

1. Could you give us some examples of how everyday choices such as work, relationships, finances and education were restricted or monitored by the group?

**Appearance control** – women’s hair, clothing and appearance is controlled. You can be ‘asked not to participate’ for not following strict appearance standards.

Women are discouraged from wearing trousers, showing their flesh/shoulders, from cutting their hair (its to be worn long and often pulled back into an elaborate ‘updo’). Women are not allowed to wear jewellery other than a simple wedding band (some simple engagement rings are emerging) and a watch. Women are not allowed to wear obvious make up

**Relationship control:** Young people are encouraged to marry young, and to marry within the group where possible. This is becoming difficult as the group becomes more insular and they are marrying outside to ‘similar’ high control groups. If you marry outside the ‘acceptable’ people, you will find yourself ‘asked not to participate’ unless the spouse also converts. Usually during the early stages of dating an outsider, a follower will be told they must not participate until the new partner has demonstrated the ‘right spirit’ and it appears that they will convert.

Marrying outside is difficult and/or to someone not willing to convert (or someone who drops out of the group) and frowned upon. Having children in that environment is also very difficult. Children are expected to come into Truth 2x2s with the parent ‘in’ and there is a lot of pressure on children from ‘broken homes’ to make up for their non-following parent.

We are discouraged from having friendships, hobbies and interests outside the Truth 2x2s. We are to ‘be in the world, not of the world’. That means we work and live in mainstream communities, but we don’t make close connections or friendships. We keep to our own 2x2 communities.

That leaves us, as multi-generational members, with no contacts we can trust on the outside. It leaves us very lonely and isolated from any outside contacts. It leaves us with no idea how the world outside works, and with no vocabulary to share with outsiders.

**Financial control:** we are expected to give cash donations to Workers, and to allow them to stay in our homes at all times. We are expected to have ‘open homes’ which means somewhere our transient Workers/Clergy are always able to stay. We are expected to give cash donations and pressured to donate to ‘support the ministry’. We are told that the 2x2 Workers are penniless and homeless, which is not true. The cash donations are not declared correctly, and there is no financial transparency. Older 2x2’s have left vast amounts of estates to Elders of the group, and there is no financial transparency as there is no registered entities.

**We are under a lot of pressure to have ‘perfect’ homes with a ‘perfect’ wife and children, led by a ‘Elder’ of a man.** We are expected to dress a certain way, behave a certain way. Any behaviour or appearance which does not meet

'expectations' results in Workers not wanting to come to your home, which means you don't have the 'right spirit' and is an insult. You will then believe that you have not been good enough, and be scared you will go to hell.

**Sexuality and Gender control** – LGBTQIA+ people do not exist in the group. The topic is avoided, and anyone who shows any signs of being LGBTQIA+ is asked to leave. If someone is good enough at hiding it, they might fly under the radar. Compulsory heterosexuality is the expectation. Unmarried people of either gender are uncommon (except for Workers) and a lot of pressure is placed on young people to marry.

Sex outside of marriage is not condoned, and therefore young people marry in order to have sex. Divorce is discouraged, and people are stuck in dysfunctional or abusive marriages.

Tight control of appearance and the expectation of performance of traditional masculinity and femininity is baked into both ideology and culture.

**Career and education control** – tight gender and sexuality then results in limited career and educational outcomes for women and girls in particular. There are increasingly women working outside the home but they tend to be encouraged into 'feminised' or acceptable roles for women. These tend to be teaching, nursing, bookkeeping, administration and support.

Depending on where your family sits in the 2x2 hierarchy – will impact your access to education and work. The lower you are, the less access children of either gender are likely to have.

2. have spoken a lot about the shunning that you experienced, but we would also like to know how the group enforced compliance and discouraged dissent. For example, were their explicit punishments or implicit pressures or both? Were there things other than shunning that the group used to enforce compliance?

Recently in October 2025 an Australian Worker named [REDACTED] is alleged to have said from the platform at a Convention in Australia (paraphrasing) that he is watching people getting possessed by the devil, that people are questioning certain things about the group and speaking things from the devil in Sunday Meetings. He spoke of them speaking 'words of darkness and having hearts filled with hate' He allegedly implied they may possess a sort of spirit that wants to kill you.

If you ask questions about safety about theology, about practises or behaviours: you will be cast as 'having the wrong spirit'. You will have Eldership removed from men in your family, you will be told you 'cannot participate until further notice'. You will be subject to smear campaigns and a narrative control about how 'evil' you are

P&L\* (\*pseudonym) allowed me to share the following of their recent experience of 2x2 Workers:

'Last year my husband was demoted from 2<sup>nd</sup>-in charge of the Sunday Meeting.'

