

**Submission
No 10**

**INQUIRY INTO THE RECRUITMENT METHODS AND IMPACTS OF
CULTS AND ORGANISED FRINGE GROUPS**

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Date Received: 2 May 2025

Submission Text: My name is Lisa Pinson,

I was born into the Jehovah's Witness religion, and my parents raised my 3 older siblings and I as Jehovah's Witness. Since I knew no other religion, I remember not being able to have friends at school and only having friends that were in the congregations, being bullied at school by kids and the teachers because "Of Your Religion", and couldn't understand why we had to stand proud when we got persecuted, I struggled through school and college but things started to get bad when I got to 18 when my older sister got disfellowshipped and dad cut her off completely and when he found out I had written a letter to her he went off at me and I yelled back for the first time in ever and said she's been in my life for 18 years, and I'm not going to pretend she's dead. I left at 18 disassociated myself, only to be unprepared for a different world and people that I couldn't trust as I was sooo naive that I could be used and abused as I was TOO nice to everyone, not knowing what some people could be like. I was shunned by my family and friends so had no one to talk to. I eventually went back home as I was pregnant and ready to go back to the Organisation as I hadn't any friends and I missed my family who were still in the religion. I was 21, I started looking for a man in the organisation that I could court in the purpose of marriage, as that was my lot in life, find a partner, get married, raise kids and look after my husband and family and keep house. That was it. I got disfellowshipped again in my 30s for smoking, but still believed in Armageddon and that if I wasn't a Witness I'm going to die and not make it into paradise to see both sets of my grandparents again. I woke up fully when it was my father's funeral and my two girls who had come with me and I were listening to the brother talking about my dad and he brought up a scripture, and I grabbed my mother's old bible the green hard covered bible and looked up the scripture and what I was reading wasn't what the brother was reading, and I questioned mum about it and she said oh it's a new understanding that bible is outdated now and I said it was not a new understanding it was a scripture completely changed all the words were totally different all together. That shocked me as I would always say that our bible was never changed, so I started delving into YouTube, I was close to 50 when I started searching up C.S.A cases that had been mentioned to me, we had been taught all social media and internet were part of Satan's System so it was my first time having a look at an "Apostate" as they call everyone who leaves, video, he was an elder and a special pioneer, so I thought I'll only look at it and if he says anything bad that I know is wrong I'll turn it off as I was wondering why an elder would leave and become an apostate, I watched the whole video to realise he was just like me, and I ended up going down a rabbit hole and realising that everyone is labeled an apostate so that the members who are still in can justify shunning them.

My brother who is 7 years older than me, told me (when I was helping sort out some stuff

for my mum when dad had passed)Lisa I love you you are my sister and I'll always love you but I love Jehovah more", then he tried to get my mum to tell me to go home back to the South Island , but my mother stood firm and told them off, they made her life hell for the last 3 weeks of her life and she died 3 weeks and 4 days from a massive stroke the night before we were leaving to go home.

I lost both my parent in October/November 2022.

Our beautiful close knit family were ripped apart because of disfellowshipping and shunning. I've told my brother I'm not an apostate but I will never set foot in a Kingdom Hall again because of how they don't report predators to the police and how they discourage members to report it as "It brings reproach on Jehovah's name". He is still an elder and his wife and my niece and nephew and their family's are too and I don't get to talk to any of them. We are shunned , my three girls aged 31,20&17 are shunned my granddaughter who is 3 is shunned. It ruined my life , I'm now coming up to 52 . My Doctor has agreed with me that I have CPTSD, RTS syndrome, ADHD , Anxiety. But to get tested and diagnosed for these are sooo hard for adults and soooo expensive that I can't get a diagnosis or help with counseling. So now I am lost as I don't know what to believe in anymore in regards to religion, I've found out I have been lied to my entire life and still believed it all till my parents both passed and I don't have them to talk to about it all, I feel robbed of not being able to grieve for family members that had passed as we were told it's ok we will see them in the resurrection. So when my parents died I have been grieving for them and all the others who I will never see again.

This religion is a doomsday cult, once you're in you're in , if you leave you're shunned , no matter what the Jehovah's Witnesses say about how they don't shun anymore is complete and utter bull crap! As they label you apostate and then never have to talk to you again , and this "oh we can talk to them now" is bull crap, as they are only allowed to say hi nice to see you at the meeting or invite them to the meeting , they are not allowed to associate with them or have them over for a meal if they are in need like Jesus did. They then cry persecution when they get de-registered and the government say enough is enough and start to look in to this religion, they have said that they are being persecuted "legally " that's how Satan is coming after us.

I have not ever been able to hold down a job , I suffer so much and can't get help. This is a cult, it needs to be stopped . The fear and control needs to stop, the mind control needs to stop , the abuse to children needs to stop.

They ripped our beautiful family apart because of what those “Not Inspired By God” men in New York told them what to do.

I will never ever ever go back to that cult. Thank you for reading this , I hope this cult is exposed for what it is