

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=kIG8qA3YX-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

II. Other examples of sweeping and vehement attacks on Jehovah’s Witnesses

a. Attacks against the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses

“The more people know what you look like [Governing Body member Anthony Morris], and especially if you're making a name for yourself as an arrogant, pig-headed, small-minded, homophobic asshole”.⁹ (14:00)

1 April 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bbuNsxWkDo> [Bottlegate]

“... it's, you know, more or less certain that the guy [Governing Body member Anthony Morris] became a Witness because of his PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder]. We are being subjected to this nonsense right now, because a Vietnam War veteran, I won't call him a war hero, a war veteran, couldn't get over what he saw in Vietnam, and thought that the paradise promised by Watchtower was the fix-all, the panaceas ... this is nothing more than a group of men who are themselves deluded controlling others.” (00:29:00)

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

See also: 21 July 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJcEq91Ffuk> (01:27:00) [10 Ridiculous Jehovah’s Witness Beliefs]

“[Governing Body member Stephen Lett] is a parasite. He's obsessed with getting hold of these young ones or having some kind of say, or some kind of input in the way young people are raised so that he and his colleagues can benefit, so that they can replenish their stock of followers (01:48:00) ... this man is just a leech ... All Stephen Lett can think about is: ... our future army of cult recruiters.”(01:58:00)

7 July 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89wUjmsVj-M> [My Thoughts on “Love Never Fails”! Convention of Jehovah’s Witnesses – Saturday]

“[Governing Body member] David Splane writes himself into this story ... All you've admitted is that you were a sneering pompous ass then just as you are a sneering pompous ass now.” (00:46:00) “I can only imagine that he gets off on this ... he's just coming across as an incredibly self-important, smarmy, arrogant, conceited prick ... I mean this is mental masturbation of the most stultifying kind.” (01:31:00)

9 October 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuuwQWZs-eU> [My Thoughts on JW Broadcasting – September 2019]

b. Attacks against all Jehovah’s Witnesses, including parents

“They need to make people keep going to meetings [religious services] week in week out so that eventually, even though it's nonsense, it will stick. This is what indoctrination is all about. This is what makes indoctrination different from learning.” (01:13:00)

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

⁹ The Grand Chamber of the ECtHR has held that despicable, vulgar, and profane expressions such as these are “tantamount to an incitement of hatred”; see *Delfi AS v. Estonia* [GC], no. 64569/09, §§ 18, 114, 115, 16 June 2015

“Just astonishing the way the organisation overtly asks for kids. We want, we want your kids. We want to ensure our survival as an organization. That means bringing in new blood. So please spit out babies for us and indoctrinate those children to be our followers if you don't mind, because we need more followers.” (00:30:00)

22 April, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixagkUF5y1o> [My Thoughts on JW Broadcasting – April 2019]

see also 4 July 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liNWeGUh6qU> at 00:59:00 [Taking on Tony II: The 2015 Regional Convention]

“... look at the judgmental, nonsensical babble that starts spewing out of their mouths when they get an audience who they know will lap up with their every word and clap at everything regardless of how outrageous it is.” (02:07:00)

18 January 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCN1w9-i3Ug> [Taking On Tony IV]

“I find just, just grotesque in the way it celebrates the hijacking of the grieving process by Jehovah's Witnesses and the fact that they promise people that they can see that their dead loved ones again if they will only outsource their thinking to the faithful slave to the Governing Body and accept their authority over them ... shown an emotionally manipulative piece of video propaganda that is celebrating again this process of lying to people about their dead loved ones and saying you'll see them again if you become a Jehovah's Witness”. (00:03:00)

22 July 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1VxaAAgp0M> [“Be Courageous”! Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses – Sunday (rebuttal)]

See also: 17 July 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnzfKFyioSY> at 00:18:00 [My “Don't Give Up”! Convention Review – Part 1 (Friday)]

“It could be, which I think is more likely, that Witnesses were under the false assumption that they would receive divine protection if they sheltered in a Kingdom Halls. That to me looks like the reason why 33 Witnesses died [in Super Typhoon Haiyan] ... When is the Governing Body going to explain why so many Witnesses died? But, there is no thought at all being given to that. All they are interested in is covering the story and putting a positive spin on the tragedy ... We see a disproportionate number of Witnesses dying because they hide in Kingdom Halls. They think they can shelter in Kingdom Halls ... and with Cheryl you have a girl who's lost her family very likely because of Watchtower negligence.”¹⁰ (00:27:00)

