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## Behind the Lies

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## Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT)



Below is some background on six individuals in the West who are trying their hardest to damage or destroy the New Kadampa Tradition ~ International Kadampa Buddhist Union (NKT-IKBU) through prolific posting of smears, negative campaigning, blogging, virulent messages on chat groups and repetition of the same allegations and innuendos, following the Dalai Lama's lead. They feel justified by the Dalai Lama's own words and behavior to engage in speech that is hurtful, damaging and incorrect.

Sadly, we have discovered that at least half of them are active and senior members of the FPMT ([www.fpmt.org](http://www.fpmt.org)), a Buddhist organization traditionally competitive to the NKT that pretends to be uninvolved in attacking the NKT but has its fingerprints all over the smear campaign on the web.

According to the FPMT website, the Dalai Lama is the "Inspiration & Guide

## New Blog

[New Kadampa Truth Blog](#)

## Taking Down the Smears

[New Smears about the New Kadampa Tradition](#)

[Smear: The New Kadampa Tradition is a cult](#)

[Smear: The New Kadampa Tradition is sectarian](#)

[Smear: The New Kadampa Tradition worships a spirit](#)

[Taking down other New Kadampa Tradition smears](#)

[Taking down Geshe Kelsang Gyatso smears](#)

## What is a Kadampa?

A **Kadampa** is someone who integrates their knowledge of all Buddha's teachings into their everyday lives. Find out more in the booklet

of the FPMT". He uses the FPMT as a kind of proxy for him in the West, monitoring, marginalizing and ostracizing Wisdom Buddha Dorje Shugden practitioners, including the NKT.

Most of the FPMT (with a few notable exceptions) have enthusiastically adopted the Dalai Lama's superstitious view on Dorje Shugden by ensuring that no one who holds any position in the FPMT organization is a Dorje Shugden practitioner, and that those who seek ordination within FPMT are also not worshipping this Wisdom Buddha.

According to one testimonial received from an NKT member in Boston:

*"We were constantly hearing feedback from General Program students about how they were told by the FPMTers that we who attended NKT centers were not Buddhists, we were a money making cult, we had no authority to teach, our ordinations were not real, Geshe Kelsang was an evil wizard leading us all into hell ... you get the idea."*

With tragic irony, the original inspiration & guide of the FPMT is its Founder, the late Lama Yeshe, who worshipped Wisdom Buddha Dorje Shugden his whole life. Lama Yeshe was no spirit worshipper. Lama Yeshe's wish in establishing the FPMT was to spread Dharma in the West, a wish that the New Kadampa Tradition is fulfilling. There is no conflict between Lama Yeshe's and Geshe Kelsang's intentions, and they were close friends and peers who regularly engaged in Gelugpa spiritual practice together, including monthly Dorje Shugden pujas; so why is the FPMT attacking us? It can only be because FPMT members have become a political tool of the Dalai Lama's to fulfill his wish to destroy this tradition. Is this any way to repay Lama Yeshe's kindness?

The FPMT, as well as some other Tibetan Buddhist groups loyal to the Dalai Lama, have been involved in unpleasant incidents against NKT members, ostracizing them at gatherings, shouting at them, persuading members to leave, making mudras and chanting to ward off their evil if they so much as bump into them, removing and defacing their publicity, and so on. There are now hundreds of testimonials that attest to this weird, superstitious and bad-mannered behavior.

This smear campaign against NKT-IKBU has remained steadily in place over the years. It has become very intense since the Kadampa Buddhist tradition pushed back against the Dalai Lama's calculated and uncompassionate political campaign of religious discrimination and intolerance against

more in the booklet

[Modern Kadampa  
Buddhism](#)

## Report a Smear

Received a smear?

Forward the email to

[report@newkadampatruth.org](mailto:report@newkadampatruth.org)

Wisdom Buddha Dorje Shugden practitioners in India by supporting the Western Shugden Society. See:

- (1) [www.WesternShugdenSociety.org](http://www.WesternShugdenSociety.org)
- (2) [www.WisdomBuddhaDorjeShugden.org](http://www.WisdomBuddhaDorjeShugden.org)

## Sadness & Irony



Lama Yeshe & Lama Zopa (pictured), founders of FPMT, are disciples of their root Spiritual Guide Kyabje Trijang Rinpoche (1901-1981). Kyabje Trijang Rinpoche widely propagated the practice of Wisdom Buddha Dorje Shugden throughout his life. Lama Yeshe engaged in this practice every day. Lama Zopa engaged in the practice until his Guru, Lama Yeshe, passed away in the early 1980s. Now the Dalai Lama has banned this practice and orchestrated a smear campaign against Dorje Shugden practitioners. It is tragic that Lama Yeshe & Lama Zopa's own students are now the ones most actively involved in smearing Dorje Shugden practitioners in the West.

