

5 Easy Steps to Regaining Your Dignity:

One of the more commonly stated purposes of the “ex-jw community” is lending support to our fellow escapees of Watchtower, in their time of need. But is this the only value it serves?

As diverse as you can imagine- The ex-jw world found across social media can be rightly described as being full of loving, valid, creative and intelligent people trying to make sense after life handed them a traumatic event. Some are rightly frustrated and angered by injustice and how they've been treated by the ones they trusted the most. I don't feel like much more really needs to be said on this- if you share this background then you'll already understand, and no words I can conjure can really describe it anyway.

Some have gone on to process their experience in part by making youtube videos and dabbling in activist efforts, holding up a sign, or attending meetups. When you think about it, every individual is dealing with their own life's difficulties as a result of their experience (ex-jw or not), and social media doesn't have to play an unhealthy role.

Part of the healing process for people like me many times is just being able to talk to someone, anyone, when you have no one. A chance to grab on to hope in the knowledge that others have gone through the things you are going through, and went on to thrive in life after it all. An opportunity arises to form new bonds. We have a shared experience that unites all of us, no matter our current station in life. For my part, I have found a shoulder to cry on, people to help pick me up when I fall down, and real friends that begin to feel like family, who care enough to hold me accountable for my mistakes. *There is such a thing as a “healthy scolding”, after all.*

I can speak personally to the genuine love and generosity openly displayed for total strangers. I reject any notion that we're all just “damaged people”. I'm not prepared to write things off so simply. This is the real ex-jw community that I have personally known and loved since 2009: People helping people. Regardless of our differences in opinion, the goal of the ones I find myself still close to after all these years is the *CHOICE* to be better tomorrow than they are today, and the *CHOICE* to learn from the lessons Watchtower taught us. One forgets the price we paid for our new found freedom at their own risk.

This community now finds itself in a rather uncomfortable position. A recent series of very public and embarrassing setbacks, meltdowns, and infighting have been suffered. The collective honor of the community is seemingly in question. Lines have been drawn, with one internalized opinion after the next spinning arguments between ones what would otherwise be comrades.

This is all unnecessary, and sad to say the least. It is *unreal* to think we find ourselves discussing such things with hashtags such as “#hookergate”. Is it wrong to expect better?

At the center of this recent frenzy is a man who has seized the #1 spotlight with his activism work, and lives full time off donations from such. James Lloyd Evans' scope of work boldly speaks for itself. He's been in the public eye for years now making several appearances on TV shows and across major news media outlets. Most recently, he was accepted as a core participant in the IICSA inquiry.

But, it should also be noted that along the way that JLE has also written at length and inappropriate detail as to his sexual escapades, mishaps, infidelity, and frustrations. Books, blog posts and video diaries present what seem to be glaring and obvious implications. James Lloyd Evans' claims regarding his judicial hearing in Croatia should have been an obvious and **MAJOR** red flag to anyone with knowledge of how Jehovah's Witness' proceedings work.

This video in question was presented by JLE in a video blog uploaded to YouTube in December 2013 titled "My judicial committee is tomorrow - Cedars' vlog no. 10" several obvious questions are raised based off the claims made within the video.

Are we allowed to ask these following questions?

1. Why was it necessary for a Watchtower branch representative be present for his judicial?
2. Did the presence of the branch rep have anything to do with this information he speaks of that had the "ability to make life difficult for Jehovah's Witnesses in Croatia"? Is this in reference to some sort of bargain?
3. How did the experts and former elders JLE worked closely with for years overlook the details Lloyd gave about his past? Were they even aware?
4. Is it possible to consider if Lloyd was actually blackmailing the Croatian brothers with his own story?

We won't use this opportunity to discuss the photos that surfaced a few weeks ago of a questionably young looking entrepreneur sitting on Lloyd's lap while spending 3 weeks scuba diving in Pa Tong Thailand. We won't debate the morality of his admission to frequenting prostitutes behind his wife's back for years on end and lending support an industry notorious for human trafficking. All while using funds donated from CSA survivors? The conflict of interest here is glaring and should be readily apparent.

The following 5 simple and yet important suggestions are offered as a possible constructive solution/first step to this dilemma placed in our midst. It is hoped that regardless of your view on the morality of Lloyd Evans' actions, it can be agreed on that there may be reasonable first steps to take in order to restore some basic dignity to this situation. None of these items listed below even need to interfere with Lloyd Evans past claims of innocence to the more serious charges in the air.

The simple fact is not everyone is going to care about this situation. Some are willing to argue that Lloyd's use of "sex workers" is no different than ordering McDonald's for lunch. But not everyone is just so quick to suspend disbelief at all times pertaining to the patterns involved in this massive scandal currently sending the ex-jw community into a frenzy. A number of

serious and logical questions pertaining to the extent of Lloyd Evans' past have been raised.

These questions do not appear out of a vacuum or from malice. To be clear, they arise from the expanse of his *own* writings, video journals, and *multiple whistleblowers*. These questions have never been met with an understanding tone or consideration for his target audience- but instead met with feigned incredulity, accusations, mockery and ridicule; but any actual answer to these questions has never actually been provided. We ask that Lloyd Evans takes a moment to consider why any of these accusations may have come up in the first place.

