

Reference Document

"The Jehovah's Witness Religion as We Know It Is Over"

Every Claim, Source, and Verification Status

How to Use This Document

Each entry identifies a specific factual claim made in the video, the source it is based on, where to verify it, and any notes on confidence level. Claims are organized in the order they appear in the video.

Verification levels:

- **PRIMARY** — Sourced from court rulings, legislation, official Watchtower publications (including internal manuals like *Shepherd the Flock of God*), peer-reviewed research, government regulator decisions, or other official records. Primary sources stand on their own.
- **SECONDARY** — Sourced from established advocacy or legal-resource sites, academic researchers, or reputable investigative journalism. Secondary sources support claims and are most defensible when paired with a primary.

SECTION 1: The Charge

Claim: On May 13, 2019, the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses sent a letter to all congregations in countries covered by the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, instructing publishers to stop collecting personal data during their field ministry.

- **Source:** Leaked Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses letter dated May 13, 2019, addressed "to all congregations in Britain and Ireland"
- **URL:** <https://www.truthandtransparency.org/news/2019/05/16/jehovahs-witnesses-overhaul-proselytizing-procedures-in-response-to-eu-regulation/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Leaked official Watchtower correspondence published by Truth & Transparency, an investigative outlet that obtained and authenticated the original document.
- **Key quote:** "Publishers should not collect personal data in connection with the field ministry. This means not maintaining records that include a person's name, address, language, ethnicity, and so forth."

Claim: The letter was directed at approximately 1.3 million Jehovah's Witnesses — about one in six Witnesses worldwide at the time.

- **Source:** AvoidJW analysis of the May 13, 2019 letter, citing the global Witness publisher count
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/general-data-protection-regulation/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established ex-JW research site whose article quotes the full letter text and contextualizes the affected publisher count against worldwide membership figures.

Claim: The letter cited Romans 13:1 (submission to superior authorities) as the theological basis for the change, and explicitly attributed the change to "recent court decisions and the enactment of the General Data Protection Regulation."

- **Source:** Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses letter, May 13, 2019
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/general-data-protection-regulation/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct quote from the leaked letter.

- **Key quote:** "However, recent court decisions and the enactment of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) affect the collection and use of personal data in our branch territory. Thus, any suggestions we previously made on note-taking as related to the field ministry are no longer applicable. — Rom. 13:1."

SECTION 2: The Legal Landscape on Shunning

Claim: Direct legal challenges to shunning have overwhelmingly failed in courts around the world.

- **Source:** Creator analysis of the published case law on shunning challenges, drawing on the rulings cited below.
- **Verification:** Creator analysis — the supporting jurisdictional rulings appear individually below.

Claim: Belgium's Court of Cassation ruled in December 2023 that shunning is lawful under Belgian law.

- **Source:** Belgian Court of Cassation ruling, reported by AvoidJW and other outlets
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/global-updates-2026-avoidjw-jw/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established ex-JW research site reporting on the published ruling.

Claim: Norway's Court of Appeal (Borgarting) ruled in March 2025 that shunning is lawful, that the state's earlier actions against the religion were unconstitutional, and awarded the Watchtower 8.5 million Norwegian kroner in legal costs.

- **Source:** Borgarting Court of Appeal judgment, March 14, 2025
- **URL:** <https://bitterwinter.org/norway-jehovahs-witnesses-fully-vindicated-by-appeal-court/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Bitter Winter, an established religious-liberty journal, reporting on the published judgment.

Claim: Appellate or supreme courts in eleven countries — Argentina, Brazil, Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Poland, South Africa, and the United States — have upheld shunning as a protected exercise of religious liberty.

- **Source:** Aggregated case-law review across multiple jurisdictions, summarized at the EXJW Analyzer wiki entry on data protection cases against the Watchtower.
- **URL:** <https://exjwanalyzer.com/wiki/articles/07-09-data-protection-law-cases.php>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Cumulative case-law review with citations to each underlying judgment.