5 January 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oSeDIJR34k> [My thoughts on JW Broadcasting 14, with Mark Sanderson (tv.jw.org) – Cedars' vlog no. 102]

¹⁰ This is a grossly offensive and entirely false allegation, which blames the victims' faith for their death. Typhoon Haiyan was the most powerful tropical cyclone ever recorded, killing more than 6,300 persons. That catastrophic loss of life was due to the 13 foot storm surge, the dense population in Tacloban, and the fact that many buildings where people sheltered could not withstand the unexpected strength of the storm (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/capital-weather-gang/wp/2013/11/11/inside-the-staggering-death-toll-from-haiyan-and-other-southeast-asia-typhoons/> (accessed 3 February 2020).

III. Minimising other gross acts of State persecution

“... I would argue that the propaganda value of Witnesses being oppressed and persecuted outweighs any financial hit that the organisation takes because a few buildings [all places of worship throughout Russia] have been impounded.¹¹ Watchtower needs these stories and needs these narratives for its theology to make sense.” (01:08:45)

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

“... Watchtower [is] revelling in the fact that there are certain governmental regimes that are against Jehovah's Witnesses. Well not just Jehovah's Witnesses, as it turns out, especially in the case of Russia, but other fringe groups that the authorities find it difficult to control, because Jehovah's Witnesses are neutral politically and take their orders from New York. You can understand why something like that would get on the nerves of a leader like Putin.” (02:21:20)

22 July 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1VxaAaGp0M> [“Be Courageous”! Convention of Jehovah’s Witnesses – Sunday (rebuttal)]

“A spokesperson for the Jehovah's Witnesses, said Tuesday that investigators in the Siberian city of Surgut had stripped, suffocated, doused with water and applied stun guns on at least seven believers detained on extremism charges days after criminal cases were reportedly initiated against 19 Jehovah's Witnesses following mass raids. The agents stripped the men naked, put a bag over each suspects head and wrapped it with tape. Agents then tied each suspects hands behind his back, smashed his fingers and beat him on his neck, feet and kidney ... this plays directly into the Governing Body’s hands. I mean seriously, if you are Stephen Lett, Tony Morris, Mark Sanderson and Geoffrey Jackson. I think it's unreasonable to say they're ‘rubbing their hands’, but this is furnishing those men with decades worth of persecution porn.” (00:01:50; 00:08:40)

20 February, 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hP5_eO7KehU [Jehovah’s Witnesses in Russia Are Being Tortured]

“So what we have here is yet more persecution porn. This shows perfectly how Watchtower leaps on persecution and craves it” (01:29:05) “... Nikolai ... is talking about being unfairly detained for 10 days during which time he was mistreated, he wasn't fed enough, he was threatened, there were fellow detainees being beaten up ... and he's got this massive smile

¹¹ This is grossly offensive and minimizes the severe persecution Jehovah’s Witnesses are facing in Russia. On 20 April 2017 the Supreme Court of Russia banned Jehovah’s Witnesses country wide and ordered the State seizure of all of their consecrated places of worship. No other religious community has faced a similar nation-wide ban. As in the Soviet era, it is now a criminal act for Jehovah’s Witnesses to meet for worship, read their religious literature, or in any other way practice their faith.

As of 31 January 2020, **more than 305** Jehovah’s Witnesses have been charged under Article 282.2(1) and/or 282.2(2) of the Criminal Code, which carries a sentence of up to 10 years imprisonment. Dozens are being held in pre-trial detention. There have been **more than 811 separate police raids** on the homes of Jehovah’s Witnesses (see jw-russia.org). The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has concluded that Jehovah’s Witnesses in Russia are the victims of “**systemic and institutionalized persecution**” (Opinion No. 11/2019 concerning Dmitry Mikhaylov, para 74, A/HRC/WGAD/2019, 26 April 2019; Opinion No. 34/2019 concerning Vladimir Alushkin, para. 65, A/HRC/WGAD/2019/34, 27 September 2019), as has the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Committee of Ministers, Council of Europe, Decision CM/Del/Dec(2019)1355/H46-19, 25 September 2019).

