

Jehovah's Witnesses & the United Nations

Please see the study article, "Their Refuge—A Lie!" in the June 1, 1991, Watchtower, noting paragraphs 1, 10 and 11 <https://tinyurl.com/5n83k8k2>. Paragraph 1 calls Christendom "that apostate religious organization." Why apostate?

Paragraph 10 asserts that "she insinuates herself into the favor of the political leaders of the nations—this despite the Bible's warning that friendship with the world is enmity with God." To support that assertion, paragraph 11 quotes an unnamed "recent book" which reports that "no fewer than 24 Catholic organizations are represented at the UN." How were such organizations represented at the UN?

The unnamed book quoted in paragraph 11 is *New Genesis* by Robert Muller. (See attachment #1.) The sentence immediately preceding the portion quoted by Watch Tower states, "All major world religions are accredited to the United Nations as non-governmental organizations." Why did Watch Tower omit that significant statement?

In the same year as that 1991 study article, Watch Tower also became accredited to the United Nations as a non-governmental organization, and served as publicity agents for the UN for the next 10 years—reapplying for membership each consecutive year—until the alliance was exposed by the Guardian newspaper in October 2001, whereupon Watch Tower withdrew its membership. (Watch Tower admits its UN affiliation to its Branch Committee in attachment #2.)

Notice that Watch Tower's letter refers to the Guardian article as "published allegations by opposers," yet later states that "we are grateful that this matter was brought to our attention." No mention, however, is made of the June 1, 1991, study article.

According to a public statement issued the UN's Department of Public Information (UN/DPI), registered NGOs had to "share the ideals of the UN charter" and "have a demonstrated interest in United Nations issues and a proven ability to reach large or specialized audiences." (See attachment #3.)

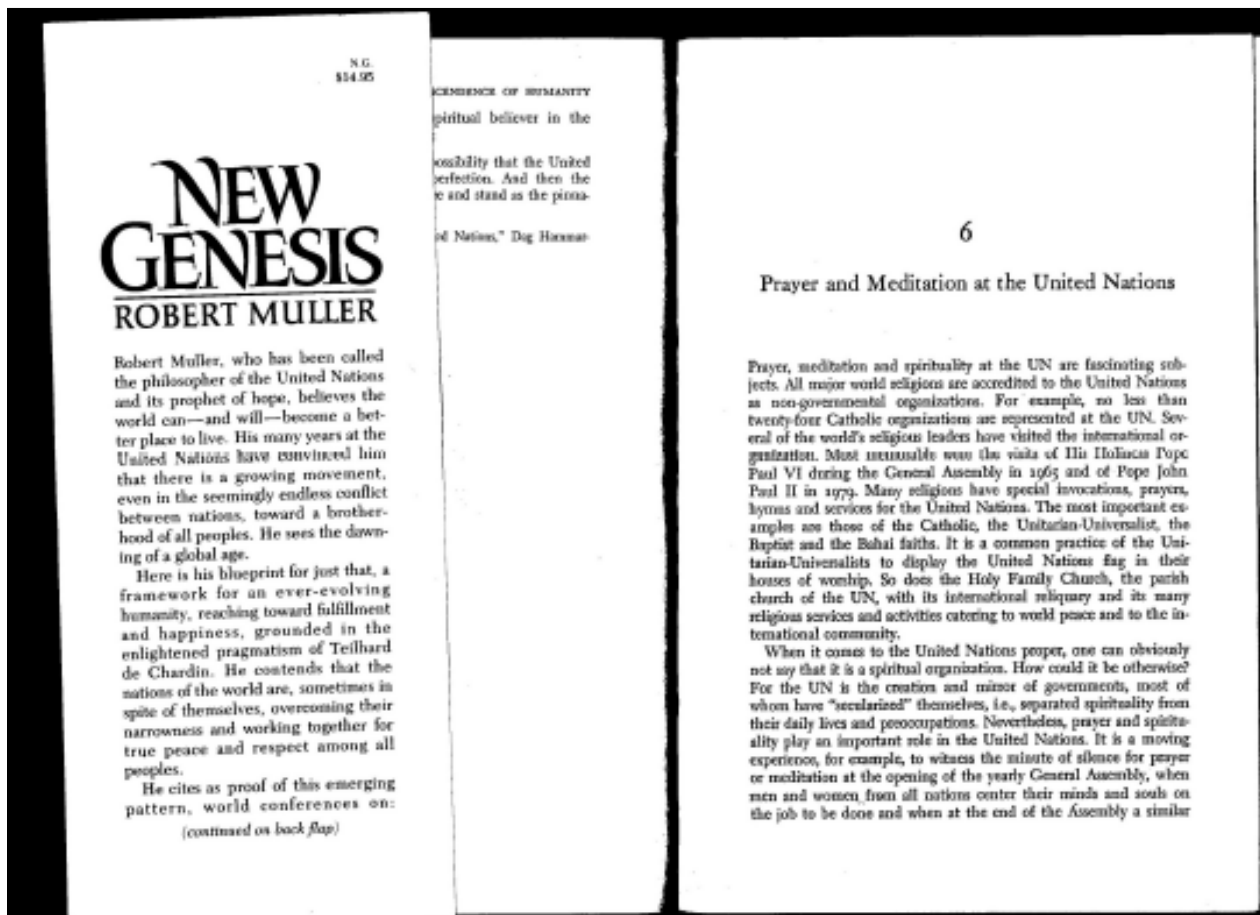
What is Watch Tower policy regarding individual JW's who do what their organization did?