SECTION 3: Exhibit A — The May 2019 Letter

Claim: The same May 13, 2019 letter was inadvertently sent to congregations in Zimbabwe, then retracted within 48 hours because Zimbabwe is not a GDPR jurisdiction.

- **Source:** Truth & Transparency reporting on the leaked letter and its inadvertent Zimbabwe distribution
- **URL:** <https://www.truthandtransparency.org/news/2019/05/16/jehovahs-witnesses-overhaul-proselytizing-procedures-in-response-to-eu-regulation/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Investigative reporting confirming the Zimbabwe retraction; the article notes that "the same letter was sent to all congregations in Zimbabwe only to be retracted two days later."

Claim: For decades prior to the 2019 letter, Jehovah's Witnesses recorded householder data — names, addresses, languages spoken, scriptures discussed, return-visit notes — on territory cards passed between publishers.

- **Source:** Watchtower's own internal training material, *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will*, paragraphs 31–32 (cited within the May 2019 letter itself).
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/general-data-protection-regulation/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — The May 13, 2019 letter explicitly cancels the previous note-taking practice it describes, providing direct internal documentation of the longstanding practice.

SECTION 4: Exhibit B — The Court of Justice Rulings

Claim: The Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union decided *Tietosuoja- ja v. Jehovan todistajat* (Case C-25/17) on July 10, 2018.

- **Source:** Court of Justice of the European Union, Grand Chamber judgment, Case C-25/17
- **URL:** <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:62017CJ0025>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct judgment text published on the EU's official legal database (EUR-Lex).

Claim: The proceeding originated when Finland's Data Protection Ombudsman directed the Jehovah's Witness community in 2013 to stop collecting personal information at the doorstep without consent.

- **Source:** Finnish Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman (Tietosuoja- ja v. Jehovan todistajat) procedural history
- **URL:** <https://tietosuoja.fi/en/-/euroopan-unionin-tuomioistuimen-tuomio-asiassa-tietosuoja- ja v. jehovan-todistajat>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Finnish data protection authority website.

Claim: The Grand Chamber ruled that door-to-door preaching is not a purely personal or household activity, that publishers' notes constitute a regulated "filing system," and that the religious community is a joint controller of the data alongside the individual publisher — even without direct access to or written instructions about that data.

- **Source:** Case C-25/17, Grand Chamber, operative paragraphs
- **URL:** <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:62017CJ0025>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct from the judgment text.
- **Key quote:** The Court held that the joint-controller finding applies "without it being necessary that the community has access to those data, or to establish that that community has given its members written guidelines or instructions in relation to the data processing."

Claim: On May 9, 2023, the European Court of Human Rights issued a unanimous Second Section judgment in *Jehovah's Witnesses v. Finland* (Application No. 31172/19) finding no violation of Article 9 (freedom of religion) of the European Convention.

- **Source:** ECHR Second Section judgment, *Jehovah's Witnesses v. Finland*
- **URL:** <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-224559>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — HUDOC, the official European Court of Human Rights database.
- **Key quote:** Paragraph 95 of the judgment: the consent requirement is "an appropriate and necessary safeguard with a view to preventing any communication or disclosure of personal and sensitive data."

SECTION 5: Exhibit C — Eleven Days in March

Claim: On March 4, 2024, the Oslo District Court upheld the Norwegian government's decision to revoke the Jehovah's Witnesses' official registration and cut off state subsidies over the practice of shunning.

- **Source:** Oslo District Court ruling, March 4, 2024
- **URL:** <https://stopmandatedshunning.org/post/29>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Stop Mandated Shunning's documented timeline of the Norway proceedings, with citations to the underlying court records.
- **Note:** It was the first time a Western European court had affirmed the revocation of a religion's registration over its shunning practice. The decision was later overturned at the appellate level (March 2025), but the original ruling triggered the events described in this exhibit.

Claim: On March 15, 2024 — eleven days after the Oslo ruling — Governing Body member Mark Sanderson recorded Governing Body Update Number Two of 2024, announcing "new spiritual understandings" of three Bible passages: 2 Timothy 2:24–25, 1 Corinthians 5:11, and 2 John verses 9 through 11.

