

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

**Name:** Name withheld

**Date Received:** 22 July 2025

Name  
withheld

**Submission Text:** I grew up one of Jehovah's Witnesses and am a baptized member for 28 years now and am currently a member.

My concerns are many, from shunning especially within families which still takes place despite recent changes, to the many aspects of control in an individuals life.

My purpose for this submission is for the committee to take this one point:

If a active member of the congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses has examined the Bible and feels their Bible trained conscience allows them to accept a BLOOD TRANSFUSION the individual will be required to make a decision: Accept blood for the best possible medical outcome but risk being, not removed, but disassociated by a committee of Elders and shunned by family and friends permanently unless you say you are sorry for basically saving your life. Or the second option refuse blood and hope to survive gaining the approval of congregation members as well as your family and avoid being shunned, again if you survive. This is not right! The organization is able to say they dont remove aka disfellowship an individual for accepting blood but what you dont know is the organization uses the loophole stating by accepting a blood transfusion the member disassociated him or herself. No one should be FORCED TO LOOSE his or her family and social structure and in some cases employment if employeed by a fellow witness of Jehovah just because they decided to accept medical treatment in the form of a blood transfusion! Please this point is very important to the welfare of all communities in the world and medical treatment is a global right! No religion should force one to choose a corporate doctrine over there life.