"A person might renounce his place in the Christian congregation by his actions, such as becoming part of an organization whose objective is contrary to the Bible, and, hence, is under judgment by Jehovah God. So, if one who is a Christian chose to join those who are disapproved of God, it would be fitting for the congregation to acknowledge by a brief announcement that he has disassociated himself and is no longer one of Jehovah's Witnesses." (Sept. 15, 1981, Watchtower, p. 23, par. 15)

“In joining the YMCA as a member, a person accepts or endorses the general objectives and principles of the organization. . . Hence for one of Jehovah’s Witnesses to become a member of a so-called “Christian” association would amount to apostasy.” (Jan. 1, 1979, Watchtower p. 31)

According to the standard by which it judged Christendom to be apostate, and in light of Jesus’ words at Mathew 12:37 that “by your words you will be condemned,” should Watch Tower be viewed as an apostate religious organization?

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jehovahs-Witnesses-the-United-Nations/168338773294772>



WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483 • Tel. 718 660-5000

██████████ November 1, 2001 No. ██████████

Via CompuServe

Branch Committee
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Dear Brothers:

Because of published allegations by opposers that we have secret links with the United Nations, a number of branches have inquired about the matter and we have replied. This circular letter replaces any replies we have given earlier and is sent to all branches. To anyone inquiring within your branch territory you might respond according to what is stated below:

Our purpose for registering with the Department of Public Information as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in 1991 was to have access to research material available on health, ecological, and social problems at the United Nations library facilities. We had been using the library for many years prior to 1991, but in that year it became necessary to register as an NGO to have continued access. Registration papers filed with the United Nations that we have on file contain no statements that conflict with our Christian beliefs. Moreover, NGOs are informed by the United Nations that "association of NGOs with the DPI does not constitute their incorporation into the United Nations system, nor does it entitle associated organizations or their staff to any kind of privileges, immunities or special status."

Still, the Criteria for Association of NGOs—at least in their latest version—contain language that we cannot subscribe to. When we realized this, we immediately withdrew our registration. We are grateful that this matter was brought to our attention.

We trust that the above is helpful in counteracting the attempts of opposers to discredit us.

Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

Chairman's Committee

c: Administration Offices Desks
Legal Department
Office of Public Information

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
DPI NGO
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
SECTION

United Nations, DPI/NGO Resource Centre, Room L-1B-31
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4 March 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

Recently the NGO Section has been receiving numerous inquiries regarding the association of the **Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York** with the Department of Public Information (DPI). This organization applied for association with DPI in 1991 and was granted association in 1992. By accepting association with DPI, the organization agreed to meet criteria for association, including support and respect of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and commitment and means to conduct effective information programmes with its constituents and to a broader audience about UN activities.

In October 2001, the Main Representative of the **Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York** to the United Nations, Giro Aulicino, requested termination of its association with DPI. Following this request, the DPI made a decision to disassociate the **Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York** as of 9 October 2001.

Please be informed that it is the policy of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations to keep correspondence between the United Nations and NGOs associated with DPI confidential. However, please see below the paragraph included in all letters sent to NGOs approved for association in 1992:

"The principal purpose of association of non-governmental organizations with the United Nations Department of Public Information is the redissemination of information in order to increase public understanding of the principles, activities and achievements of the United Nations and its Agencies. Consequently, it is important that you should keep us informed about your organization's information programme as it relates to the United Nations, including sending us issues of your relevant publications. We are enclosing a brochure on the "The United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations", which will give you some information regarding the NGO relationship."

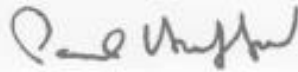
In addition, the criteria for NGOs to become associated with DPI include the following:

- that the NGO share the principles of the UN Charter;
- operate solely on a not-for-profit basis;
- have a demonstrated interest in United Nations issues and a proven ability to reach large or specialized audiences, such as educators, media representatives, policy makers and the business community;

- have the commitment and means to conduct effective information programmes about UN activities by publishing newsletters, bulletins and pamphlets, organizing conferences, seminars and round tables; and enlisting the cooperation of the media.

We expect that you will share this information with your concerned colleagues, as we are unable to address the scores of duplicate requests regarding the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society that are being directed to our offices. Thank you for your interest in the work of the United Nations.

Sincerely,



Paul Hoeffel
Chief

NGO Section
Department of Public Information