

August 1, 2016
Cynthia Reyes, Compliance Officer

The Society of Citizens Against Romance Scams Inc.

The Society of Citizens Against Romance Scams Inc. is a non-profit (pending Internal Revenue Service approval for 501(C)(3) application) founded in the United States of America, based in Miami, Florida, USA.

The Society was founded in 2015 with its public emergence in June of 2016 as an association of groups, organizations, and individuals fighting and educating against online fraud, specifically against variations of romance scams.

Per research performed by SCARS and its members, the number of new victims expected for the first time will top one million new victims in 2016.

The scope and magnitude of these types of online crimes are orders of magnitude greater than are being reported by governments, for the simple reason that the stigma of reporting prevents over 90% of victims from reporting these crimes. As a result, the numbers reported by governments around the world are at least 10x their stated numbers.

The Society was formed and funded by Dr. Tim McGuinness, a pioneer in combatting online fraud for the last 25 years since the days of America Online. Who also co-founded TigerDirect, a multi-billion-dollar online computer and electronics retailer. Under his management at TigerDirect, a section of their website was provided specifically to document and report on ongoing scams. Over the years, this was separated out into what is now

EACH DAY
THERE ARE MORE THAN
15,500,000
SCAM ATTEMPTS
MORE THAN 2,740
BECOME NEW VICTIMS
3 BUT THERE IS LESS THAN
ARRESTS WORLDWIDE
AND VICTIMS COMMIT
SUICIDE 4+
WE MUST SUPPORT REAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT
REFORM NOW!

A MESSAGE FROM

SCARS™

THE SOCIETY OF CITIZENS AGAINST ROMANCE SCAMS
CAMPAIGN AGAINST ONLINE FRAUD™
JOIN US WWW.AGAINSTROMANCESSCAMS.ORG

SCARS™ Background Information

RomanceScamsNow.com one of the highest traffic and the largest private non-governmental anti-scam organization in the world.

With the passing of the years it became increasingly obvious that the existing methods of reporting, exposing, and educating was not going to be sufficient to stop the double-digit growth in online scams. Today there are more than 100,000 active professional romance scammers operating around the world with the epicenter in West Africa (in Nigeria and Ghana), with franchises and support organizations having gone global. Scammer organizations (gangs) now number in the thousands with their financial support centers in South Asia, and massive tech support in places like Viet Nam, and even college like training centers in Kenya and elsewhere.

Additionally, with the expanding world of terror, these online fraud organizations are actively supporting extremist terror groups (such as Al Qaeda and ISIS) through their bases in West Africa, Central and Eastern Africa, and Malaysia. Furthermore, these scams are also used to facilitate human trafficking operations out of Russia and elsewhere. In short, the war on scamming is also the war on terror and global crime. SCARS has positioned itself squarely as a potential major combatant in these battles.

The Society is actively engaged in a membership campaign to expand its ranks and add weight to its voice in the U.S. Congress and with other Governments. It has several founding member groups that have over 10,000 visitors a day on their websites and social media footprints. It has established a goal of reaching 100,000 members by the end of 2017, and currently represents more than 20,000 victims through its member groups and organizations.

One of the principal early accomplishments in the SCARS™ War On Scam is the development of their universal Anti-Scam Data Reporting Network™ This is a network of Entry-point data collection sites that allow individuals to report scams and expose those that are perpetrating these crimes; plus intermediate data clearinghouses and central database providers; and end-point locations where this scam data is used for filtering and screening out fraudsters or for the display of this information as part of an active avoidance and educational strategy. Currently the network is reporting to the security and abuse departments of money transfer services, to law enforcement in the United States and Europe, on a multiple social media sites and websites, and with the completion of the final leg of the network to a significant number of online dating and relationship websites and apps.

The Society's programs also include the Campaign Against Online Fraud™ a partnership with multiple leadership anti-scam groups and industry partners to help expose these criminals and actively rescue members of the public before they become victims. This is done through a network of volunteers who actively intervene on behalf of individuals currently connecting or engaged with suspected fraudsters. With the result of hundreds of potential victims being rescued daily.

The Society is also sanctioning and actively supporting both directly and through its member groups and organizations Committees of specialists in online fraud to develop new standards and frameworks to support educational efforts, victim support and recovery programs (such as the RSN Steps Program™ <http://romancescamsnow.com/dating-scams/rsn-steps/>) and numerous worldwide support groups patterned on the AA methodologies. This also includes an active rescue and intervention program under the Society's mandate and standards.

The Society believes that with the model provided in other areas of public awareness development and advocacy, such as with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Society of Citizens Against Romance Scams

SCARS™ Background Information

can profoundly change the way these crimes are view by society, the resources and means that will be available to law enforcement, help provided to victims of scams, and a massive grass-roots structure to effectively neutralize the potential impact of this global organized crime.

-- 30 --

For more information, please contact the Press Office of SCARS at
Press@AgainstRomanceScams.org

Society of Citizens Against Romance Scams Inc., mailing-postal address 9737 NW 41st Street,
Suite 530, Miami, Florida 33178 USA // Phone: **(786) 600-2599** //
[Contact@AgainstRomanceScams.org](mailto>Contact@AgainstRomanceScams.org)

Copyright © 2016 Society of Citizens Against Romance Scams Inc. Authorization to reprint
available with permission. Contact the SCARS Press office for permission.

CR 20160801 Rev A.04