on his face. Frankly this is showing, at least in one instance, a Jehovah's Witness loving the fact that he was persecuted." (01:44:05)

13 June 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTysL1beSGA> ["Be Courageous"! Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses – Saturday (rebuttal)]

"Again you have this obsession with raking over stories from yesteryear that relate to persecution,¹² or as I've started calling it, persecution porn, to remind Witnesses that the organization is being oppressed". (00:03:15)

10 November 2018, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe_72tBi7L8 [My thoughts on JW Broadcasting 47 – November 2018]

"Quite simply Watchtower has been willing to see hundreds of men go for, I think, up to two years in jail simply because they don't want Jehovah's Witnesses doing anything that even mimics going to war. They take seriously the scripture in Isaiah that says they shall not learn war anymore, and they say, well, therefore you can't even do the basic training, you can't even learn how to assemble and clean a weapon, you can't crawl through mud on these assault courses, because that means you're learning how to do war. Just through sheer stubbornness they are willing to see generations, I mean in this video we're seeing men in the 1970s – think of all the men not just in Korea but in other countries as well – who've languished in jail cells as Jehovah's Witnesses simply because of Watchtowers obsessive approach to this issue.¹³ That's the side of the story that you're simply not going to hear in these JW broadcasting propaganda pieces." (00:49:28)

10 November 2018, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe_72tBi7L8 [My thoughts on JW Broadcasting 47 – November 2018]

"While in one country Watchtower was quite happy to see Jehovah's Witnesses being beaten and even raped over the issue of Christian neutrality, in another country, you could argue closer to home in Mexico - they were quite happy for Jehovah's Witnesses to completely ignore Christian neutrality by bribing officials." (00:33:15)

31 March 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYyJYSEPxVo> [My thoughts on JW Broadcasting – March 2019]

¹² It is grossly offensive to describe as "persecution porn" the fact that Jehovah's Witnesses honour and remember victims of persecution, including those who spent decades of their lives imprisoned and maltreated by Soviet authorities. As in *R v. Sheppard and another* [2010] EWCA Crim 65, this is tantamount to suggesting that Jehovah's Witnesses invent or exaggerate "stories of the commission of atrocities against them", although that persecution is universally accepted as a historical fact.

¹³ This hate speech minimises the persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses in Korea which resulted in thousands being imprisoned for up to two years for their refusal to join the army because of their sincerely held religious conscience. The right to conscientious objection to military service is a universally recognised human right, repeatedly affirmed by the European Court of Human Rights (*Bayatyan v. Armenia* [GC] no. 23459/03, §§ 111, 123-126, 7 July 2011), by the United Nations Human Rights Committee (*Atasoy and Sarkut v. Turkey*, communication Nos. 1853/2008 and 1854/2008, 29 March 2020, paras. 10-1 to 10.4), by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (Opinion No. 40/2018, concerning Jeony-in Shin and Seung-hyeon Baek, at para 43-49, A/HRC/WGAD/2018/40, 17 September 2018), and which has now been recognised by the Constitutional Court of Korea and the Supreme Court of Korea (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/01/world/asia/south-korea-conscientious-objectors.html> (accessed 3 February 2020)).

IV. Sweeping statements accusing Jehovah's Witnesses of serious crimes¹⁴

"Many pedophile want to know were [sic] is the application to become a clergymen in the JW ... Please respond quickly there [sic] zealous and willing"¹⁵ (comment by Michael Provost)

"There are children being molested now, thanks to him [Governing Body member Anthony Morris] and his colleagues". (00:16:10)

1 April 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bbuNsxWkDo> [Bottlegate]

"You know straight away that [child abuse among Jehovah's Witnesses] is an epidemic; it is rampant throughout the organization." (00:48:15)

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

"Well who in Montana [the Supreme Court] is getting kickbacks from Watchtower? Corruption going on there for sure" (comment by rOb C.; see comment by Peter Brooks)

10 January 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CY0aeF3BkTE> [Montana Reversed – Episode 30 – Watchtower in Focus]

"Almost certainly what is happening is that Watchtower is taking a large cut on the amount of money that the delegates are coughing up in order to attend these special events where they get to rub shoulders potentially with the governing body members. So it is a little bit of a racket quite frankly."¹⁶ (00:16:05)

