



Statement 15.12.2022

Fathers for children (Isät lasten asialla – ILA ry)
Sähköttäjänkatu 4
00520 Helsinki
Finland
info@isatlastenasialla.fi

The UN Human Rights Committee has published a report in which suspicions of parental alienation (by father) related to custody disputes have been labeled as violence against mothers and children. ILA considers the report and its conclusions to be contrary to reality and ideologically motivated. The content of the report does not match the reality and facts of alienation. Instead of the UN Human Rights Committee ideologically reporting parental alienation suspicions based on some sporadic cases of abuse as violence against mothers and children, the UN should focus on the real problem, the parental alienation of children from one parent all over the world. Parental alienation is a huge global and local challenge for families and societies and it destroys enormous amount of children and their parents every year.

The ideological insinuations presented by the UN Human Rights Committee undermine the credibility of Human Rights Committee and the grounds for the community's existence. With its generalizations about claims of parental alienation as violence against mothers and children, the UN Human Rights Committee has forgotten the undeniable fact that parental alienation meets no gender boundaries. Based on existing research, it is well known that the child's father can also act as an alienator. In these cases, the child is alienated from her mother, which is as damaging to the child as parental alienation from her father. The report of the UN Human Rights Committee in itself represents discrimination based on gender, which is against the UN Charter, international agreements and the legislation of most countries. ILA urges the UN Human Rights Committee to return to the facts and not to promote baseless narratives and provocations.

Suspicious of parental alienation are raised by fathers in many cases, because fathers are still clearly the weaker party in the legislation and jurisprudence of many countries and children are allowed to spend less time with their fathers. Due to this, parental alienation becomes possible, and in many cases probable. In many countries, even official practices and the judiciary support mothers' efforts to alienate children from their fathers. Against this background, the UN Human Rights Committee should in the future rely on researched information and try to solve the real problems of equality and the fulfillment of the child's rights - in this case, especially the parental alienation of the child from the other parent without making it a gender issue.



The harmfulness of parental alienation is also known in the UN. Kirsten Sandberg, the former chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, has stated during her presidency that Articles 18 and 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child should protect children from parental alienation.

The UN Human Rights Committee should also note that any relevant concept can be misused in some cases. It should also be noted that a huge and unsolved problem is the presentation of false and fabricated accusations (such as violence, sexual abuse, substance abuse) against the other parent to the authorities and courts in order to isolate (i.e. alienate) the child from the other parent without any real grounds.

Parental alienation in Finland

In Finland, parental alienation is recognized as domestic violence, the victim of which is primarily the child and secondarily the parent who is the target of parental alienation.

Finnish law prohibits the parental alienation of a child as mental violence against the child.

Additional information:

Fathers for Children, chairman Petri Guiland, +358 50 0464646 petri.guiland@isatlastenasialla.fi

Fathers for Children, executive director Petri Honkanen, +358 40 952 1781

petri.honkanen@isatlastenasialla.fi