## Who's Smearing Who?



Here's an interesting exercise for you. Go to an FPMT Center or another Tibetan Buddhist group that is loyal to the Dalai Lama. Even just run into them at a social gathering. Mention that you have been to an NKT Center or that your teacher is Geshe Kelsang. If the evidence of hundreds of testimonials is to be believed, you will be given horrified looks and either the people will step away from you hurriedly or they will give you extensive disinformation about the NKT, tell you that you are a spirit worshipper who harms others' lives (even if you have never worshipped a spirit in your life and have dedicated your life to helping others), and

strongly advise you never to return to the NKT Center. Now do the opposite -- go to an NKT Center and say you have been to an FPMT Center. You will hear no criticism of FPMT or any other Buddhist tradition at the NKT Center.

## Latest Development -- FPMT's New Segregation Policy



From the FPMT website: "Restriction: FPMT has recently issued a new policy regarding the Shugden practice in accordance with the wishes of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Lama Zopa Rinpoche has expressed the wish "not to have a guru-disciple relationship with anyone who is practicing Shugden."

Since Lama Zopa is still the nominal head of the FPMT, this means that Tibetan politics has now irreversibly permeated the FPMT. It means that not even Lama Zopa's precious teachers, Trijang Rinpoche or Lama Yeshe, would be allowed to attend Lama Zopa's teachings.

FPMT members have long accused the NKT of being a sectarian cult. The irony is that the NKT is an open and tolerant organization that has never turned anyone away from a teaching due to their religious beliefs. That this religious belief is the 400-year old practice passed down through generations of fully accomplished Buddhist masters, including half the lineage Gurus of the FPMT, is beyond comprehension.

Meanwhile, it is unclear whether or not Lama Osel (the reincarnation of Lama Yeshe) would countenance this latest extraordinary development. He has kept his distance from the FPMT for the last few years. The de facto head of the FPMT is now the Dalai Lama.

## Profiles of People who Post on the Internet Against the NKT

Meanwhile, here are six of the most prolific anti-NKT posters on the web. If their opinions and dubious sources were not everywhere on the Internet, the anti-NKT propaganda would drop by an estimated two-thirds, or even more.

1. **Tenzin Peljor (aka KT66; aka Tashi; aka Michael Jackel)**
2. **Chris Kolb (aka Thubten Gonpo; aka Ngawang Chotak)**
3. **Nick Ribush (aka Dharmascribe)**
4. **David Cutshaw (aka Davcuts)**
5. **Namkhai Norbu, a Dzogchen teacher**
6. **Namdrol (Loppon Malcolm Smith), a principal moderator of E-Sangha**



**Tenzin Peljor (aka KT66; aka Tashi; aka Michael Jackel)**, is an East German monk living at the FPMT Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa in Pomaia, Italy. He is currently studying on the FPMT's Geshe Program for senior students.

He was originally ordained as a monk (Kelsang Tashi) by Geshe Kelsang. His main allegiance was not to Geshe Kelsang but to a self-styled Lama called Dechen/Carola in Germany (who broke away from Geshe Kelsang and the NKT and started a personality cult). He was her right-hand man, who helped her remove the center and its assets (a castle) in Berlin from the NKT. A lengthy legal case followed and was found by a German court in favor of the NKT. However, the decision was unenforceable in German charity law so Carola's organization kept the castle for a while. Finally, due to them going bankrupt, the castle is now back with the NKT and running as a Dharma Center.

A few years later Tashi got disillusioned and left Carola and re-ordained as Tenzin Peljor with the Dalai Lama, whom he reveres. There seems little doubt that he feels justified in his obsessive campaign against the NKT due to his devotion to the Dalai Lama and disorientating personal history with Carola.

As for his activities, until recently he was very active on the New Kadampa Survivors' site under his new name Tenzin Peljor, where he could be seen clearly to manipulate people to cause them to lose their faith, and siding with David Cutshaw (see below) to encourage worse and worse verbal attacks on the NKT. He helps to moderate E-Sangha and has a long history of posts against the NKT. He runs his own defamatory website against the NKT and Dorje Shugden practitioners. He has also recently started a blog

and Flickr account (Flickr shut him down for going against their terms of service by storing defamatory material).

