

# dissept.com

A website that promotes hoaxes and conspiracy theories linked to the conspiracy movement known as QAnon, including misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.**

**Score: 7.5/100**

## Ownership and Financing

DisSept.com does not identify its owners. The Donations page links to pages which say that the website was “created” by Léonard Sojli. According to his LinkedIn page, Sojli is an Orleans-based audio producer who is known for hosting talk shows on the YouTube channel Les DéQodeurs. Sojli only identifies himself as Léonard or Léo on DisSept.com.

DisSept.com, which launched in June 2020, solicits donations via PayPal, the crowdfunding site Tipeee, and cryptocurrency platforms. The site does not carry advertising.

## Content

DisSept.com primarily publishes articles and videos that promote the U.S. right-wing movement QAnon to French-speaking audiences. QAnon adherents believe numerous conspiracy theories, including that U.S. President Donald Trump is secretly battling a secretive group of global elites engaged in sex trafficking, who are plotting to overthrow him.

The movement started in October 2017, when an anonymous figure, calling itself “Q,” claimed on the online message board 4chan to be a U.S. government intelligence insider with access to classified information. Followers of the movement such as DisSept.com, often use the number 17 when referring to Q -- the seventeenth letter of the alphabet (when pronounced, Dis Sept means “seventeen”).

In 2018, Reddit said it had banned QAnon communities from its platform for, among other things, violating its rules against “inciting violence.” In July 2020, Twitter announced that it took down more than 7,000 accounts that were spreading QAnon messages as part of what Twitter called a “strong enforcement action on behavior

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

*Criteria are listed in order of importance.*

[More information.](#)

that has the potential to lead to offline harm.” That same month, The New York Times reported that Facebook was “preparing to take similar steps to limit the reach of QAnon content.”

In the first article published on DisSept.com in July 2020, the site says that it sees itself as playing a role in a digital war against the “deep state,” which is often how QAnon followers and others describe an elite cabal working against President Trump.

“This site has two main objectives,” the article said. “The first is to provide news that brings a better understanding of the global context, and the second is to provide digital soldiers with ammunition, which are factual truths.” (“Ce site a deux objectifs principaux. Le premier est d’apporter les informations qui permettent une meilleure compréhension du contexte global et le deuxième, c’est de fournir aux soldats numériques de munitions qui sont les vérités factuelles..”)

A tagline on the site’s homepage says, “Get verified and verifiable information for the digital war we are living.” (“Obtenez de l’information vérifiée et vérifiable pour la guerre digitale que nous vivons.”)

Many articles feature videos hosted by Léonard Sojli on the YouTube channel Les DéCodeurs, covering topics of interest to QAnon supporters, such as political scandals and allegations of child trafficking. The coverage relies heavily on anonymous messages purportedly posted by Q on the English-language message board 8kun.

Typical headlines include “Doubts about Q are erased!!!” (“Les doutes concernant Q s’envolent !!!”) and “The FBI on Epstein’s Island (videos)” (“Le FBI sur l’île d’Epstein (vidéos.)”).

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#### Credibility

Articles and videos on DisSept.com often promote false and unsubstantiated claims made by QAnon leader Q, or social media posts from QAnon followers, including conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a July 2020 article titled “It’s time for all to wake up!” (“L’heure du réveil a sonné pour tous !!!”) featured a video by Canadian QAnon conspiracy theorist Alexis Cossette-Trudel, in which he claimed that the COVID-19 global pandemic had ended. “The pandemic is over. The virus has lost its strength. Since the start of this pandemic, I’ve shown you how many specialists say the exact same thing in Italy, in the United States, there is no more viral load,” Cossette-Trudel said.

Cossette-Trudel added that wearing a mask to curb the spread of the virus was not necessary.

