



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

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LEGAL DEPARTMENT

March 31, 2018

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: General Data Protection Regulation

Dear Brothers:

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland in May of this year with the objective of harmonizing data protection laws in countries subject to European Union Law. The GDPR, among other things, will introduce new rights for individuals and significantly increase penalties for non-compliance.

Consequently, all congregations will need to adjust the way they handle personal data. In preparation for the implementation of the GDPR, please take the following steps:

1. All elders should immediately become familiar with the contents of the *Notice and Consent for Use of Personal Data* (S-290) and *Instructions for Use of Personal Data* (S-291) forms (attached) and the Use of Personal Data page in the “Privacy Policy” section of jw.org. The S-290 and S-291 forms will be available in the “Forms” section of the “Documents” tab on jw.org.
2. Please follow the direction in the April 2018 *Announcements and Reminders* (S-147) form about informing the congregation of the GDPR and action to be taken by group overseers and the secretary.

In relation to paragraphs 4-6 of the *Instructions for Use of Personal Data* (S-291) form, please note the following:

- For data protection purposes, in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland a minor is a person below 13 years of age.
- Where a person is a minor, the holder of parental responsibility should sign the *Notice and Consent for Use of Personal Data* (S-290) form. Usually this will be one or both of the minor’s parents but could include others if, for example, this is specified in a court order. In the United Kingdom only one holder of parental responsibility need give consent. However, in the Republic of Ireland two holders of parental responsibility must sign the *Notice and Consent for Use of Personal Data* (S-290).

Thank you very much for your diligence and good cooperation in implementing this new procedure. Changes in the secular law at times require that we make adjustments to organizational procedures. Such adjustments, however, often result in protecting and bolstering our privacy rights and those of our brothers and sisters. (Dan. 6:4; Rom. 13:1) We take this opportunity to send our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Yours brothers,



OF BRITAIN

Legal Department

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