

Reference Document

"Nobody Cares About Jehovah's Witnesses"

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, government royal-commission reports, or other government/regulatory records. Primary sources can stand on their own.
- **SECONDARY** — Sourced from established research organizations or reputable investigative journalism (Associated Press, Pew Research Center, regional papers of record). Secondary sources support claims and are most defensible when paired with a primary or another independent secondary.

SECTION 1: The Persecution Story They're Told

Claim: An October 2019 study edition of The Watchtower told Jehovah's Witnesses they would "become the center of their attention," and that the nations would "band together to make a vicious, all-out attack on Jehovah's people."

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, Study Edition, October 2019, "Stay Faithful Through the 'Great Tribulation,'" paragraph 11
- **URL:** www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-october-2019/stay-faithful-through-great-tribulation/
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official Watchtower publication, quoted verbatim from the study article assigned to congregations worldwide.
- **Key quote:** "So we will become the center of their attention. ... They will band together to make a vicious, all-out attack on Jehovah's people."

SECTION 2: How Small They Actually Are

Claim: Jehovah's Witnesses make up about 0.8 percent of American adults — less than one percent.

- **Source:** Pew Research Center, "A closer look at Jehovah's Witnesses living in the U.S." (April 26, 2016)
- **URL:** www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2016/04/26/a-closer-look-at-jehovahs-witnesses-living-in-the-u-s/
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — nationally recognized, nonpartisan research organization.

Claim: Two out of every three people raised as Jehovah's Witnesses no longer identify with the religion as adults (a 66 percent attrition rate).

- **Source:** Pew Research Center, "A closer look at Jehovah's Witnesses living in the U.S." (April 26, 2016)
- **URL:** www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2016/04/26/a-closer-look-at-jehovahs-witnesses-living-in-the-u-s/
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — nationally recognized, nonpartisan research organization.
- **Key quote:** "Among all U.S. adults who were raised as Jehovah's Witnesses, two-thirds (66%) no longer identify with the group."

Claim: 83 percent of Jehovah’s Witnesses say theirs is the one true faith leading to eternal life, compared with about 29 percent of U.S. Christians overall.

- **Source:** Pew Research Center, “A closer look at Jehovah’s Witnesses living in the U.S.” (April 26, 2016)
- **URL:** www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2016/04/26/a-closer-look-at-jehovahs-witnesses-living-in-the-u-s/
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — nationally recognized, nonpartisan research organization.
- **Key quote:** “most Jehovah’s Witnesses (83%) say their religion is the one true faith ... only about three-in-ten U.S. Christians (29%) believe this about their own religious faith.”

SECTION 3: What the Indifference Covered

Claim: In 2012, a California jury returned a \$28 million verdict in a case brought by Candace Conti, who was abused as a child in the mid-1990s by a member of her congregation.

- **Source:** *Conti v. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of New York*, California Court of Appeal (Case No. A136641, 2015)
- **URL:** law.justia.com/cases/california/court-of-appeal/2015/a136641.html
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — published appellate court opinion.

Claim: The jury held the local congregation and the Watchtower organization responsible alongside the abuser. On appeal the dollar figure was reduced, but the court affirmed that Watchtower could be held liable for failing to supervise the abuser during field service (the door-to-door ministry).

- **Source:** *Conti v. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of New York*, California Court of Appeal (Case No. A136641, 2015)
- **URL:** law.justia.com/cases/california/court-of-appeal/2015/a136641.html
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — published appellate court opinion. The court reversed the failure-to-warn theory but upheld liability on the failure-to-supervise theory tied to field service.

Claim: In 2015, the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse examined Jehovah’s Witnesses, using its legal power to compel internal documents the organization had never shown the public.

- **Source:** Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 29 (Jehovah’s Witnesses), public hearing July–August 2015
- **URL:** www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/case-studies/case-study-29-jehovahs-witnesses
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official Australian government commission of inquiry.

Claim: The organization’s own files recorded allegations of child sexual abuse against 1,006 members since 1950.

- **Source:** Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 29 — Findings Report (October 2016)
- **URL:** www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/file-list/Case%20Study%2029%20-%20Findings%20Report%20-%20Jehovahs%20Witnesses.pdf
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official government commission report.
- **Key quote:** “case files held by the organisation recording allegations of child sexual abuse made against 1,006 members of the organisation”

Claim: Those records related to at least 1,800 alleged victims of child sexual abuse.

- **Source:** Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 29 — Findings Report (October 2016)
- **URL:** www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/file-list/Case%20Study%2029%20-%20Findings%20Report%20-%20Jehovahs%20Witnesses.pdf
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official government commission report. The report notes the figure is a floor, as some records logged victim counts as “10+.”
- **Key quote:** “at least 1,800 alleged victims of child sexual abuse”

Claim: The Royal Commission found the organization’s general practice in Australia was not to report allegations of child sexual abuse to police or authorities unless required by law — a “serious failure” to protect children.

- **Source:** Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 29 — Findings Report (October 2016)
- **URL:** www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/file-list/Case%20Study%2029%20-%20Findings%20Report%20-%20Jehovahs%20Witnesses.pdf
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official government commission report.
- **Key quote:** “serious failure”

Claim: The Commission heard that an elder who had handled an abuse case destroyed his notes about it, and that by 2019 the organization was instructing elders in writing to destroy personal notes from their judicial hearings.

