

The Satanic Temple is one of the World's Fastest-Growing Religions with Over 700,000 Members

TST recognizes growth as important for institutional recognition for its members.

SALEM, MA — The Satanic Temple (TST) has announced it recently surpassed 700,000 registered members, a number that likely understates their total membership since registration is not a requirement and many people who consider themselves to be members have not registered. This milestone should benefit TST's members in arenas where access to institutional rights and access depends on the recognition of its legitimacy as a genuine religion.

Even though The Satanic Temple has been fully recognized as a bona fide religion by US District Court and the IRS, TST leadership has stated that it faces a constant struggle, especially with judges and other public officials, to have its religious rights and freedoms respected alongside other religions. They claim this manifests itself in the form of biased actions taken by city officials and biased rulings by judges that ignore the law.

“Some of these judges seem to regard us as little more than cynical actors who are intent on manipulating the legal system,” noted TST Director of Campaign Operations Erin Helian. “This claim is absurd. Why would cynical actors work to manipulate the legal system just to secure its members' religious rights is beyond me.”

According to statistics published by the Pew Research Center, this new membership milestone ranks The Satanic Temple ahead of the worldwide number of Rastafari and just under Unitarian Universalism in total worldwide adherents.

The Satanic Temple is hoping the weight of their numbers will add further gravitas to compel local officials and judges to take them seriously by adhering to the law. TST is actively working to ensure that its members in the military, applying for college, seeking religious holidays off work, and other similar situations can have their religion officially recognized and protected. While the protection of religious rights should not depend on the number of adherents, The Satanic Temple is hopeful that these numbers will act as a deterrent for politicians who may otherwise be tempted to dismiss the religion out of hand.

“It's somewhat perplexing to see such blatant religious prejudice in the United States,” added Helian. “It's not only paradoxical to be coming from those who are supposed to be unbiased public servants, but even more so when you consider America's history as a sanctuary for those fleeing religious persecution.”

About The Satanic Temple

The Satanic Temple, the subject of the critically-acclaimed documentary, *Hail Satan?*, and the academic analysis of modern Satanism, *Speak of the Devil*, confronts religious discrimination to secure the separation of church and state and defend the Constitutional rights of its members. In response to Oklahoma and Arkansas placing a Ten Commandments statue on Capitol grounds, TST offered its bronze Baphomet statue to stand alongside the Christian monuments. TST hosts the "After School Satan" club to counter the Evangelical "Good News Clubs" in public schools to promote a plurality of religious

viewpoints. The mission of The Satanic Temple is to encourage benevolence and empathy, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense, oppose injustice, and undertake noble pursuits for the individual will. For more information about The Satanic Temple, visit <https://thesatanictemple.com/>.

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