“It’s not a health measure. It’s only to impose a social standard. It’s a political measure, so the masks don’t work,” Cossette-Trudel said. (“La pandémie est terminée. Le virus n’a plus de force. Depuis le début de cette pandémie, je vous ai montré combien de spécialistes disent exactement la même chose en Italie, aux Etats-Unis, il n’y a plus de charge viral... C’est pas une mesure sanitaire. C’est juste pour imposer une norme social. C’est une mesure politique. Donc les masques ne fonctionnent pas.”).

Infection cases in many countries, including France, were rising, not declining in July 2020, according to health authorities, contrary to the article’s claims that the “pandemic is over.” On July 24, 2020, the French Ministry of Health wrote in a statement, “Viral circulation is clearly increasing in France with a [reproduction rate]  $R_0$  of 1.3. With daily numbers above 1,000, we’ve gone back to levels comparable to those at the end of the lockdown period. We’ve wiped off a good part of the progress we made in the first weeks after the lockdown.” (“La circulation virale est en nette augmentation en France avec un  $R$  à 1,3. Avec un nombre de cas journaliers supérieur à 1000, nous sommes revenus à des niveaux comparables à ceux de la fin de la période du confinement. Nous avons effacé une bonne partie des progrès que nous avons accomplis dans les premières semaines du déconfinement.”).

The article's claims that wearing a face mask to avert the spread of the virus was unnecessary are also not backed by scientific evidence. Multiple scientific studies, including a June 2020 study published in *The Lancet*, an April 2020 study in *Nature Medicine*, and a May 2020 study in *BMJ Global Health*, have concluded that the usage of face masks can curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The website has also promoted the false claim that the U.S.-based furniture retailer Wayfair was being used for child trafficking. In a July 2020 YouTube video posted on the site, Léonard Sojli said that children were being sold on Wayfair's website.

"If you go on this website, there are some products that are overpriced. In fact, they're not products, they're children," he said. "That means, these products are very expensive and, strangely, they bear the names of missing human beings, human beings, missing children. This is how the network sells children. This is one of the ways." ("Si vous allez sur ce site, il y a certains produits qui sont excessivement chers. En fait, ce ne sont pas des produits, ce sont des enfants. C'est-à-dire, ces produits là, ils coutent hyper cher et bizarrement ils ont des noms d'humains portés disparus, d'humain, d'enfants portés disparus. C'est comme ca que le réseau vend des enfants. C'est une des manières.")

In support of this claim, Sojli showed a Twitter video posted by an anonymous QAnon supporter, which asserted that a teenage girl named Precious Harris, who was reported missing in April 2020 in Cincinnati, Ohio, was one of Wayfair's victims.

There is no evidence to suggest that Wayfair is involved in child sex trafficking. The claim was first made on the Reddit platform by a poster using the pseudonym PrincessPeach1987, who suggested Wayfair was involved in human trafficking because it was selling high-priced cabinets with female names. A spokesperson for Wayfair has denied the allegations. The spokesperson told Reuters in July 2020 that the

company's products are named using an algorithm that picks up "first names, geographic locations and common words for naming purposes."

The Cincinnati Police Department told NewsGuard in July 2020 that its investigators did not deem claims linking Precious Harris, who is still missing, to Wayfair to be credible. "They have received several 'tips' about Ms. Harris referring to the Wayfair conspiracy theory, but nothing that was remotely credible or even informed," police public information officer John Van Dyne said in an email to NewsGuard. "It was more along the lines of people not at all personally connected with the case calling investigators and telling them about the Wayfair 'connection' they had read about online."

According to a July 2020 article by the U.S. nonprofit Polaris Project, which runs the National Human Trafficking Hotline, hundreds of people called the hotline to report social media posts that advanced the theory that Wayfair was responsible for human trafficking. "A barrage of conspiracy-related reports from people with no direct knowledge of trafficking situations can overwhelm services meant for victims," Polaris Project wrote. "The Wayfair theory has already resulted in online harassment and privacy intrusions of people mistakenly believed to be victims, as well as broad sharing of online sexual abuse material of actual victims who have not been connected in any way to Wayfair."

