

## **Jehovah's Witnesses and Their Opponents: Russia, the West, and Beyond**

**Vilnius University, September 3, 2020**

**A seminar organized by CESNUR (Center for Studies on New Religions) and the University of Vilnius**

### *Session 1*

#### *A Global Phenomenon*

Jehovah's Witnesses in the Atlas of Religious or Belief Minority Rights. First data – Silvio FERRARI, University of Milan

Why Opposition to Jehovah's Witnesses? - George CHRYSIDES, University of Birmingham

Jehovah's Witnesses and Their Opponents in Lithuania - Milda ALISAUŠKIENĖ, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas

Opposition to Jehovah's Witnesses in the US - J. Gordon MELTON, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

### *Session 2*

#### *Russia, a "Special" Case?*

Opposition to Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia: Cultural Roots - Rosita ŠORYTĖ, European Federation for Freedom of Belief, Vilnius

Opposition to Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia: Legal Measures - Willy FAUTRÉ, Human Rights Without Frontiers, Brussels

The USCIRF Report on Alexander Dvorkin and FECRIS, and the NGOs Open Letter on the Situation in Russia – Alessandro AMICARELLI, attorney, London, president of the European Federation for Freedom of Belief (FOB) **[to be confirmed]**

The Rights of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia and Beyond: The Role of the European Court of Human Rights - James T. RICHARDSON, University of Nevada, Reno

### *Session 3*

#### *Affiliation, Disaffiliation, Sexual Abuse*

Affiliation to Jehovah's Witness: A Research Note – Raffaella DI MARZIO, LIREC (Center for Studies on Freedom of Belief, Religion and Conscience), Rome, Italy.

Jehovah's Witnesses, Relations with Ex-Members, Sexual Abuse: What Are the Issues? - Massimo INTROVIGNE (CESNUR, Center for Studies on New Religions, Torino, Italy)

Jehovah's Witnesses and Sexual Abuse: The Dutch and Belgian Reports - Holly FOLK, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington Texas

Respondent: Bernadette RIGAL-CELLARD, University of Bordeaux, France