

## **Statement #2: Board of Directors of Florida Pagan Gathering**

Greetings to All,

Before we begin, the Florida Pagan Gathering Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who contacted us regarding the issue concerning the attendance of Gavin and Yvonne Frost at our upcoming Beltaine festival. It is awe-inspiring to see so many in our community band together in support of what they think is right. It gives us as a group a reassurance that if our community ever faces a common enemy we will be a force to truly be reckoned with. However, with the sweet, comes the sour.

It was brought to our attention this afternoon that certain fringe members of the movement to prevent the Frosts from attending FPG left disparaging and callous remarks on the camps social media pages. This in turn caused panic for the parents of the children who attend the camp during the summer months to believe that their beloved campsite was home to a group of Pagans who supported pedophilia. It wasn't just FPG or its board who was painted with that brush, it was all of us.

Our hearts goes out to the children and the families who were inadvertently affected by our community's issue. They did not deserve that, nor did the owners and governing body of the camp which graciously allows us to call their land our home. For that we are truly, truly sorry.

Originally, we had a resolution where instead of hosting workshops there was going to be an open discussion with the Frosts where the stance they have held for 40 years regarding the contents of their book would be addressed. Its purpose was to allow the community to address them in person, face to face and promote communication with between all parties concerned.

Unfortunately with the attack on the camp, and its owners, we cannot, in good conscience, allow the Frosts to come, even as private guests.

So who really benefited from all of this? Now we find ourselves standing amongst the wreckage and staring at the crying child who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time whose parents, because of this, will now not allow them to attend their favorite summer camp. We ask that no one outside of the FPG board of directors contact the camp to discuss this issue.

Going forward we are calling for peace amongst our Pagan brothers and sisters. Those friendships ruined, and a community torn needs time and support to heal. We need to look back at the last few days in reflection and see where we can do better for each other next time around.

The Florida Pagan Gathering will still take place as scheduled and we invite all of you who wish to attend FPG to do so and we will embrace you with open arms as we hope you will embrace us as well.

In service to our community,  
FPG Board of Directors