

- An assault archive will only reinforce violation



CRITICAL: The experienced lawyer Gunnhild Lærum has dealt with many cases of abuse. They do not store information about offenders in an internal archive prevent abuse.

Photo: Aas, Erlend / Scanpix

That's insane if Jehovah's Witnesses have a separate assault archive, believes legal aid lawyers. Inspectorate confirms that personal data stored in the religious community.

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- If this information NRK come with votes, it is absolutely insane. I have sat on both sides in many abuse cases, and seen what these cases do both victim and perpetrator. This is under one every sense, says defender and bistandsadokat Gunhild Lærum to NRK.no.

Earlier today discussed NRK.no a so-called assault archive of Jehovah's Witnesses . It is featured in the religious community 's secret handbook and in letter form, and confirmed by the former confided Witnesses leader William Bowen, who now heads the support organization for victims of religious community, Silentlambs . In addition to the international archives, there are also national archives in all countries where Jehovah's Witnesses are active - in Norway, according to Bowen.

- Does not need more secrecy

Gunhild Lærum has represented both victims and perpetrators who defend and counsel in

Norwegian courts for years. She believes that both parties will suffer greatly if information about identity, whether it is simply a case of one or both parties will enhance the offense is already there.

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- We are talking about information on serious incidents, which are stored in a manner that takes into account privacy. It becomes a personal violation of integrity for both the abuser and the children, she said.

- *In what way reinforces this violation?*

- It is not a neutral body that stores this information. Which sources are the basis for the information, these reliable? If the information hushing up or comes out into the open through police investigations and other neutral bodies? What happens to the perpetrators, they continue or are they current? We are concerned with more legal, compliance and monitoring in cases of abuse, no more secrecy.

Also counsel Hege Salomon, who has extensive experience with sexual assault, respond to claims of a secret assault archive of Jehovah's Witnesses.

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- I think it is important that allegations of child abuse are reported to the police so that the cases can be investigated and possibly irettetført. Denominations should be fully aware of their avvergingsplikt to prevent further abuse, says Salomon to NRK.no.

- File does not prevent abuse

NRK.no has confronted Jehovah's Witnesses in Norway with William Bowen's assertion that there is a violation of archives in Norway, and asked how information about abuse allegations saved. It does not answer spokesman Tom Frisvold directly, but says:

- Jehovah's Witnesses are a worldwide religious community with over 7,650,000 active members.
- According to Statistics Norway there were 11,640 members of Jehovah's Witnesses in Norway in 2010.
- Faith communities are led by Jehovah's Witnesses Governing Council, which is seven older men in Brooklyn, New York.
- Jehovah's Witnesses call themselves Christians. Their doctrine is based on their understanding of the Bible, and they use the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures.
- Most believe Armageddon or doomsday is imminent.
- Jehovah's Witnesses believe they can get to Paradise when the end time is reached. Being a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses are not a guarantee to get to paradise. It must work to get there.
- Jehovah's Witnesses are perhaps best known for his preaching activities, as they go from door to door with information about Jehovah's Witnesses. The goal of the ministry is that more people will find what they call the truth. (Source: Norwegian Encyclopedia, Wikipedia, SSB)



Lawyer Hege Salomon.
Photo: Sindre Løkstad / NRK



SECRET: Here at Jehovah's Witnesses in the present headquarters, located in the Danish Holbæk, stores information about offenders in a secret archive, claims former leader William Bowen (inset).

Photo: Silentlamps / Kristian Ridder-Nielsen (assembly)

- Sexual abuse of children is abhorrent. We want to protect our children from it. In addition to that one here in Norway go to the police immediately on charges of sexual abuse against minors congregation learns, then contact the branch office Mon. We want to ensure that any offenders under no circumstances allowed to move freely in our churches, Frisvold writes in an e-mail to NRK.no.

FORMER JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES-LEADERS: - Child abuse hushed up

Jehovah's Witnesses refused to meet NRK interview but responded to the allegations by e-mail. entire response can be read here . Gunnhild Lærum think it's problematic with an internal assault records, whether Jehovah's Witnesses also alerts the police, so Frisvold says .

- JEG BLE UTSATT FOR OVERGREP



Bo Juel Jensen says he was sexually abused when he was growing up in the Jehovah's Witnesses.

- I find it problematic, because it is obvious, according to their own rulebook, being stored for a long time. And we still do not know what kind of storage is involved, and how the rules around this are, she says.

Hege Salomon is open to discussing ways to prevent predators come in a position where they can harm children, without her thus recognize Jehovah's Witnesses alleged assault archive.

POLICE: - Know that there is abuse, but difficult to detect

- It may be appropriate to ensure that persons who have committed acts of abuse can not be in a position where they can harm children again.

The first and foremost important to me, is to prevent it. And I can not see that there is sufficient such records, she said.

Inspectorate aware storage

Legal technical director of Inspectorate Cecilie Rønnevik says Inspectorate is aware that Jehovah's Witnesses store information about members.

- Witnesses sought permission for such records in 2002. Then there was the assumption that this was a purely manual file, so they had an obligation to obtain a permit at the time, says she NRK.no.

KRF: - Witnesses must clean up
NRK has failed to obtain Witness Thursday, and did not know whether they have been transferred to the electronic storage of data.

- If the processing of the data has started to become online or partially online requires Witness a permit to store personal data. We recommend that Jehovah's Witnesses look at the rules again, and see if they need to apply for a permit.

To obtain permission to store data there are several things to consider, says Rønnevik and lists:

Do they have the consent of those who are registered and have valid consent?

Are they registered personal information based on rumors or qualified data?
If the law is fulfilled, then they will be allowed to have such a registry, she said.

According Rønnevik the Personal Data Act when information about people register. This means that those who believe to be registered has the right to have access to information about themselves and may request that information be corrected or deleted. One has rights record, and Jehovah's Witnesses are required to maintain these, says Rønnevik.

NCIS does not wish to comment on the Jehovah's Witnesses abuse records and other individual organizations' practices, but memories in general terms that all abuse cases should be reported by the police. **- There should be zero tolerance when it comes to child abuse - and it is not up to individuals or different environments to consider whether a criminal offense has taken place.**



- Aversion: Sexual abuse of children is abhorrent, says Jehovah's Witnesses spokesman in Norway, Tom Frisvold. The main office is contacted to avoid predators are allowed to move freely, he said.

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