- **Source:** Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 29 (public hearings and report); reported by NPR and BBC News (July 2015)
- **URL:** www.npr.org/2015/07/27/426756849/australian-inquiry-finds-jehovahs-witnesses-mishandled-abuse-cases
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — government inquiry testimony, corroborated by contemporaneous reporting from NPR and BBC News.

SECTION 4: The Two-Witness Rule

Claim: By Watchtower’s own policy, when there is no confession, two witnesses are required to establish an accusation and authorize the elders to take judicial action — meaning a single child’s testimony is not enough.

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, Study Edition, May 2019, “Love and Justice in the Face of Wickedness,” paragraphs 15–16
- **URL:** www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-may-2019/love-justice-face-of-wickedness/
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official Watchtower publication, quoted verbatim.
- **Key quote:** “two witnesses ... establish the accusation and authorize the elders to take judicial action”

SECTION 5: The Sudden Softening

Claim: For more than a hundred years — since 1920 — every active Jehovah’s Witness was required to report time spent preaching each month. In late 2023, Governing Body member Samuel Herd announced at the annual meeting that regular publishers would no longer report their hours.

- **Source:** Associated Press, “Timekeepers no more, rank-and-file Jehovah’s Witnesses say goodbye to tracking proselytizing hours” (November 24, 2023)
- **URL:** apnews.com/article/jehovahs-witnesses-proselytizing-policy-change-2d1320da659a8a3dae4b136b55882e19
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — reporting from the Associated Press, a wire service of record.
- **Key quote:** “Our ministry involves much more than counting time”

Claim: Former members suspect the change came because reported preaching hours had been declining.

- **Source:** Associated Press, “Timekeepers no more ...” (November 24, 2023)
- **URL:** apnews.com/article/jehovahs-witnesses-proselytizing-policy-change-2d1320da659a8a3dae4b136b55882e19
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — the AP reports this as a suspicion expressed by former members, not as a confirmed fact. Presented in the video as exactly that.

Claim: In the August 2024 study edition of The Watchtower, the organization replaced “disfellowshipped” with “removed from the congregation” and “judicial committee” with “committee of elders” — while still instructing members not to “socialize” with the removed person.

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, Study Edition, August 2024, “Help for Those Who Are Removed From the Congregation”
- **URL:** www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-august-2024/Help-for-Those-Who-Are-Removed-From-the-Congregation/
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official Watchtower publication, quoted verbatim.
- **Key quote:** “we do not socialize with him”

Claim: Starting in 2022, Norway moved to pull Jehovah’s Witnesses’ state funding and legal registration over its shunning practice and treatment of former members, beginning roughly four years of litigation. In 2026, Norway’s Supreme Court ruled in the organization’s favor by a 3–2 majority.

- **Source:** Supreme Court of Norway (Høyesterett), *State v. Jehovah’s Witnesses*, decision of April 29, 2026 (HR-2026-1009-A)
- **URL:** religionclause.blogspot.com/2026/05/norways-supreme-court-upholds-jehovahs.html
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — ruling of the Supreme Court of Norway. The 3–2 split and the funding/registration dispute are documented in the court’s own press release (HR-2026-1009-A); the linked summary reproduces it.

SECTION 6: The First-Century Comparison

Claim: Jehovah’s Witnesses describe themselves as striving to adhere strictly to the practices of the first Christians.

- **Source:** *Awake!*, April 2007, “What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?”
- **URL:** www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/g200704/What-Does-It-Mean-to-Be-a-Christian/
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — official Watchtower publication, quoted verbatim.
- **Key quote:** “Jehovah’s Witnesses strive to adhere strictly to the precepts established by the first Christians”

Claim: Around the year 112, the Roman governor Pliny the Younger wrote to the Emperor Trajan describing how he interrogated and executed Christians who refused to recant, and called their refusal “stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy.” Some who denied being Christians were released.

- **Source:** Pliny the Younger, *Letters*, Book 10, Letter 96 (to Trajan), c. 112 CE
- **URL:** www.christianhistoryinstitute.org/study/module/pliny
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — surviving classical correspondence, widely published in translation.
- **Key quote:** “stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy”

SECTION 7: The Internet Contrast

Claim: For years Watchtower warned Jehovah’s Witnesses about the spiritual dangers of the internet and online material critical of the organization — while the organization now operates its own recruiting presence on platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

- **Source:** Watchtower’s internet cautions are documented in its own publications (e.g., *The Watchtower*, August 2018); the organization’s official social-media accounts are publicly visible under the “JW” / JW.org name.
- **URL:** www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-no3-2018/be-vigilant/
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — the warnings appear in official Watchtower publications, and the social-media accounts are publicly verifiable on the platforms themselves.

SECTION 8: Additional Supporting Sources

Pew Research Center — Religious Landscape Study

- **Source:** Pew Research Center
- **URL:** www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/jehovahs-witness/
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — nationally recognized research organization.
- **Contains:** Demographic data on Jehovah’s Witnesses in the United States, including the 0.8 percent figure and retention data.

BBC News — Coverage of the Australian Royal Commission findings

- **Source:** BBC News (July 2015)
- **URL:** www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-33673240
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — reputable international news organization.
- **Contains:** Contemporaneous reporting on the Commission’s findings, the 1,006 figure, and the destroyed-notes testimony.

Quotations from Watchtower publications are reproduced for the purpose of commentary, criticism, and news reporting. Court records and government reports are public documents. Where a claim reflects the creator’s interpretation rather than a documented fact, the video states so explicitly.