P&L\* had been asking questions of Workers about safety, about theology and doctrine and asking why Workers not provided pastoral care to CSA survivors.



and have to ask for permission to leave their own farm. We'll talk about how to find a secondary gate they can access in an emergency, or how to cut the lock in an emergency.

Often they wait until their children leave home before they will consider leaving. Sometimes they extract themselves by going to live with their daughters or grand daughters, years after we've first spoken.

If they leave with children there is usually an awful legal battle, in which the men in the family contest access to the children and try to take sole custody. I've accompanied women to court when the ex/estranged husband has a great deal of support from Truth 2x2 followers, often coming to the court in droves, filling car parks with followers, while the woman is there alone with little support.

If you get a good judge they'll work out pretty quickly what is happening, and ask that 2x2 followers not be allowed in the court room. Sadly I have been in court rooms filled with 2x2 followers, there to intimidate and make a woman uncomfortable in family court hearings.

Women will often not articulate to service providers the kinds of abuse occurring in their homes. They've been raised to believe that people outside are unsafe, will not understand and can not be trusted. It is not uncommon to hear 2x2 people say 'we can't talk to them about that, because they won't understand' – when asked to discuss the kinds of behaviors happening. I have shared in my submission (in the confidential section) some examples of difficulties I've encountered with agencies like Orange Door. Due to agencies not having specific training in dealing with or identifying cult survivors, I've tried to pre-warn them that a cult survivor is likely to contact them, but can not easily give them information due to confidentiality.

I have many examples of 2x2 followers who leave 'for a rest' for a period of time, they return and then leave again for respite. This can go on for years. Many of us would not identify that as being part of a 'leaving' process. It probably is, a slow extraction. People will leave for a few days at a time, a week maybe – to be back again for the important Sunday Meeting. They'll live in their car for a bit, to get a break.

At any time I usually have at least one person I'm supporting who is living in the car sporadically. They will usually not contact agencies, out of fear, shame and humiliation. I will have tried to connect them with services, and often those services fail them. They're often given 1 or 2 nights of accommodation vouchers, in accommodation which is not culturally appropriate. They will often deny that any violence is occurring which means agencies find it hard to find a reason why they would support them with food or accommodation vouchers. You can find confidential examples of this in my submission.

Agencies can not usually provide enough money in vouchers to enable people from rural and remote areas to get enough petrol to go very far. I typically spend \$200-\$600 a month in petrol vouchers for people who want to stay in their vehicles, but need petrol to drive somewhere far enough away to be safe from 2x2 community interference. I have had young 2x2 people living in my home for periods of time, to give them respite. They typically do not stay very long, out of fear and shame, returning home.

They will eventually find work outside, housing outside and extract themselves from the 2x2 community.

There are a few stories of whole families (sometimes multi-generational) leaving together (rare in my experience, although they probably don't need as much support so they don't contact me).

## **Pathway 2: Leavers who're kicked out.**

This pathway is typical for LGBTQIA+ young people. They're simply not welcome anymore.

They're usually out and never going back. They will find themselves adrift like refugees, with very few contacts. Often they hide their identity until they turn 18 and leave home as quickly as they can. The biggest issue in this cohort is poverty. They do not have access to housing, centrelink/social security. They often live in cars or in insecure and unsafe housing.

There are examples of these stories in my confidential submission. They usually need therapy and live with enormous amounts of trauma. They are often misdiagnosed as depressed.

This is a cohort who experience the most marginalization, the most isolation and are most at risk of exploitation. They often find themselves in low paid, unregulated cash jobs, without safety nets. They often find themselves in abusive relationships or employer situations – as they don't have templates for how life should be, and what safety looks like.

This cohort tend to have little vocabulary to describe what they have 'left' and what they are experiencing (isolation). It can take them decades to find ways to talk about what they have experienced. They may try to maintain contact with family still in Truth 2x2s and experience decades of shunning-type behavior – silent treatment, social exclusion.

Suicidality and early death are trends I see in this cohort. First response for them is difficult to navigate without cult-survivor advocacy to help them seek out help. They need to be exposed to support and vocabulary in order to seek help. Often they will not discuss their life/leaving the family/group with anyone.

Addictions to drugs, alcohol and porn are an issue in this cohort in my experience. They are living with deep shame, fear and rejection.