

Translated from
Norwegian by ChatGPT

31. oktober 2024

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Additional remarks regarding our letter of October 24 concerning adjustments in Jehovah's Witnesses' religious practices.

We refer to our letter dated October 24, 2024, regarding our doctrinal adjustments concerning the removal of an individual from the congregation. We have now received an expert assessment relevant to our adjusted religious practice concerning minors. We wish to forward it to you for your consideration of our request in our letter dated October 24, 2024.

The report, attached herewith, is titled « *The child as a subject of rights, autonomy, protection against violence, discrimination, religions and sanctions, and common sense.* »* It addresses, among other things, children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, religious sanctions in general, and their impact on minors and young people. The report was authored by Professor Jean Zermatten, an expert in children's rights, in collaboration with Professor Dr. Roberta Ruggiero. Professor Zermatten is a former member (2005–2013) and president (2011–2013) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The report concludes that Jehovah's Witnesses' relevant religious practices are consistent with and protected by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The conclusion is based, among other factors, on the following: The religious practice does not involve rejection or isolation of a minor (p. 13). The practice of removing someone from the congregation is not extraordinary and resembles comparable practices in other religions (p. 19). The practice of removal can have a positive impact on a minor's life by teaching them to handle real-life situations and take responsibility for their actions (p. 14). The report emphasizes the importance of support and dialogue when implementing religious practices (p. 13), which aligns with the points highlighted in our letter of October 24.

Based on the findings presented in the attached report, we maintain our request from our letter dated October 24, 2024, that you reconsider your decision regarding Jehovah's Witnesses' right to public funding and registration as a religious community under the Religious Communities Act. Since this serves as an addition to what was mentioned in our previous letter, we reiterate our request to receive a response by November 14, 2024.

As mentioned previously, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, including those regarding our religious practices.

31. oktober 2024
Side 2

Med vennlig hilsen

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jørgen Pedersen', written over a horizontal line.

Jørgen Pedersen
Styreformann

Jehovas vitner