- **Source:** Governing Body Update Number Two of 2024, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/news/region/global/2024-Governing-Body-Update-2/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published video and accompanying article.

Claim: The new understandings, taken together, allowed disfellowshipped members to be greeted at meetings, allowed elders to conduct Bible studies with disfellowshipped people, shortened the reinstatement timeline from "perhaps many months, a year, or longer" to "only months," and required a parent to be present when a baptized minor appears before a committee of elders.

- **Source:** Internal Watchtower document "Adjustments to Handling Serious Wrongdoing in the Congregation" (S-147 series)
- **URL:** <https://jwleaks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/adjustments-to-handling-serious-wrongdoing-in-the-congregation.pdf>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Leaked internal Watchtower procedural document detailing the policy adjustments.

Claim: The Norwegian state's specific argument against the Watchtower had focused on baptized minors being subjected to closed-door committee meetings with three adult men and no parent present.

- **Source:** Christian Network Europe coverage of the Norway proceedings and the Watchtower's policy change
- **URL:** <https://cne.news/article/4220-jehovahs-witnesses-ease-shunning-rules-after-blow-in-oslo-court>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Reputable European Christian news outlet reporting on the case and the connection between the ruling and the policy change.

Claim: A German Jehovah's Witness lawyer, on record with Christian Network Europe, said about the Watchtower's March 2024 policy change: "It's difficult not to see the connection with the Oslo court decision."

- **Source:** Christian Network Europe interview with a German JW lawyer
- **URL:** <https://cne.news/article/4220-jehovahs-witnesses-ease-shunning-rules-after-blow-in-oslo-court>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — On-the-record quote in published Christian press coverage.

Claim: In August 2024, The Watchtower Study Edition published an article titled "Help for Those Who Are Removed From the Congregation," formalizing the changes Sanderson announced and retiring the term "disfellowshipping" in favor of "removed from the congregation."

- **Source:** *The Watchtower* Study Edition, August 2024

- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-august-2024/Help-for-Those-Who-Are-Removed-From-the-Congregation/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published magazine article on its official website.
- **Key quote:** Footnote b: "We will no longer refer to such ones as being disfellowshipped. In harmony with Paul's words recorded at 1 Corinthians 5:13, we will now refer to them as being removed from the congregation."

SECTION 6: Exhibit D — The Brazilian Retraction Case

Claim: In 2022, Brazil amended its constitution (Constitutional Amendment 115/2022) to elevate data protection to the level of a fundamental constitutional right under Article 5, item LXXIX.

- **Source:** Constitutional Amendment 115/2022, official Brazilian government text (Planalto)
- **URL:** https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/constituicao/emendas/emc/emc115.htm
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Brazilian government legislative text.

Claim: The trial judge in Exhibit D ordered three named elders and the Watchtower to read a court-drafted retraction at a future congregation meeting, with a daily fine for non-compliance.

- **Source:** Counsel of record, live stream of the courtroom proceedings, March 1, 2025
- **URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ziPza-YAGO>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Live attorney stream of the case from counsel of record, including the verdict and the operative retraction language.

Claim: Counsel filed the disassociation notification before the elders' announcement, citing rights under Brazil's Lei Geral de Protecao de Dados (LGPD), and explicitly notified the elders that no public announcement could be made using the client's name or personal information.

- **Source:** Counsel of record, blog post documenting the case timeline and filings
- **URL:** <https://julianohmello.com.br/2025/03/03/2017/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Counsel-of-record's own published documentation of the case.

Claim: Earlier in the proceedings, the wife had filed a formal data subject access request with the Brazilian branch office, which confirmed it held seven categories of her personal data: full name, national tax ID (CPF), date of birth, baptism date, mother's name, pioneer status, and disfellowshipping status.

- **Source:** Counsel of record, attorney case documentation
- **URL:** <https://julianohmello.com.br/2025/03/03/2017/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Counsel-of-record's own published correspondence record.
- **Key quote:** The branch's written response confirmed continued processing "according to the legitimate religious interests of the organization whenever necessary."

