

From Susan Ji-on Postal, Sensei

Joe Soun Dowling  
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Dear ZSS Board and Monks of Dai Bosatsu,

For the past 30 years I have been dismayed by the shocking reports of sexual misconduct by Eido Shimano Roshi. As an ordained student of the late Maurine Myo-on Stuart, she personally shared her direct knowledge of this. In the early 90's a number of women who had suffered great emotional turmoil came to the Empty Hand Zendo, then at the Meeting House in Rye, and so I experienced direct accounts. In 1994, I believe, there was a gathering of Western Buddhist Teachers at Mt. Madonna Center in California, and Aitken Roshi gathered a group of teachers who had heard directly from women who were harmed, and we drafted a letter to the ZSS Board asking for Eido Shimano Roshi to resign.

In recent times I have been strongly supportive of Shinge Roko Chayat and Genjo Marinello in their efforts to provide strong healthy leadership for Zen Studies Society. Most especially, I supported the plan for some outside intervention to resolve this issue fairly and honestly. Now with Shimano Roshi's letter to the New York Times, it appears that the advice of the FaithTrust Institute is not being truly followed. With this new turning, I cannot help but speak up.

It seems essential that Shimano Roshi resign from all positions of authority at ZSS. If there are some senior students who really want to continue their studies with him, then they can find another location and do this on a private basis, not under the umbrella of Zen Studies Society. Charismatic and powerful teaching without strong holding of the Precepts is dangerous. From the time of the Buddha, not causing harm is the primary vow. I can only urge you to take firm action now – for the sake of your own sangha, the victims of abuse, and the future of this most precious Dharma.

Palms-together,

Susan Ji-on Postal, Sensei  
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