

WATCHTOWER VICTIMS MEMORIAL DAY

JULY 26

Tens of thousands of former and current Jehovah's Witnesses have lost their lives or have sacrificed their family, their health, and their emotional well-being due to the harmful policies of this religion. Some have refused lifesaving blood transfusions, while others are completely shunned by their family for simply leaving the religion, including young ones.

Still others must endure horrific violence on a daily basis, as women are encouraged to stay with abusive men in the hopes of converting them, and child sex assault victims must produce a second witness to their attack before their accusations are heard. Rape victims may face severe shunning for "fornication," and child abuse in the form of extreme discipline is often encouraged.

July 26 marks our annual Watchtower Victims Memorial Day. On this day, people from around the world are invited to leave a flower and card or another small memorial at a local Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. It is encouraged to take a picture or make a video of the memorial to post on the official Facebook page, and to include the website address so that others may learn this day's meaning.

For those who must remain anonymous or who do not wish to visit a Kingdom Hall, a memorial might be left in a public park. Participation should be in any way that is comfortable for each individual.

This event is not limited to former Jehovah's Witnesses, but is an opportunity for anyone who opposes their practices and policies to show support and solidarity for their victims.

ON PEDOPHILIA:

"It cannot be said in every case that one who has sexually abused a child could never qualify for privileges of service in the congregation."

**Letter to All Elders
October 1, 2012**

ON RAPE:

"Treat him respectfully... Remember that the rapist is a human. No doubt there are circumstances in his life that have precipitated his behavior... she should treat him understandingly..."

**Awake!
February 22, 1984**

ON SHUNNING:

"Do not look for excuses to associate with a disfellowshipped [excommunicated] family member, for example, through e-mail."

**Watchtower
January 15, 2013**

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