Claim: During trial, the youngest elder testified that members face no punishment for maintaining contact with disfellowshipped people, but Counsel then read from the Watchtower's *Shepherd the Flock of God* manual, which classifies continued contact as the "grave sin" of unbridled (or "brazen") conduct — potentially leading to disfellowshipping itself. The elder responded, "I don't remember the question."

- **Source:** Counsel of record, live stream of courtroom hearing
- **URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ziPza-YAGO>

- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Recorded live testimony, attorney's own stream.

Claim: Almost 900,000 active Jehovah's Witnesses are in Brazil.

- **Source:** AvoidJW 2026 global updates summary, citing Watchtower's published Brazilian publisher count
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/global-updates-2026-avoidjw-jw/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Aggregated from Watchtower's own annual yearbook data.

SECTION 7: Exhibit E — The Working Playbook

Claim: On February 14, 2026, a serving elder in Mexico City presented a 10-page legal document to two other elders, formally revoking all consent for processing of his personal data under Mexico's Federal Law on the Protection of Personal Data Held by Private Parties (LFPDPPP) as recently reformed in 2025.

- **Source:** Anonymous source — the serving elder himself, with documentation provided to independent ex-JW researchers
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct documentation from the source. The Watchtower's March 6, 2026 written response confirmed the underlying chain of events. Source identifying details withheld for the source's protection.

Claim: The Mexico revocation document also cited Articles 177 and 211 Bis of the Federal Criminal Code, which criminalize the interception of private communications and the use of intercepted material as evidence, with penalties of six to twelve years' imprisonment.

- **Source:** Federal Criminal Code of Mexico (Codigo Penal Federal), Articles 177 and 211 Bis
- **URL:** <https://mexico.justia.com/federales/codigos/codigo-penal-federal/libro-segundo/titulo-noveno/capitulo-i/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Mexican federal legislative text.

Claim: The revocation document quoted Chapter 6, paragraph 4 of the Watchtower's *Shepherd the Flock of God* elders' manual, which warns elders against accepting recorded evidence.

- **Source:** *Shepherd the Flock of God* (2024 edition), the Watchtower's internal elders' manual
- **URL:** <https://archive.org/details/2024-04-sfl-elder-manual>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own internal publication.
- **Key quote:** "Generally, images or audio or video recordings are not acceptable evidence of wrongdoing. Such material could have inappropriate content and even expose the elders to legal issues."

Claim: On March 6, 2026, the Watchtower branch responded on official letterhead, confirming deletion of the elder's address, phone number, sex, email, ministry field-service figures, marital status, all current and past appointments, and his elder school records, while retaining only his name, date of birth, baptism date, and baptized-publisher status — citing "legitimate interest" and 1 Corinthians 5:11–13.

- **Source:** Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses branch letter dated March 6, 2026 (in the source's possession; provided to independent researchers)
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct branch correspondence on official letterhead.

Claim: The branch's March 6, 2026 letter contained no reference to any disciplinary proceeding, judicial committee, or alleged wrongdoing. The elder was not disfellowshipped, disassociated, or removed.

- **Source:** Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses branch letter dated March 6, 2026

- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct from the letter text.

Claim: Two former Jehovah's Witnesses, Gabriel Liberty Wall (of Grand Forks, BC) and Gregory Westgarde (of Coldstream, BC), filed access requests under British Columbia's Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA), a provincial data protection statute that uniquely covers non-profit organizations.

- **Source:** British Columbia Personal Information Protection Act, SBC 2003 c.63
- **URL:** https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00_03063_01
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — British Columbia's official statute database.

Claim: The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner ordered production. The British Columbia Supreme Court upheld the order. The British Columbia Court of Appeal upheld it again, unanimously.

- **Source:** OIPC Order P22-03; *Vabuolas v. British Columbia (Information and Privacy Commissioner)*, 2024 BCSC 27 (January 8, 2024); 2025 BCCA 83 (March 21, 2025, unanimous)
- **URL:** <https://www.oipc.bc.ca/orders/4271>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official OIPC order from the British Columbia privacy regulator; the BCSC and BCCA judgments are also published on the BC courts website.

