

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

May 9, 2022

KNOW THE TRUTH - BEWARE OF DISINFORMATION

There is now another misleading public notice from the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust (SSSCT) and Global Council (GC) <u>released on May 8, 2022</u>, which is unwarranted, untruthful and has no relationship whatsoever to the activities of the Sri Sathya Sai International Organization (SSSIO).

In the interest of truth (Sathya), it is necessary to state the facts and evidence, so that devotees are not misinformed and misled.

- The SSSIO was founded, guided and nurtured by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba personally since 1963 and a national conference was held in 1969 with His blessings as noted in <u>Swami's written letter</u>. The <u>SSSIO is</u> not headquartered in California and functions presently in 110 countries.
- The SSSIO is established and functioning well in furthering the mission of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba around the world.
- The official magazine of the Sathya Sai Organizations during the lifetime of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was Sanathana Sarathi. The March 2006 Sanathana Sarathi, pages 95 and 96, which was reviewed and approved by Bhagawan personally, stated "By the divine command of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation will henceforth assume responsibility for the governance of all functions of the International Sri Sathya Sai Organizations. The foundation will work together with the Prasanthi Council to accomplish the administration of these Organizations."
- Sri K. Chakravarthi, Chairman of the newly formed GC, and Trustee, SSSCT and a signator of the current Public Notice, acknowledged in a February 2013 Radio Sai interview that, "the territorial jurisdiction of the Central Trust is only in India."
- Bhagawan did not direct, intend or imply at any time during His physical presence that the SSSCT should supervise, control or run the Sri Sathya International Sai organizations.
- The SSSIO, which was established nearly 60 years ago by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, God incarnate, is the ONLY international organization

that has been established by a living Avatar to promote the life, works, and teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba around the world. By contrast, the Global Council is an organization created less than one year ago by a group of people who are members of the Central Trust, against the express wishes, words and vision of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

The SSSIO therefore wishes to inform devotees and members:

- 1. The SSSIO will continue to serve Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's divine Mission forever as envisioned personally by Him.
- 2. No organization, including the SSSCT or the recently formed GC, can stop, derail, deter or detract the SSSIO from carrying forth His mission through Sai Centers, worldwide.
- 3. Visiting Prasanthi Nilayam is the birthright of every devotee of Swami. Every individual has the right to enter the precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam and have a one-to-one connection with our Lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba. No individual or institution has the authority to prevent them from doing so.
- 4. On June 29, 2021, the SSSCT abruptly ended ongoing discussions initiated by the SSSIO to bring unity and clarify the scope of GC. The SSSCT wrote that the SSSIO joining the GC "will be without any dialog, emails or phone calls and will be unconditional." The SSSIO's reply to that letter was titled "Love is the answer" and ended with "our doors are always open for dialog." These letters are available HERE.
- 5. It is indeed disheartening that the vengeful and disruptive activities of the SSSCT have extended to false claims of ownership of Swami's videos and have blocked SSSIO content and streaming channels in YouTube and Facebook. They are thus trying their best to prevent the sharing of Bhagawan's message, an act of sacrilege.
- 6. The SSSCT has refused any further dialog and formed the GC as a parallel, splinter organization to control international Sai Centers, which has caused division and disunity. Because this was against the clear directive of Bhagawan, His divine command and organizational vision, the SSSIO announced that it does not recognize the legitimacy of GC.
- 7. **SSSIO** uses the divine name with the express permission of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In 1998, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba signed and personally approved the Sathya Sai Society of America (SSSOA) to trademark His name

with the United States Patent and Trademark Office for all organizational purposes. The proof of trademark registration is HERE.

Since its inception, the Sathya Sai Society of America has authorized the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation (SSSWF) and the SSSIO to use the sacred name of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and associated logos. Similarly, national institutions in more than 50 countries registered the trademarks to protect the name from misuse by fund raisers and institutions misinterpreting the teachings of Bhagawan.

8. The SSSCT claims – "the SSSIO has been attempting to promote campuses in California, USA and other parts of the world, claiming them to be centers of divinity in the name of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba". This claim is untrue. Historically, local Sai Centers and national organizations have owned buildings at which Sai devotees meet for purposes of worship and service activities and have established many Sai schools and institutes throughout the world. This practice will continue.

Prasanthi Nilayam continues to be a place of pilgrimage for all Sai devotees, irrespective of their affiliation to any organization. All SSSIO facilities serve local and national organizations for the benefit of Sai devotees and the public. These facilities where the glory of Sai is sung and His work is done are the Centers of divinity because Swami said "wherever My glory is sung and My work is done, I manifest there."

- 9. Please see this <u>SSSOA page</u> for the truth and the facts regarding the Sai Prema Nilayam facility. This is one of many facilities acquired in the USA in the last 24 months to spread the glory of Swami and further His mission.
- 10. Since the inception of the SSSIO, SSSCT had worked harmoniously with the SSSIO until 2020. SSSIO members conducted many humanitarian service activities around the world. These activities were published regularly in the monthly issues of the Sanathana Sarathi.

To support Swami's mission, in their love for Swami, SSSIO has contributed tens of millions of dollars to the SSSCT and also for building many educational and medical facilities in Puttaparthi and Whitefield. In contrast, SSSCT has never contributed financially to the international organization for any of its activities.

SSSCT abruptly and unilaterally terminated its relationship with the SSSIO when it formed the Global Council and refused to recognize the SSSIO founded by Swami. After ending its relationship with the SSSIO, members of the SSSCT threatened to terminate the privileges of individuals and groups when they visit Prasanthi Nilayam, and of its member organizations to participate in functions and celebrations in the Ashram.

In order for devotees worldwide to freely participate in Sai activities, the SSSIO is now holding online celebrations of all important Sai festivals and events. Attendance and participation is welcome for all Sai devotees regardless of their organizational affiliation. To join the online events, please visit the calendar of events.

In addition, the SSSIO has established a monthly magazine, "<u>Sathya Sai - The Eternal Companion</u>" which focuses on the glory and mission of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, service activities of the SSSIO around the world, and the transformational experiences of Sai devotees everywhere. All devotees are welcome to read the monthly magazine free of charge regardless of their organizational affiliation.

CONCLUSION

Dear members of the SSSIO and devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Baba:

Please do not be distracted by the disinformation campaign by the SSSCT and Global Council, which is misleading and misguiding devotees.

The SSSIO is a spiritual organization whose purpose is to love God and spread Swami's teachings. No force or entity can come between a devotee and Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

It's important to follow the divine command and words of Swami implicitly and completely. The SSSIO has always been spreading Swami's message and love to the world. The structure and function of the SSSIO, as directed by Bhagawan, remains unchanged.

With love and dedication, let us focus on Swami, practice His teachings, and do His work so that our lives are redeemed.

Jai Sai Ram.

Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation, Prasanthi Council of SSSIO, Sri Sathya Sai International Organization