

Statements by Lloyd Evans inciting religious hatred against Jehovah's Witnesses

on YouTube and Twitter

I. Statements¹ "downplaying" the Holocaust and other acts of persecution; "vehement" and "sweeping statements" against a religious group²

"And this is again where lots of Jehovah's Witnesses would say, 'oh well that's God's command,' as William Malenfant [a representative of the World Headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses] was saying, God is good ... Incidentally, God is good is another way of saying God is great and God is great is 'Allahu Akbar', I think is what, is what Muslims say including, and I, I know not all Muslims are terrorists, but that's what terrorists scream just as they are about to plow a vehicle into a crowd or just as they're about to blow themselves up." (00:28:00)

19 August, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNRTXsdilzc> [10 Ways You Are Worse of as a Jehovah's Witness]

See also: 5 March 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klG8qA3YX-Y> (00:07:00) [Taking on Tony V]

"I sometimes wonder if Hitler had the right idea and Jehovah's Witnesses should have been gassed."³ Those poor kids would not have been put through this as a result." (02:32:43), comment on Lloyd Evans' YouTube channel by user "Places to Visit in North Yorkshire"⁴

28 October 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9zQcwE-20Y> [Reviewing the 'Shepherd' Book (2/3) with Mark O'Donnell – Child Abuse Chapter]

"... [Jehovah's Witnesses say] we are the ones who have God on our side, not the Nazi officers who were carrying out the Holocaust and that sort of thing. It's, it's just ridiculous, quite frankly. But, also they have this revelling in persecution. I have said before, I call it persecution porn. They seem to love the idea of Witnesses getting persecuted." (00:36:00) "Now I do just also want to fact check Gerrit Lösch because he says at one point that 2,000 Jehovah's Witnesses were murdered under the Nazi regime ... I don't know what figures Gerrit Lösch is referring to ... but there weren't 2,000 casualties. It was actually 1,200. So 1,200 is still a big number, but it's not 2,000 and I am curious to know why Gerrit Lösch is exaggerating that number. But it was actually 1,200, and of those 1,200, it was 250

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all statements cited herein were made by Lloyd Evans

² *R v. Bonehill-Paine (Joshua)* [2016] EWCA Crim 980 at [2], [24]; see following judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR): *Pastörs v. Germany*, no. 55225/14, §§ 36-37, 43 and 46, 3 October 2019; *Williamson v. Germany* (dec.), no. 64496/17, §§ 20 and 26, 8 January 2019; and *Perinçek v. Switzerland* [GC], no. 27510/08, §§ 15, 206, 209-210 and 212, 15 October 2015; *Norwood v. the United Kingdom*, no. 23131/03, 16 November 2004, p. 4, amongst others

³ In *R. v. Bonehill-Paine (Joshua)*, [2016] EWCA Crim 980, the Court of Appeal upheld a sentence of 3 years four months for hate speech. The defendant had posted statements which encouraged persons to attend an "Anti-Jewification event" which he said *inter alia* would be "an absolute gas", in obvious reference to the gas chambers used by the Nazis. See also *R. v. David Bitton* [2019] EWCA Crim 1372, at [18] to [21].

⁴ In *R. v. Sheppard and another* [2010] EWCA Crim 65, the Court of Appeal upheld criminal convictions for hate speech against the owner of an Internet website and another for uploading material which minimised the Holocaust and contained racially inflammatory material. In *Delfi AS v. Estonia* [GC], no. 64569/09, §§ 18, 114, 115, 16 June 2015 the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights held that the owner of a website is legally responsible for user comments containing hate speech.

Witnesses were outright executed for being Witnesses. The rest died in concentration camps, in custody through maltreatment. So that's the true number: 1,200. Don't let Gerrit Lösch convince you otherwise."⁵ (00:38:00)

29 November 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6N98wMQo1I> [My Thoughts on JW Broadcasting – November 2019]

"What is interesting, is that Hitler's obsession with Jehovah's Witnesses – it could be argued that in, to a large extent it was fuelled by the actions of Watchtower's president, Joseph Rutherford ... So in other words rather than telling Witnesses to hunker down and sit it out and, you know, don't worry, this will hopefully pass, but maintain your faith between yourselves, he urged them to distribute material criticising Hitler and criticising the Nazis in German occupied Europe."⁶ (00:11:00) " ... bottom-line: Jehovah's Witnesses, whether they will admit it or not, they love to be persecuted" (00:57:00)