Taking into consideration that these concerns stem from JLE's own claims and actions- Is it wrong to ask JLE to this right with the growing crowd of conscientious objectors regarding allegations of crimes and misallocation of donated funds? Is there an opportunity here to quell the rumors surrounding misconduct that actually pre-date his entry into the ex-jw community as a professional activist?

This document is written from the collective of experience of several people. We gave this some time to think over, and offer our thoughts on the matters regarding James Lloyd Evans. Consider this an open letter to both him and the community at large.

We feel the following suggestions represent the same reasonable and healthy standards that should be applied to anyone involved in such allegations, JW or not. It makes no difference.

To discard an expectation of transparency from someone so publicly involved in CSA and high profile IICSA legal cases is no different from what Watchtower has demonstrated it is capable of. Such a glaring and blatant hypocrisy cannot be ignored or tolerated. The following course of action is considered as a possible avenue for James Lloyd Evans to begin to restore dignity to himself and family, and allow the entire ex-jw community a chance to heal.

1. Prostitution is illegal in Thailand and Croatia. Both are known hotbeds for human trafficking and sex-slavery. The use of funds gathered at least in part from CSA survivors to fund such an industry is a glaring conflict of interest. Lloyd Evans must take responsibility by confessing to his actions and be willing to accept whatever resulting fines or penalty handed down by the authorities involved.

2. Due to the nature described of the judicial hearing held in Croatia, the right to privacy concerning the JW judicial process must be waived, and any files held by the Watchtower pertaining to judicial matters and subsequent handling of any events or accusations pertaining to Lloyd Evans be publicly released. The clergy/parishioner privilege that Watchtower relies on to cover up CSA crimes is of no use in this situation, and this information is easily accessible by the parties involved. Complete transparency is required in this matter.

1. Lloyd Evans has the ability to personally ask his father Jonathan Evans to use his position of authority within the Jehovah's Witness congregation and waive this unnecessary privilege.

2. Publicly produce any such supporting documentation, testimonial, and other details as

recorded in these hearings.

3. We ask that Jonathan Evans make a public statement from his position of authority depicting the circumstances surrounding James Lloyd Evans removal as a Jehovah's Witness Elder.

3. An investigation is currently underway by United Kingdom authorities pertaining to James Lloyd Evans. JLE needs to come forward in order to resolve this matter. We ask if the aforementioned Jonathan Evans has any knowledge of, or is in possession of any evidence that will assist in this investigation, to come forward to the UK authorities immediately. The veracity, or lack thereof regarding testimonials and screenshots of emails depicting the grooming of a minor should be easy enough for experts to authenticate. It is wholly inappropriate for James Lloyd Evans to continue to publish ex-jw content or otherwise engage in activism activities whilst the subject of a CSA investigation. If any evidence has indeed been fabricated, it needs to be fully examined and the source determined.

Mike and Kim Brooks have kept extensive records on all communications with the whistleblower known as "Marko", and have made openly known their willingness to cooperate in any investigation.

4. James Lloyd Evans has of yet made no declaration pertaining to the cessation of his soliciting of prostitutes. As such, JLE must add a disclaimer to his Patreon account affiliates and other donors. He must disclose his admitted sex-addiction, as he has described and demonstrated an utter lack of control over his extremities. He must notify his donor base as to the likelihood of their funds being used to procure prostitutes. Taking into consideration that money donated to support Lloyd Evans activities are collected in part from CSA survivors- if this course of action is continued it might be appropriate for Lloyd Evans to consider suspending his affiliation with Patreon and other donors entirely. Instead, encouraging his viewers to redirect towards established charities that fight human trafficking and CSA abuse issues.

5. James Lloyd Evans has a demonstrated the repeated habit of doxing several individuals with libelous and defamatory blog posts. His platform has repeatedly been used in a retaliatory manner to harass individuals into silence. Some of these actions have resulted in severe and profound consequences in the lives and families of those involved. He has publicly outed PIMO's, **multiple times**. His harassment campaigns have extended to the families, friends, and places of work- all suffering phone calls in the middle of the night by "a man with a British accent..." These have included nonsensical threats of legal action, and upon failing to get the expected fear response, has resorted to death threats.

The overall purpose being to exert social pressure in order to silence criticism.

Zero regard or remorse has ever been shown by James Lloyd Evans for his actions. This

behavior will not be left unmentioned, and from those whom this reckless course has impacted, we demand he takes full responsibility for these acts, and issue a public apology. Not just to everyone he's slighted in the ex-jw community: **We ask he does this only after begging his wife and family for their forgiveness.**

These suggestions are not coming from a place of disregard of either James Lloyd Evans or members of his family. A bad situation is rarely made any worse by simply taking responsibility and doing the right thing. Holding someone accountable is not the same as passing judgement. Whether or not Lloyd continues his work in the future at the end of the day is up to him. It is our hope that these suggestions can be considered by everyone at large. There is a way forward, and this matter can be resolved in a way that satisfies even the harshest critics in a clear and transparent manner.

Sincerely,

Just some people who have made their own share of mistakes.