



Theosophical Order of Service (TOS)

(Founded in February 1908)

A Union of Those who Love in the Service of All that Suffers.

www.tos-uk.org.uk

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE TOS AND THE TS?

In 1908, **Dr Annie Besant** created the **TOS**, announcing in *The Theosophist*: “As a number of members of the **TS**, feel the wish to organise themselves for various lines of service, to actively promote the first object of the Society, I hereby constitute an order, to be called **THE T.S. ORDER OF SERVICE.**”

It is interesting that **Dr Besant** named the order the *Theosophical Society* Order of Service, which indicates its existence *within* and not separate from the **TS**. Most **TOS** groups operate simply as an autonomous department of the **TS**. All of the **TOS**'s activities are supported and supervised by the **International Secretary** of the **TOS** who reports regularly to the **International President** of the **TS** who is *ex-officio* **International President** of the **TOS**.

The **TOS** places the utmost importance on a harmonious working relationship with the **TS**. Its dearest wish is to support the **TS** as a place where social action as spiritual practice is valued and actively nurtured. Though the **TOS** is not present in all countries where the **TS** is active, it is growing and aspires to become of greater and greater support to the **TS** in making the teachings of Theosophy of transformative value in the world. The **TOS** provides a focal point and group context where **TS** members and friends may work along self-selected lines of service for the upliftment of humanity and the protection of the planet.

The **TOS** does not see its role as peripheral to the work of spreading **Theosophical** teachings nor does it see itself as simply duplicating the work of humanitarian groups. The **TOS** exists to show the world that **Theosophy** has much light to shed on contemporary issues of concern and can help people find meaning in suffering. It aims to demonstrate that service grounded in spirituality can engender far-reaching good in the world.

The **TS** officially maintains neutrality in relation to various social and political issues, with its position of complete freedom of thought for all of its members. On the other hand, the **TOS** acts as forum where members may air their views and take stands on affairs of public interest. For over a century the **TOS** has made a significant contribution to the community outreach of the **TS**. It considers its collaboration with the **TS** to be an honour.

For further information on the **TOS**, contact

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