

Dear Chapter Leadership of The Satanic Temple,

Due to the dramatic changes made recently in The Satanic Temple's London Chapter, and the statements that have been subsequently made by their former leadership, we feel it is important to address recent events, and communicate our perspectives as the National Council (NC) and Executive Ministry (EM) directly to you as the leadership of the local chapters of our organization.

There are two related but separate matters that have led to a lot of confusion, speculation and seeming distrust: the dismissal of Zeke Apollyon as a Chapter Head in London, and the rejection of Cain Abbadon's application to replace Zeke as Chapter Head. We will address each of these matters in turn, and then discuss how they affect the London Chapter as a whole.

Our original plan was to address these matters as internal issues for the London Chapter; however, because both Zeke and Cain made their frustration with these outcomes public, we believe it is appropriate to share our position on the matter with the broader chapter leadership.

1. Zeke Apollyon

It is never an easy decision to ask someone to step down from leadership; however, in this case, Zeke's actions constituted a clear violation of the Chapter Head Agreement, which he signed, as well as the Code of Conduct. The Chapter Head agreement specifically includes the following requirement:

"Obtain permission from the National Council regarding plans to organize events or use the TST logo or name in any public forum (in print or online). Chapters MAY NOT make political statements in the name of TST or in their capacity as a TST Chapter Head without prior approval nor can they announce activities or campaigns that have not be expressly approved by the National Council."

The Code of Conduct contains a similar statement.

We understand that people are fallible. Had Zeke's actions simply been an honest mistake our decision may have been different. That was not the case here. On May 30, Zeke sent an informal note to NC letting us know about the Bavarian crucifix event and asking for expedited consideration. In this note he also said that in the following 24 hours, he would submit the official Event Proposal form for this event to National Council. Typically NC requires at least two weeks of advance notice before an event; nevertheless, Zeke's enthusiasm for the project was evident and the Council immediately began deliberations on the information that was provided in his informal note. Consensus was quickly forming that, despite the project's merits, it was not appropriate as an official TST event.

On May 31, NC did not receive the promised Event Proposal form. Instead, via social media, we discovered that Zeke had gone ahead with the project. On June 1, Zeke sent an email to NC apologizing for going ahead with the project, stating that he did so with full knowledge that there would be consequences for his action.

The day after his apology Zeke posted on the TST UK Instagram page, again publicizing the project as if were a TST sanctioned event.

Because of the willful disregard for the process, the violation of his agreement with TST, and the international scope and visibility of the project in a country we have no Chapter or presence, we were left with no choice but to terminate his leadership immediately as of June 5.

Once we announced this decision, both EM and the NC were surprised to learn Zeke claimed to be “appealing” the decision. We feel it is important for you to know that Zeke had been in constant communication with us during this entire time period, and had ample opportunity to communicate any and all information to us that might play a role in our decision. There was no information in Zeke’s appeal letter that had not already been known and considered when we made our decision.

NC does not make decisions about chapter leadership lightly. In this case, we reviewed all of Zeke’s correspondences, discussed his history and relationship to the London chapter as a whole, and considered the possible consequences of his removal. We then voted, and the unanimous outcome of that vote was Zeke’s removal from the Chapter Head position. To repeat, Zeke’s letter of appeal contained no information that had not already been considered in our prior deliberations.

Finally, Zeke wrote a personal letter to Lucien requesting that the decision of NC be overturned, but Lucien has no interest in being petitioned to autocratically overrule NC decisions, and did not do so.

2. Cain Abbadon

Not long thereafter, NC interviewed Cain Abbadon for the position of Chapter Head of TST-London/UK. It is regrettable that it took so long to arrange this interview and NC is working to ensure that such delays do not occur again.

NC went out of its way to ensure that Cain received a fair shot at the Chapter Head position. In this case, every member of NC interviewed Cain which took time to arrange. This is unprecedented, and was an effort to allow each member to independently form an assessment of Cain’s suitability for the position. The reason for this unusual interview schedule is that at the very onset of his nomination, questions were raised about Cain’s ability to serve as a Chapter Head due to his behavior at TST Headquarters. NC proceeded with the interview process in good faith, hoping that Cain could put to rest any doubts that this was an isolated incident.

The event at Headquarters was discussed with Cain during the interview process along with other issues NC had become aware of. Notably, making a female member of TST uncomfortable via an unsolicited online message, and that Cain brought TST into an unrelated personal online discussion and tagged two TST Chapter Heads who were not involved in the discussion in any way. This latter issue was addressed directly in the interview by the person with whom he had the online exchange, Kym LaRoux. To avoid any misunderstanding, it was specifically discussed with Cain that any personal aspects of that discussion were unimportant. When asked what he believed was concerning about that conversation, Cain replied that it was inappropriate to bring a heated critique of TST/NC business matters into a personal public discussion of unrelated matters. Cain did not deny culpability for these indiscretions, but rather owned up to it.

It is important to understand that there was no single event, and no single person, responsible for Cain failing to get enough votes to become the new London Chapter Head. The majority of National Council members voted against Cain, and they expressed multiple reasons for making that decision. Everyone on NC liked Cain personally, and sincerely wanted him to prove himself to be the right candidate to take over Zeke's position; nonetheless, he was not deemed a good fit for a leadership position in TST.

After the vote, a motion was raised by Kym LaRoux recommending that while some of Cain's decisions obviously disqualified him from being a candidate for Chapter Head, there were many aspects of Cain's involvement that showed he should be involved in the Chapter's leadership in some way. NC unanimously agreed on this, giving a strong vote of confidence in Cain's value as a chapter member.

Unfortunately, Cain's subsequent behavior has made it even more clear that our decision was correct. Upon being denied the position of Chapter Head, Cain has reached out to several members and Chapter Heads in an attempt to foment discontent. His behavior suggests that he simply took it as a foregone conclusion that he would be appointed Chapter Head, despite the fact that he is not the first person to be interviewed and voted down, and surely will not be the last.

3. London/UK

Finally, it has now come to our attention that Zeke and Cain are declaring the London/UK chapter's independence from TST, stating that they no longer want to be affiliated with TST "in an official capacity." The stated trigger of this step was what they perceive to be a lack of timely and respectful response to Zeke's June 19 message.

Just to make sure you understand the timeline involved: their resolution to separate from TST came on June 25, only five days after Zeke submitted his letter to NC; during that five days there was no meeting of NC, which meets on Sunday evenings, as both Zeke and Cain are

aware. During the course of this five days NC began drafting this very response, but we had had no opportunity to formally discuss the matter in a meeting. Yet again, Zeke's lack of patience or ability to see things through in a timely manner lead to an unforced error, and did damage not only to his position within TST but to the UK Chapter as a whole.

It is, of course, Zeke's and Cain's right to forge their own paths and we wish them success in the path they choose.

NC is also eager to work with the UK Chapter to get it back on track with competent and effective leadership that will effectively promote the Mission of The Satanic Temple and represent its membership in a dignified manner.

Sincerely,

The National Council