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Braving the Russian Winter with the Truth About Drugs

Volunteers from the Church of Scientology Mission of Nizhny Novgorod are committed to drug education year-round.

Volunteers from the Church of Scientology Mission of Nizhny Novgorod are out on the streets this January. They are distributing copies of drug education booklets to help local youth learn the truth about drugs and avoid the epidemic of heroin abuse that Russian Drug Czar Viktor Ivanov has described [as a "dragon" that is "ravaging our youth."](#)

An [Associated Press-GfK poll](#) released in 2013 shows that nearly nine in 10 Russians (87 percent) identify drug abuse as at least a "very serious" problem in Russia today, and 55 percent describe the problem as "extremely serious."

Heroin kills 80 Russians each day or 30,000 a year, and according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the nation consumes [70 tons of Afghan heroin](#) annually.

The Truth About Drugs is a drug education and prevention initiative supported by the [Church of Scientology](#). Volunteers from the Church of Scientology Mission of Nizhny Novgorod take their drug prevention activities very seriously, because they know when young people are provided with the truth about drugs—factual information on what drugs are and what they do—usage rates drop commensurately.

The [Church of Scientology](#) has published a brochure, *Scientology: How We Help—The Truth About Drugs, Creating a Drug-Free World*, to meet requests for more information about the drug education and prevention initiative it supports. To learn more or to read the brochure, visit the Scientology website.



Scientology Founder L. Ron Hubbard wrote, "The planet has hit a barrier which prevents any widespread social progress—drugs and other biochemical substances. These can put people into a condition which not only prohibits and destroys physical health but which can prevent any stable advancement in mental or spiritual well-being."



Volunteers of the Church of Scientology Mission of Nizhny Novgorod collect signatures on a drug-free pledge in January 2014.



Volunteers of the Church of Scientology Mission in Nizhny Novgorod collect signatures on a drug-free pledge on and distribute drug education booklets in January 2014.