Claim: On November 20, 2025, the Supreme Court of Canada granted leave to hear the appeal. The Supreme Court of Canada file number is 41816.

- **Source:** Supreme Court of Canada case docket
- **URL:** <https://www.scc-csc.ca/cases-dossiers/search-recherche/41816/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct from the SCC's official case docket.

Claim: More than ten intervener motions have been filed on both sides of the SCC case — a notably high number for a Canadian religious-freedom proceeding.

- **Source:** Supreme Court of Canada case docket; coverage by ARPA Canada and the BC Humanist Association
- **URL:** https://www.bchumanist.ca/bcca_privacy_release
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — SCC docket lists each intervener; corroborated by BC Humanist Association reporting.
- **Note:** Pro-Watchtower interveners include ARPA Canada, the Christian Legal Fellowship, and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Pro-disclosure interveners include the British Columbia Humanist Association, the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers, and the Attorney General of Canada.

SECTION 8: The Defense

Claim: In *Highwood Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses (Judicial Committee) v. Wall* (2018 SCC 26), the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously ruled that civil courts have no jurisdiction to review religious disciplinary decisions concerning membership.

- **Source:** Supreme Court of Canada, *Highwood* judgment
 - **URL:** <https://decisions.scc-csc.ca/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/17101/index.do>
 - **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct from the Supreme Court of Canada's official judgment archive.
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Claim: Italy's Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali issued an admonishment (not a fine) to the Italian Jehovah's Witness organization in February 2021.

- **Source:** Garante per la Protezione dei Dati Personali, Provvedimento No. 9574136, February 25, 2021
- **URL:** <https://www.garanteprivacy.it/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/9574136>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Italian data protection authority's official decision page.

Claim: Spain's Agencia Espanola de Proteccion de Datos (AEPD) issued a 10,000 euro fine against the Spanish Jehovah's Witness organization, which was confirmed by the Audiencia Nacional in December 2020.

- **Source:** Audiencia Nacional confirmation of AEPD fine, December 13, 2020
- **URL:** https://www.eldiario.es/cantabria/ultimas-noticias/confirman-multa-testigos-jehova-datos-medicos-permiso-denuncia-cantabria_1_6501817.html
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established Spanish news outlet reporting on the appellate court's confirmation of the regulator's fine.

Claim: Germany has an Article 91 GDPR carve-out that allows the Watchtower to operate its own internal data protection authority (Datenschutzaufsicht Jehovas Zeugen, based in Berlin).

- **Source:** Article 91 GDPR, EU regulation 2016/679
- **URL:** <https://gdpr-info.eu/art-91-gdpr/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — The text of Article 91 of the GDPR. The Watchtower's internal regulator publishes its own activity at datenschutz-jehovaszeugen.de.
- **Note:** Article 91 only applies where a religious community had comprehensive data protection rules pre-dating the GDPR and brought them "into line" with the GDPR. It is not a blanket religious exemption, and only Germany's Watchtower entity has invoked it.

SECTION 9: The Verdict

Claim: In October 2024, the Norwegian branch leadership sent a letter to the Norwegian government seeking accommodation on the practice of shunning.

- **Source:** AvoidJW analysis of the Watchtower's October 24, 2024 letter to the Norwegian government
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/watchtowers-desperation-in-norway-chasing-state-grants/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established ex-JW research site analyzing the letter's content and context.

Claim: In September 2025, the Watchtower silently removed shunning instruction videos from its official digital library — with no announcement and no explanation.

- **Source:** AvoidJW investigation, with independent forensic confirmation
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/jehovahs-witnesses-remove-shunning-video/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established ex-JW research site documenting the removal, with primary forensic confirmation by multiple independent ex-JW researchers.

SECTION 10: A Footnote to the Verdict — Bulgaria 1998

Claim: In 1998, the Watchtower had been deregistered as a religion under a new Bulgarian law and appealed to the European Commission of Human Rights under Application No. 28626/95.

