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To : Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls,
its causes and consequences
Subject : **Input by PEF for SR VAWG's report on violence against
women and children in custody cases**
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Input by PEF for SR VAWG's report on violence against women and children in custody cases

By the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

The Platform for European Fathers (PEF) is an international NGO-platform organization of national parent organizations from many European countries. At our latest general assembly, we decided to respond to your call for inputs.

We do not support the report because it is not promoting gender equality as it is strongly biased in favor of women, which cannot lead to the solution to the domestic violence problem. Our main points to object to the report are the following.

First, parental alienation is real and denying it is leading to increasing cases of alienation or similar malevolent behavior of one parent towards another parent and especially their children. We believe that parental alienation or similar behavior is emotional abuse of children and therefore psychological violence towards children and the alienated parent. Denying it and even trying to turn it opposite as if the allegations of parental alienation is a kind of violence (against women), is leading to the re-victimization of alienated parents and prevents help to alienated children, who are deprived of contact with previously loved parents. Also, we never heard of any case where allegations of parental alienation caused moving children into the custody of the alienated parents. On the other side, we know of a lot of cases where one parent (usually the father) is first falsely accused of domestic violence or abuse, and then alienated from his children, who after the manipulation of the alienating parent start to reject contact with him. We are also aware of the serious psychological problems alienated children have, not only in their childhood but also in later adult life.

Second, the report is not mentioning men as victims of domestic violence or abuse. We are aware that this is happening and neglecting it in the report is an attempt to demonize men and fathers as the only ones responsible for the violence. This is simply not true and yet there is not a word about it.

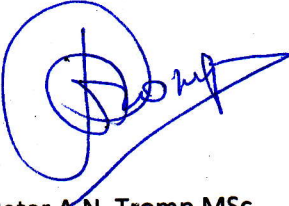
Third, the Istanbul convention is rather discriminatory towards men. We don't know how it came into reality, but it was hidden from the eyes of the public when some 'group of experts' was preparing it. Then it was accepted by the EU institutions, and later by member countries, and in many also ratified - all of these

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processes were more or less again hidden from the public eyes, and calls for changing it were unheard. Now it is hard to step out of this convention, and everyone who tries to point out its faults is labelled as a "violation of women's rights", a "perpetrator" or a "protector of violent men".

As written, PEF strongly suggests rejecting the SR VAWG's report with the recommendation to prepare a better, gender-inclusive report.

Kindest regards,



Peter A.N. Tromp MSc

President

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