

**Submission
No 16**

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

Name: Pawel Swiergiel

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Submission to the Parliament of Victoria's COFG Inquiry

Name: Pawel Swiergiel, [REDACTED]

Personal testimony:

My name is Pawel Swiergiel. I live in Poland. I was a Jehovah's Witness for 33 years. I was disfellowshipped in 2024. The reason for it was I did not agree with the current teaching of Jehovah's Witnesses. It cost me my whole family. And I mean it. My mother and father stopped associate with me completely. My sister as well. They now try to kick me out of my family home that I lived in for my entire life. Not to mention I have 2 years old son and I run a small company that I build under address I live. If they complete their intent I will be without work. My wife also runs this bussiness with me, so it is additional problem for me. Ostracism is a very powerful weapon. There are hundreds of Jehovah's Witnesses I am aware of in Poland who suffer terribly because of ostracism. And many more who are stuck in this organization, as they are afraid of leaving having perspective of losing relatives (especially kids or parents). I cannot appear before committee in person as I live in Poland. But if needed I can give my testimony over the phone. Please be aware though, that English is my second language and it is not fluent.

Additional information: I run a ex JW YouTube channel where I talk about Jehovah's Witnesses and I try to help those who leave. It is in Polish language: <https://www.youtube.com/@RegieWipesWall>

Yours sincerely

Pawel Swiergiel