On Wikipedia he was the main editor for years, hiding almost entirely behind one heavily biased "academic" book by David Kay (who had his own disgruntled history with the NKT when he briefly attended meditation classes in Lancaster). As kt66, Tenzin Peljor was responsible for the strong bias there was against the NKT on the articles: NKT, Kelsang Gyatso, and Dorje Shugden. Due to the introduction of many new sources and points of view, those articles are now more neutral, but they spread a lot of disinformation and pain while he was still the main editor. Many people have said they lost faith and many more have not attended NKT meditation classes in the first place as a result of reading Wikipedia and believing that, because it is an encyclopedia, it must be neutral (an impression and result that Tenzin Peljor of course is orchestrating).

He has written hostile book reviews on Amazon. He focuses not on the book (for it is hard even for him to find fault with the Buddhism taught in Geshe Kelsang's 21 books, and also he clearly has not read many of them) but on the NKT as being a cult.

He wrote repeatedly to the BBC website and encouraged others to do so too, bombarding them with old articles (e.g. the Guardian article from 1996, long-since discredited as an unworthy piece of tabloid journalism from which no mud stuck) to tell them to include the word "cult" on their website. Eventually in one place they did add it even though there is no explanation of how or why the NKT is a cult and the rest of their description is fair and would seem to suggest the opposite, that the NKT is a time-honored Mahayana Buddhism tradition.

He posts almost daily under his different names (including just Mike or Michael) on different blogs and news outlets.

He boasts about how INFORM (an organization in Britain that tracks New Religious Movements) was writing a "neutral" report against the NKT thanks to him getting people writing to them with their stories. He says he plans on posting this report all over the Internet. Luckily INFORM are in communication with the NKT to get a more balanced viewpoint.



**Chris Kolb (aka Thubten Gonpo; aka Ngawang Chotak)** is a senior FPMT member who has taught regularly at the FPMT Tse Chen Ling Center in San Francisco, USA. He has



posted very extensively and vituperatively against the NKT on E-Sangha and a Beliefnet forum. He used to live at Manjushri Kadampa Meditation Centre, Lake District, UK at the time when Lama Yeshe was alive. It seems he has recently been homeless in San Francisco and was recently nearly beaten to death with a baseball bat during a street robbery. When this news was reported on the E-Sangha site, one of the contributors asked if it was a Dorje Shugden practitioner that had attacked him. This shows the depth of misconception that people like Thubten Gonpo have spread throughout the Internet with their lies.



**Nick Ribush (aka Dharmascribe)** is another FPMT person who has posted a great deal of disinformation against the NKT on the web, including on Beliefnet. He is a 19-year veteran Director of FPMT. He has taught at the FPMT Kurukulla Center in Medford, MA, USA.



**David Cutshaw (aka Davcuts)**, owner of New Kadampa Survivors, is not known to be an FPMT student but he was adversely affected by them (see below).

David began attending classes at an NKT branch in Asheville, North Carolina. As David himself has said on various public forums, he has long suffered from bouts of mental illness, depression and irrational anger. He wrote to Geshe Kelsang about these problems and received some advice. He also received support from his teacher and the Sangha who would visit him in hospital. David attended the Kadampa teachings for three to four years and seemed to enjoy them and the friendship of the Sangha. However, he stopped attending the Center in 2005 after being told by FPMT students that Dorje Shugden was an evil spirit - arguably an irresponsible and cruel thing to say to someone in a vulnerable, suggestible state of mind.

He was a prolific contributor to NKT Chat and expressed his concerns there. In response he received help and encouragement from his fellow NKT Sangha and seemed to be coming to terms with the issue, but then he discovered E-Sangha and read many negative postings about the NKT and Dorje Shugden (many posted by Thubten Gonpo and Tenzin Peljor). His mind changed and he started to post very critical comments about the NKT on E-Sangha, talking about 'the cult' and speaking of Geshe Kelsang and other Kadampa teachers in very harsh terms. By claiming to speak authoritatively as an 'insider', and because he was no longer involved with the NKT, David found an attentive audience eager to help him 'rehabilitate'

after his 'terrible' experiences with the NKT cult.

David then went on to found the New Kadampa Survivors site. He has moderated that group closely, seeming to seek attention from the people who post on it by claiming the things they say as part of his own experience too and then building on it. Maybe this is true for many Internet chat groups that develop a strange life of their own, but David never allows any pro-NKT comment (or even neutral ones) to be posted. When any friendly NKT remarks do inadvertently slip through, he attacks the sender, or cancels their membership by saying the group is not meant for "NKT propaganda".

