

STATEMENT

by **Prof. Georgi Theologov Kapriev**, DSc (Philosophy),

Professor in the Department of History of Philosophy,

Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

regarding the materials submitted for participation in a competition

for the academic position of **Associate Professor**

at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”,

within the field of higher education **2. Humanities**,

professional field **2.4. Religion and Theology (New Testament)**

In the competition for the position of Associate Professor, announced in the *State Gazette*, issue no. 96 of November 11, 2025, and published on the website of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski,” opened for the needs of the Department of Theology at the Faculty of Philosophy and History, the sole candidate is **Chief Assistant Professor Eva Krasteva Kovacheva, PhD**, from the Department of Theology, Faculty of Philosophy and History, Plovdiv University.

1. General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate

Dr. Eva Krasteva Kovacheva is participating in the competition with one monograph, ten scholarly studies, and forty-seven articles that have not been used in previous academic evaluation procedures—an impressive corpus of work. Dr. Kovacheva is by no means an unfamiliar figure within the department, the faculty, or the university. Approximately two years after defending her doctoral dissertation in Germany, at Philipps University of Marburg, she was appointed in April 2013 to the Department of Theology (Faculty of Philosophy and History, Plovdiv University), where she has held the position of Chief Assistant Professor for the past six years.

The results of her academic activity significantly exceed the minimum national requirements for research and teaching performance stipulated for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor. Her application fully complies with all formally prescribed requirements and criteria. Moreover, Dr. Kovacheva meets the substantive expectations and requirements of a habilitation procedure, as demonstrated below:

2. General Characterization of the Candidate's Academic Activity

The monograph submitted by Dr. Kovacheva in application for the academic position of Associate Professor offers an interpretation of the triad of “bodily, psychic, and spiritual” Christians as articulated in the New Testament apostolic epistles. Innovative within the context of biblical scholarship and New Testament studies, the research unfolds against an extensive contextual background that includes relevant passages from the Old Testament and apocryphal literature (a subject that Dr. Kovacheva has addressed in other publications), as well as pagan sources. A defining feature of the monograph is its exegetical character, through which the author demonstrates a broad, competent, and critical engagement with contemporary scholarship on the topic, published in several languages. Dr. Kovacheva's monograph is undeniably a work of original scholarly contribution.

The ten scholarly studies included in her application testify to the breadth of her research interests. Five of them address various aspects of New Testament testimony. Particular attention should be given to the studies devoted to Mary Magdalene and to the ecclesiological activity of women in early Christianity. As is also evident from Dr. Kovacheva's other publications, the topic of women in Christianity constitutes a sustained line of inquiry in her work and situates her among the relatively small number of scholars worldwide engaged with this exceptionally significant and intellectually demanding field. Her comparative studies likewise merit special mention. This is further corroborated by the forty-seven articles (in Bulgarian and English) that complete the corpus of publications submitted for the competition.

Noteworthy as well are four articles on historical topics: two devoted to Paisii Hilendarski, one on the “God-bearers” (theophoroi) in the early Christian centuries, and one on the Eucharist within the horizon of the Reformation. Her publications in the history of religions are also particularly impressive. Taken together, this body of work demonstrates the broad peripheral range of scholarly competencies that is of crucial importance for any researcher and is clearly present in Dr. Kovacheva's profile.

Given that the application concerns an academic position, it is imperative to underscore Dr. Eva Kovacheva's impressive level of engagement in the academic life of Plovdiv University. Foremost among these activities is the substantial number and wide thematic scope of the courses she teaches, which are essential to the educational process in the field of theological education at the university. In addition, she has been actively involved in administrative work, the organization of international and national academic forums, participation in research

projects—including the leadership of such projects—and numerous editorial and compilatory undertakings, activities that lie at the very core of academic development.

All of the above convincingly demonstrates the appropriateness of Dr. Kovacheva's application for the academic position of Associate Professor and provides solid grounds for the conferral of this rank upon her.

3. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I would refrain from formulating critical remarks; nevertheless, I will allow myself to offer one recommendation. Drawing on hard-won personal experience, I would advise Dr. Eva Kovacheva not to reduce the volume of her scholarly output—our profession is a marathon rather than a sprint. Her work to date, however, gives me every confidence that she will continue her research at the same sustained pace as thus far.

Conclusion

I vote unequivocally **in favor** of conferring the academic rank of Associate Professor upon Dr. Eva Krasteva Kovacheva in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.4. Religion and Theology (New Testament) and I call on the esteemed jury to do the same.

January 2026

Prepared by

Prof. Georgi Kaprievq DSc