

**Help us do something about  
Watchtower's most damaging policies...**

- Shunning of former believers
- Mishandling of child abuse
- Mishandling of domestic abuse
- Stigmatization of higher education
- Ban on certain blood treatments

The world must know about these harmful policies before we can begin to think about seeing an end to them.

Please visit

***www.AAWA.co***

***Thank you for  
your support!***



Advocates for Awareness of  
Watchtower Abuses

***Jehovah's  
Witnesses &  
Child Abuse***

## ***Do Jehovah's Witnesses have a problem with child abuse?***

Yes! This was highlighted in June 2012 when a court in California found the Watch Tower Society legally responsible for the abuse inflicted on Candace Conti during the mid 90s by a member of her congregation. She was only nine years old at the time. Watchtower was ordered to pay \$21 million in punitive damages (later reduced on appeal). The case is currently going through an appeal phase, but Candace's story underlines how damaging Watchtower policies are in leaving young children vulnerable to pedophiles.

## ***Why are the policies so harmful?***

The leaders of Jehovah's Witnesses, the Watch Tower Society, believe that unless two people witness something – it didn't happen. Watchtower believes that this "two witness rule" should be applied to all acts of wrongdoing – even the sexual abuse of a child. This is despite the fact that there is virtually never a second person around to witness a child being molested.

Page 72 of the official guidebook for Witness elders states that, if the accused denies the charges and there is no one else who witnessed the incident, elders should "leave matters in Jehovah's hands." Guidelines to elders also stipulate that they should make sure Watchtower's Branch Office is the first to be informed of any abuse allegations rather than the police. Only the Branch Office is to decide whether elders can go on to report the allegations to the authorities, or warn other parents. Such neglectful policies allow a multitude of potential loopholes for determined pedophiles to prey on children without hindrance.

## ***What does this have to do with me?***

If you are a Jehovah's Witness, or have friends or relatives who are Witnesses, all of this means you may have (or know) children who attend Witness meetings who are coming into regular contact with pedophiles. Even if you are not a Witness and you are just a concerned member of the public, you have absolutely no way of knowing for certain that the Witness who knocks on your door on a Saturday morning is not a child molester. This is because all Witnesses, regardless of their "sins," are required to go out preaching. And for the reasons already explained, it is perfectly possible for a Witness to abuse a child, deny it, and continue as though nothing has happened.

## ***What is AAWA doing about this?***

AAWA launched a campaign in May 2013 aimed at raising broader public awareness of these issues. This campaign includes two videos, both featured on our website, which highlight not only the mishandling of child abuse accusations, but also the psychological abuse to which Witness children are routinely subjected as part of their indoctrination. We are also planning to engage the media to help raise awareness of this shocking but little-known issue.

## ***How can I help?***

You can visit our website – [www.AAWA.co](http://www.AAWA.co) – watch our videos, and share these with friends and relatives to help spread our message. AAWA is also very grateful to those who have opportunity to either donate to our work, or assist us as one of our 260+ volunteers. Either way you choose to help us, we appreciate your support!