David allows personal and private correspondence to be posted on the chat group against the law and the wishes of the individuals concerned. Yahoo! wanted him to tone the chat group down after they discovered the hate mongering, bad language and campaigning. He was unrepentant and said he would move all the postings to an MSN site for safe-keeping. He also uploaded a defamatory storage document called "NKT Media Files", stored on the survivors' site; and he supports every Survivor campaign against the NKT -- such as writing negative Amazon book reviews focusing on the NKT rather than the book.

Although the NKT has never claimed to be perfect and definitely makes mistakes, the NKT of David Cutshaw's Survivors group is not recognizable to most NKT students or their families. Nevertheless, many individuals who come to the Survivors' group (a great number of whom have heard that the NKT are spirit worshippers or cultists and are trying to find out more) believe David's repeated lies, start to doubt, and then lose their faith entirely because they are unaware of the source of and motivation behind the postings.

There are other people behind the lies, including:

#### **Namkhai Norbu, a Dzogchen teacher**



Recently when Namkhai Norbu was in America he turned to a student of his and asked whether he knew any Kadampas. This fellow had just met a General Program (GP) student at a dinner party, so he replied yes, and so Namkhai Norbu gave him a protection cord to ward off the evil. He instructed his student to warn the GP student against the NKT and Dorje Shugden and to give protection cords to her and any of her

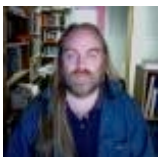
friends who also attended Kadampa classes.

The student of Namkhai Norbu continued to call the GP student several times, directing her to websites critical of the NKT. He relayed to her stories told to him personally by Namkhai Norbu in which bad things had happened to practitioners of Dorje Shugden, such as they became sick or their business failed; and he criticized the NKT, saying that our money came from the Chinese.

Another American Kadampa student was visiting her therapist for problems unrelated to her spiritual practice and was delighted to find he was a fellow Buddhist and developed trust in him. However, he was a student of Namkhai Norbu and before long told her that she needed protection from the "evil spirit" Dorje Shugden, who was causing her problems. Namkhai Norbu personally sent her a pendant to protect her and gave the therapist a pendant also since he had come into contact with her. Her faith shaken, she has subsequently left the NKT.

In Barcelona, a Kadampa student was told by several friends of his -- all students of Namkhai Norbu -- that the practice of Dorje Shugden is very evil and responsible for the sickness and misery of people he knew. They told him that his presence contaminated both them and the other people around him. As a result, when members of his family fell ill, he felt guilty. He suffered nightmares for many years, even as recently as 2008. He now attends the Kadampa Center only intermittently and suffers from paranoia.

**Namdrol (Loppon Malcolm Smith), a principal moderator of E-Sangha**



Namdrol and the other moderators on E-Sangha have barred any positive discussion of NKT or Dorje Shugden on that supposedly 'open' and 'non-sectarian' Buddhist chat forum, the largest on the Internet, effectively labelling NKT as non-Buddhist. Criticism of NKT and

Geshe Kelsang is always welcome though. Namdrol has posted many vituperative and irrational comments against the NKT and Dorje Shugden practitioners. He is also apparently a disciple of Namkhai Norbu.

E-Sangha is currently **being sued by Soto Zen priests** who are also barred from E-Sangha for not fulfilling the exact doctrinal beliefs of the moderators of the site. **Click here for a letter from them**, which is sufficiently similar to E-Sangha's sectarianism and discrimination toward the NKT to be usefully quoted here.

Here also is a recent quote from the blog [In Pursuit of Mysteries](#), whose non-NKT author has researched E-Sangha over time and concluded that E-Sangha has many problems, especially in misleadingly calling itself an open Buddhist forum:

*E-sangha is a web forum that promotes itself as being for all Buddhists of all traditions of practice. It has a large base of users and, in fact, its number of users is large enough, over time, that the very number and amount of activity acts to pull in online Buddhists who hear about the site. In reality, E-sangha is a very unfriendly place for many Buddhists. It is run by a small junta of moderators with a bit of an iron fist (not even with the velvet glove!). This group brooks no disagreement with their beliefs or methods. Members of the forum who don't toe the line with great alacrity for this collective are quickly and quietly banned from the site.*

*Members of the moderator junta claim that they do what they do for the sake of Buddhism and the spread of the Dharma. In their opinion, incorrect beliefs or doctrines lead to trouble and confusion so their discussion is not allowed, even to show that they are wrong.*

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