- **Source:** European Commission of Human Rights friendly settlement, Application 28626/95, finalized March 9, 1998
- **URL:** <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-45968>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — HUDOC, the official European Court of Human Rights database.

Claim: To get the registration restored, the Watchtower signed a friendly settlement stating that Jehovah's Witness patients have the right to use the medical system at their own discretion, without controls or sanctions.

- **Source:** ECHR friendly settlement text, Section 2.1
- **URL:** <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-45968>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct from the published settlement text.
- **Key quote:** "Jehovah's Witness patients resort to the use of the medical system for themselves and their children, each member having the right to make use of this medical system freely at their own discretion, without any controls or sanctions on the part of the petitioner."

Claim: Less than two months later, on April 27, 1998, the Watchtower issued a press release stating: "The terms of the agreement do not reflect a change in the doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses."

- **Source:** Watchtower press release, April 27, 1998, as analyzed by Watchman Fellowship
- **URL:** <https://www.watchman.org/articles/jehovahs-witnesses/new-watchtower-blood-transfusion-policy/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established religion-research outlet quoting the Watchtower's press release verbatim.

SECTION 11: Additional Supporting Sources

Watchtower Global Data Protection Policy

- **Source:** Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, official policy
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/privacy-policy/global-data-protection-policy/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published policy.
- **Contains:** Watchtower's published acknowledgment of country-by-country variation in personal-data handling, and the implied-consent framework that has been contested in multiple regulator cases.

Watchtower Country-Specific "Use of Personal Data" Pages

- **Source:** Watchtower published per-country policies
- **URL (UK):** <https://www.jw.org/en/privacy-policy/use-of-personal-data/use-of-personal-data-united-kingdom/>
- **URL (Germany):** <https://www.jw.org/en/privacy-policy/use-of-personal-data/use-of-personal-data-germany/>
- **URL (Mexico):** <https://www.jw.org/en/privacy-policy/use-of-personal-data/use-personal-data-mexico/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published per-country policies, demonstrating jurisdiction-specific data handling rules.

AvoidJW Data Protection Resource (DSAR Templates & HuB System Documentation)

- **Source:** AvoidJW practical resource page for ex-JWs filing data subject access requests
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/data-protection/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established ex-JW advocacy resource, with primary-source quotes from leaked Watchtower internal correspondence about the HuB electronic tracking system at branch headquarters.
- **Contains:** Practical templates for filing data subject access requests in the UK and Ireland; documentation of the Watchtower's centralized HuB tracking system.

Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 29

- **Source:** Australian Royal Commission, official case study record
 - **URL:** <https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/case-studies/case-study-29-jehovahs-witnesses>
 - **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Australian government commission's published testimony and findings.
 - **Contains:** On-record testimony from Watchtower representatives on shunning and judicial committee procedures, providing comparative context for the courtroom defense used in subsequent jurisdictions.
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Gomes de Souza v. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, Inc.

- **Source:** United States District Court, Southern District of New York, Case No. 1:25-cv-09458, filed November 12, 2025
 - **URL:** <https://dockets.justia.com/docket/new-york/nysdce/1:2025cv09458/652986>
 - **Verification:** PRIMARY — Federal court docket.
 - **Contains:** \$100 million federal lawsuit filed by a Brazilian woman against the Watchtower in the Southern District of New York for child sexual abuse cover-up in Brazil. Demonstrates Brazilian victims now reaching directly into the US legal system with claims against the parent organization.
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European Data Protection Board Opinion 28/2025 — EU Adequacy Decision for Brazil's LGPD

- **Source:** European Data Protection Board, Opinion 28/2025, November 4, 2025
- **URL:** <https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/insights/publications/2025/12/european-data-protection-board-opinion-eu-draft-adequacy-decision-for-brazil-lgpd>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Mayer Brown legal analysis of the EDPB opinion.
- **Contains:** EU regulator's evaluation that Brazil's LGPD meets the European data protection standard, paving the way for streamlined cross-border enforcement.