

# CONSPIRACY THEORIES

**Do more than half of the below apply?**

***IF SO, IT IS MOST LIKELY A CONSPIRACY THEORY.***

- The story begins in a credible way and with clear facts. Gradually, it becomes more improbable.
- The story is presented as the unmasking of the real truth.
- There is a 'powerful' group of people who keep the 'real' truth hidden.
- Everything is part of a larger plan. The story reveals this plan.
- The story provokes intense emotions such as fear, betrayal or anger.
- There is extreme distrust against scientists, news media or government.
- Discussions are not held in public forums (but instead, for example, in private chats).
- The story is often being removed from social media.
- Fact checkers and journalists say that the story is not true.
- People who oppose the story are said to be easily duped and unable to think critically.

A conspiracy theory has a firm structure:

- > A (powerful) group...
- > Has a secret plan...
- > Which is disadvantageous for the majority...
- > And yields an advantage for the first (powerful) group.

**ATTENTION**