

# Organ Donation: Religious Proponents and Opponents

REL2300

## Opponents

Haley Boles

### Romani People

Belief:

Organ donation is not acceptable as it will interfere with the soul as it attempts retracing its steps after death.

Theological Support:

*There are no official texts or policies regarding Romani beliefs, however, a statement was released by the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints regarding the "Gypsy" position on organ donation:*

"They share common folk beliefs and tend to be opposed to organ donation. Their opposition is connected with their beliefs about the afterlife. Traditional belief contends that for 1 year after death the soul retraces its steps. Thus, the body must remain intact because the soul maintains its physical shape."

Population:

6-11 million

### Jehovah's Witnesses

Belief:

Organ donation is acceptable only if the blood is removed from the tissue before transplantation.

Theological Support:

*Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:10, Leviticus 17:14,*

*Deuteronomy 12:23*

"Just be firmly resolved not to eat the blood, because the blood is the life, and you must not eat the life with the flesh."

*Acts 15:28, 29*

"For the holy spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to you except these necessary things: 29: to keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from what is strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you carefully keep yourselves from these things, you will prosper. Good health to you!"

Population:

6.5 million

### United Methodists

Belief:

Organ donation is accepted and encouraged.

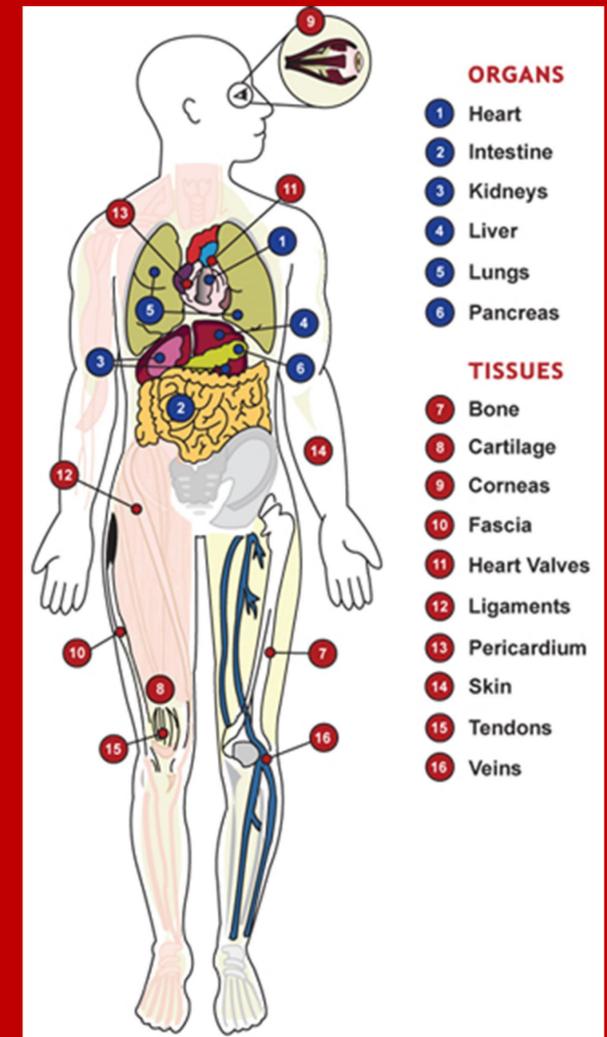
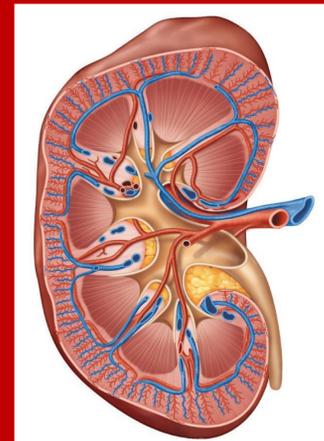
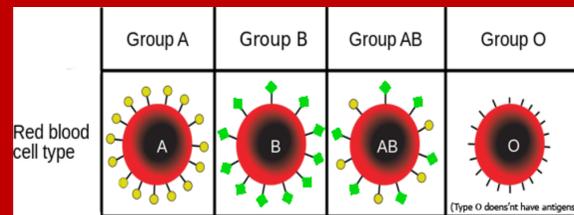
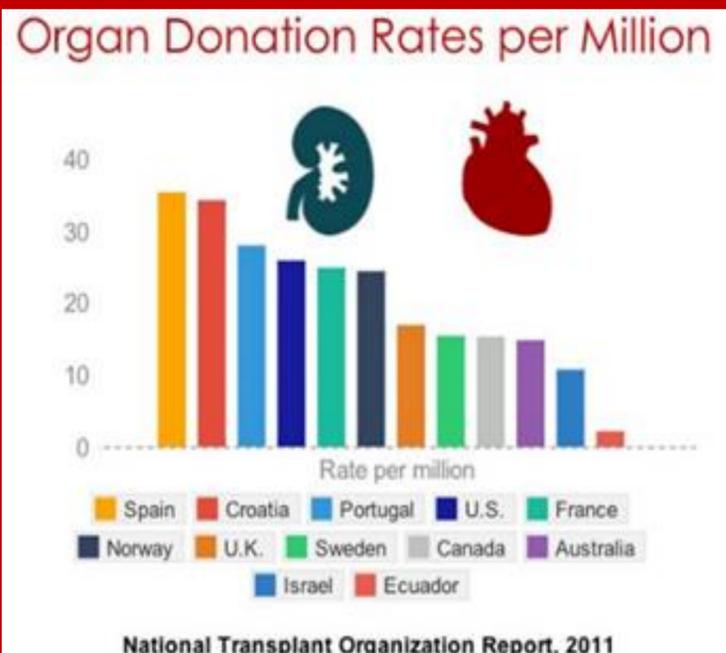
Theological Support:

*Social Principles: The Social Community*

"We believe that organ transplantation and organ donation are acts of charity, agape love, and self-sacrifice. We recognize the life-giving benefits of organ and other tissue donation and encourage all people of faith to become organ and tissue donors as a part of their love and ministry to others in need."

Population:

12 million



<http://www.religionfacts.com/jehovahs-witnesses>  
<https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/jehovahs-witnesses-why-no-blood-transfusions/>  
[https://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/blood/jehovahs-witnesses-the-surgical-ethical-challenge/#?insight\[search\\_id\]=d9c8ddd0-849f-475a-8fe0-9cdf6848aa38&insight\[search\\_result\\_index\]=6](https://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/blood/jehovahs-witnesses-the-surgical-ethical-challenge/#?insight[search_id]=d9c8ddd0-849f-475a-8fe0-9cdf6848aa38&insight[search_result_index]=6)  
<http://donatelifecalifornia.org/education/faqs/religious-views-on-organ-donation>  
<http://www.unc.edu/what-we-believe/how-is-cremation-and-organ-donation-consistent#>  
<http://www.unc.edu/what-we-believe/the-social-community#organ-donation>  
 Cracknell, K., & White, S. J. (2005). *An Introduction to World Methodism*. Cambridge, UK: University Press.  
 Lewis, M. Paul, ed. (2009). "Ethnologue: Languages of the World" (online) (16th ed.). Dallas, TX: SIL. Retrieved 15 September 2010. Ian Hancock's 1987 estimate for 'all Gypsies in the world' was 6 to 11 million.  
 "EU demands action to tackle Roma poverty". *BBC News*. 5 April 2011.  
 "The Roma". *Nationalia*. Retrieved 20 November 2015  
 "Rom". *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Retrieved 15 September 2010. ... estimates of the total world Romani population range from two million to five million.