DisSept.com has also promoted the Pizzagate conspiracy theory, which alleges that former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other Democratic leaders were involved in a child sex trafficking ring run out of a Washington pizzeria called Comet Ping Pong. In July 2020, DisSept.com shared a YouTube video, in which Sojli claimed that emails Clinton deleted from her private server mentioned Pizzagate. Sojli added that then-Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump questioned Clinton about the deleted emails in a campaign debate ahead of the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

“The 33,000 emails he's referring to are emails that notably include Pizzagate-related items, okay?” Sojli said. “And Pizzagate, the media did everything to try and make us believe that it’s a hoax, that it’s fake news, that it’s false news. But pizzagate isn’t false news.” (“Les 33000 mails dont il fait référence ce sont des emails qui contiennent dedans notamment des choses liées à Pizzagate, d’accord? Et Pizzagate, les médias ont tout fait pour essayer de nous faire croire que c’est un hoax, que c’est un fake news, qui c’est des infox. Mais pizzagate, ce n’est pas des infox.”)

Numerous fact-checking organizations and police in the District of Columbia have said there is no truth to the Pizzagate theory, which first gained traction before the 2016 U.S. presidential election through posts on forums such as 4Chan. The posts cited hacked emails from the Democratic National Committee, speculating that references to pizza and the Comet Ping Pong Pizzeria were actually coded descriptions of a child sex ring. Although the conspiracy was largely debunked in 2016, it has resurfaced on social media, where QAnon followers believe it to be true.

DisSept.com does not generally label opinion content. While the first article published on the website describes the QAnon movement, the website does not centrally disclose its perspective to users. However, most of its stories are meant to advance QAnon’s right-wing, pro-Trump agenda, including the belief that readers must help Q and Trump in a war against the “Deep State.”

For example, in July 2020, the site published an article titled “The time has come!!!” (“Le temps est venu !!!”), which stated, “The Deep State is doing everything possible to spread its narrative, which is based on lies and if we want the world to go in the right direction, so that we can finally get our lives back and reach our dreams and happiness, we must fight by defending the truth by all means. We’re in an information war and the digital army is recruiting! ... Become a digital soldier and defend your future, that of your children, and that of their children.” (“L’état profond fait tout son possible pour propager son narrative qui est basé sur le

mensonge et si nous voulons que le monde avance dans la bonne direction, que nous puissions enfin retrouver nos vies et s’approcher de nos rêves et du bonheur, nous devons nous battre en défendant la vérité par tous les moyens. Nous sommes dans une guerre d’information et l’armée numérique recrute !... Deviens un soldat numérique et défends ton avenir, celui de tes enfants et celui de leurs enfants.”)

Because DisSept.com promotes widely debunked conspiracy theories to advance an undisclosed pro-QAnon agenda, NewsGuard has determined that it repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, does not avoid misleading headlines, and does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

DisSept.com does not articulate a corrections policy and NewsGuard could not find any corrections on the site.

DisSept.com replied to a Facebook message from NewsGuard, but did not respond to NewsGuard’s questions seeking comment on the website’s false claims, its approach to corrections, and its undisclosed perspective.

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#### Transparency

DisSept.com does not disclose information about its ownership or editorial leadership. It also does not provide any way for readers to contact the site.

Articles do not generally include author names and the site does not publish information about its editorial staff.

DisSept.com replied to a Facebook message from NewsGuard, but did not respond to NewsGuard’s questions seeking comment on the website’s failure to identify owners, editors, or content creators.

The site does not run advertising.

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#### History

DisSept.com launched in June 2020. The same month, the Facebook account of JaiUnDoute.com, a site that also features Léonard Sojli’s content, changed its name to become the official account of Dis Sept, according to the page’s Transparency section.

As of August 2020, Sojli primarily contributed content to Dis Sept and his QAnon-supporting social media platforms.

Written by: [Sophia Tewa](#)

Edited by: [Amy Westfeldt](#), [Chine Labbe](#), [Yves Clarisse](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard:[Click Here](#)

## Sources

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Ownership and Financing

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Content

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Transparency

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History

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