14 June 2018, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prf_2nZcaRg ["Be Courageous"! Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses – Friday (rebuttal)]

"... it's not inconceivable that someone who is cut off from that constant flow of propaganda and indoctrination could figure it out, and realise – 'Oh, hold on. I'm being exploited here.' And make no mistake, that's exactly the word that describes how they are using this guy [Dennis Christiansen, currently imprisoned in Russia for six years for practicing his faith] who is rotting in a Russian prison cell, purely because he got roped into the wrong cult ... Well, all Jehovah's Witnesses, including those in the audience clapping along like seals to this clear example of exploitation, and jumping on scary or tragic events: they are all being used as instruments of Watchtower, they just don't know it" (02:03:00) "Remind Witnesses that they are a persecuted minority, make them fearful. Remind them of the bogeyman under the bed..."⁷ And we saw all of those things in Stephen Lett's talk with a little bit of craziness, or not a little bit, a lot of craziness and delusion thrown in." (02:16:00)

28 July 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohLcwUefi_E [My Thoughts on "Love Never Fails"! Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses – Sunday]

⁵ The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum states that Jehovah's Witnesses "were subjected to intense persecution under the Nazi regime" for the exercise of their faith. "By 1939, an estimated 6,000 [Jehovah's] Witnesses were detained in prisons or camps ... An estimated 1,000 German Jehovah's Witnesses died in concentration camps and prisons during the Nazi era, as did 400 Witnesses from other countries ... In addition, about 250 German Jehovah's Witnesses were executed—mostly after being tried and convicted by military tribunals—for refusing to serve in the German military". These are minimum estimates. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/nazi-persecution-of-jehovahs-witnesses> (accessed 3 February 2020)

⁶ In *R. v. Sheppard and another* [2010] EWCA Crim 65, the defendant was convicted and imprisoned for *inter alia* publication of a book which "cast doubt on the existence of the Holocaust" and "suggested that the Jewish people had a history of inventing stories of the commission of atrocities against them". Mr Evans' hate filled statements are at least as serious, alleging that Jehovah's Witnesses are to "a large extent" responsible for the barbaric acts committed on them by the Nazis.

⁷ As in *R. v. Sheppard and another* (where the defendants were criminally convicted of alleging that Jewish people exaggerated or invented stories of atrocities against them), this is a clear example of hate speech in which Mr Evans accuses Jehovah's Witnesses of exaggerating and even wanting the persecution inflicted on them by the Russian Federation (referring to it as the "bogeyman under the bed") and that Jehovah's Witnesses "crave" persecution to such an extent that it is for them "persecution porn" (see section III below for examples of this hate filled speech).

“These are the depths to which the Governing Body will sink in their efforts to force home their agenda of creating this this, this dumbed down, subservient base of followers who aren't able to think for themselves,⁸ who are entirely dependent on them for their decision-making. (00:14:00)

6 May 2018, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-Oc0_vlHpM [A Close Look at Lösch: Canada Branch Visit]

“It's all complete silliness and nonsense, and verbal flatulence ... Nobody [individual Jehovah's Witnesses], you know, seems to put two and two together and I think it's, em, a really, a really troubling aspect of cult mind control that it's able to completely bypass this normal, eh, human tendency to be sceptical.”(00:11:00)

4 July 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liNWeGUh6qU> [Taking on Tony II: The 2015 Regional Convention]

“Of course, one very fitting apology that nearly all JW parents could offer their children would be to say sorry for insisting that they spend the rest of their lives following a cult, just because this makes them feel better about similarly wasting years or even decades of their own lives.” (01:18:00)

26 August 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5j25MyDQw7U> [My “Don't Give Up”! Convention Review – Part 2 (Saturday)]

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⁸ This is a gross, hate filled attack on the nearly 9,000,000 Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide, accusing them of being “dumb”, “subservient”, and unable to think for themselves. The Grand Chamber of the ECtHR has concluded that such expressions are unacceptable, particularly when directed to persons in their private capacity or which target an entire group; see *Janowski v. Poland* [GC], no. 25716/94, §32, 21 January 1999