11 July 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCLub_kBCSE [Dancing for Jehovah]

"I'm not gonna mince my words here. What David Gnam has just said to the Canadian Supreme Court in his official capacity as a lawyer is an outright lie David Gnam uses evasion by talking about the fact that disfellowshipped people can attend meetings." (00:09:30) "Ari also employs theocratic warfare strategy in this interview by telling an outright lie, when he says that Watchtower publications have repeatedly told parents or victims to go to the authorities. This apparently, if you look up child abuse or child molestation in the magazines or in the literature - you are going to find apparently articles or pages that tell victims to go to the police ... when it just doesn't." (00:28:25; 00:32.05)

25 June 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vjcymocd> [Lying for Jehovah]

¹⁴ *Perinçek v. Switzerland* [GC], cited above, § 206; *Delfi AS v. Estonia* [GC], no. 64569/09, § 136, 16 June 2015; *Ivanov v. Russia* (dec.), no. 35222/04, 20 February 2007; and *Norwood v. the United Kingdom*, no. 23131/03, 16 November 2004, p. 4.

¹⁵ It is clearly hate speech to state or imply that Jehovah's Witnesses as a religion harbour or welcome persons who commit child sexual abuse, or that children are "being" molested as a result of their religious beliefs and practices; see *mutatis mutandis* ECtHR judgments *E.S. v. Austria*, no. 38450/12, §§ 14, 43, 55 and 57, 25 October 2018; *İ.A. v. Turkey*, no. 42571/98, § 29, ECHR 2005-VIII

¹⁶ The Grand Chamber of the ECtHR has also held that the use of "virulent terms", which falsely accuse an individual or organisation of the criminal offence of running a scam or of bribery, violate Article 10(2) of the Convention; see *Campana and Mazare v. Romania* [GC], no. 33348/96, §§ 97, 100, 110, 120, 17 December 2004 (the ECtHR went on to find based on the facts of that case that a prison sentence was disproportionate)

V. Profane and offensive statements about God, Jesus, and the Bible¹⁷

“I am Jesus Christ’ - a real game about a wizard who fucks around with magic in 1st Century Palestine before vanishing as part of an elaborate plan that involves ridding the world of suffering by tolerating it for millennia.”

7 December 2019, 3.02 p.m., Lloyd Evans, <https://twitter.com/cedarsjwsurvey>

“Apparently it slipped God's mind to instruct humans not to rape children when he was giving them his 10 Commandments.” (01:09:40)

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

“... it's wrong to train children to believe that these [Bible] accounts really happened ... Of course there is zero evidence to support this myth, which is also the case with pretty much all the stories described in the first five books of the Bible, otherwise known as the Pentateuch. (02:32:40; 02:34:15)

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

“... [the Bible is] a man-made book full of human wisdom; full of contradictions; full of terrible morals; and full of chilling stories.” (01:40:50)

9 October 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuuwQWZs-eU> [My Thoughts on JW Broadcasting – September 2019]

“Prayer to any God is essentially an exercise of talking to yourself ...” (00:08:00)

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

“The point is, is that it simply cannot be said that every word that fell out of the mouth of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament was good. Some of it was just downright silly.” (00:20:40)

31 March, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYyJYSEPxVo> [My thoughts on JW Broadcasting – March 2019]

“A lot of the teachings that are central to Christianity didn't come from Jesus and didn't come from the apostles. You have to read on to the writings of the apostle Paul before you get to all that nonsense.” (00:32:25) “I mean, isn't God supposed to be omnipotent? ... Why, why is he so terrible at multitasking, apparently? Why does he need so many people working for him, like some kind of Mafia boss?” (00:49:20)

3 August 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEDTQX7> [My thoughts on JW Broadcasting 34 – July 2017]

¹⁷ The European Convention on Human Rights, Articles 9 and 10(2), prohibits expressions that are “in regards to objects of veneration [are] gratuitously offensive to others and profane” and statements that incite “religious intolerance”. See the following ECtHR judgments: *Tagiyev and Huseynov v. Azerbaijan*, no. 13274/08, § 37, 5 December 2019; *E.S. v. Austria*, no. 38450/12, § 43, 25 October 2018; *Klein v. Slovakia*, no. 72208/01, § 47, 31 October 2006; *Murphy v. Ireland*, no. 44179/98, §65, 10 July 2013; *Gough v. the United Kingdom*, no. 49327/11, § 167, 28 October 2014, amongst others