, but not to mention here)

⁶ BCZ = Dutch register of practitioners of complimentary and alternative medicine

note 1. <https://www.vpro.nl/argos/lees/nieuws/2020/glass-shards-and-dark-rituals-english-transcript-.html>

note 2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53813249>

note 3. <https://www.vpro.nl/argos/lees/nieuws/2020/recherchechef-franziska-schubiger-waarheidsvinding-slachtoffers-seksueel-geweld.html>