Date:

Dear (insert MP’s name)

As a concerned citizen in your riding, I am writing to ask your assistance on a matter of public safety and child protection here in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and across Canada.

As the recently aired CTV report on W5 entitled “No Witnesses” revealed, the policies regarding the handling of child sexual abuse cases within the Jehovah’s Witnesses are not only damaging to victims, they also protect and conceal pedophiles, enabling them to reoffend. Essentially, this mishandling of the allegations of child sexual abuse creates a pedophiles’ paradise.

I am a firm believer in religious freedom and speech and am only concerned with the existing policies that go beyond religious freedom, as they allow our Canadian children to be in danger.

The Jehovah’s Witnesses’ most dangerous policy is what is called the “Two Witness Rule.” According to the American Leaders of the Jehovah’s Witnesses, there must be two witnesses to child sexual abuse, or a confession from the abuser before any action will be taken. This is illogical and dangerous since, as we know, pedophiles do not molest with an audience and rarely confess. It has also been the practice of the religion to tell victims not to contact authorities about their abuse, as this would bring shame on the religion. In fact, many have even faced the threat of expulsion from the organization, essentially being cut off from all family, friends, and support if they come forward about the abuse. I’m sure you will agree that these policies are not only damaging to the victims, but they also allow the abuser to reoffend. Known pedophiles are also allowed to engage in the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ public door-to-door preaching work, granting them access to young children in our area.

What can be done here in Canada? Australia has led the way by investigating the policies of Jehovah’s Witnesses as part of their Royal Commission Inquiry in 2015. The commission discovered that there were over 1,006 allegations of child abuse that were dealt with internally and never reported to police. It is estimated the number of abuse victims is much higher due to the policies of Jehovah’s Witnesses that force victims to face their abuser in an all-male internal judicial setting, without a child advocate. It was estimated that this policy prevented countless other victims from ever coming forward.

The Royal Commission found that the Jehovah’s Witnesses did not respond adequately to child sexual abuse complaints, nor did they sufficiently protect children from the risk of being abused. In fact, at the end of the inquiry of over fifty institutions in Australia, including the Catholic Church, Justice McClellan said, “I don’t know of any other religious organization which, which is how this is framed, has the processes with the flaws we have identified in the Jehovah’s Witnesses.”

Since Canada’s population is higher than Australia’s and child abuse allegations are also handled the same way here, there must be an investigation so that our children are protected, unlike the many victims now coming forward who were subjected to these dangerous policies.

The U.K., the Netherlands, Germany, and others are also considering formal inquiries like Australia’s (please see attachments). We must not allow U.S. policies to dictate the treatment of our children. Therefore, I am asking that you and your colleagues institute a formal inquiry to investigate the policies of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Canada regarding the handling of child sexual abuse. I understand that this is a formidable task, however no task is too large when the safety and protection of our children is concerned.

Please do your part to ensure the safety of the children in your riding, who are currently at risk if this matter is not investigated. I am happy to help in any way I can and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

CTV’s W5 report 2018:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13ja8dMEmPY&t=103s>

Australian Royal Commission:

[www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/case-studies/case-study-29-jehovahs-witnesses](http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/case-studies/case-study-29-jehovahs-witnesses)

<https://www.revealnews.org/blog/australia-does-what-u-s-wont-investigate-jehovahs-witness-cover-up/>

Radio-Canada report on child abuse in Jehovah’s Witnesses in Quebec:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_AJPHGMt9JI>

UK Inquiry:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/08/child-sex-abuse-inquiry-considers-separate-jehovahs-witnesses-uk-investigation>

Netherlands:

<https://nltimes.nl/2017/11/28/dutch-foundation-gets-dozens-sexual-abuse-reports-jehovahs-witnesses>

<http://rebrn.com/re/tv-news-netherlands-child-sexual-abuse-within-jehovahs-witnesses-4061820/>