

PE1790/O

Paul Anderson Submission of 2 September 2020

Parental Alienation is increasingly becoming a major problem in Irish society, and also within Scotland.

[The Irish Examiner](#) published the following for Mensaid social care team leader Andrea McDermott stated

"they were getting more calls involving "parental alienation" – where one parent tries to promote a child's rejection of another parent. She said that as well as the damage caused to the parent affected, the behaviour can have serious consequences on children. "Studies have shown parental alienation directly conveys to the child negative attributions about their value and worth and creates feelings of worthlessness in the child, they feel flawed, unloved, and unwanted, only being needed to hurt the targeted parent," and that "Adolescents who report feeling caught between their parents had poorer outcomes, including anxiety, depression, and deviant behaviour."

The Wexford Newspapers (<https://www.pressreader.com/ireland/wexford-people/20200804/281676847250953>) shares a story where an alienated father, alienated son (now an adult) and an alienated mother told their stories

As a member of Alienated Children First Ireland, we advocate primarily for the best interests of the child; as Ireland has signed up to in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. Parental Alienation is breaching the rights of the child by emotionally abusing them and these effects can be lifelong and detrimental to their future health and wellbeing. ACF is made up of alienated fathers, mothers and adults who were alienated as children.

It has come to our notice that although women's aid is core funded by the Irish state and the Scottish Government, in common, they do not offer services to help alienated mothers through their extreme and sometimes in perpetual trauma, like [mensaid](#), the men's development network (in Ireland) and Families need Fathers Scotland do.

Alienated mothers want to know why they have been abandoned and to inform you that by ignoring this abuse they are further being victimised by the government & women's aid silence & acquiescence to this abuse. This acquiescence is protecting the abusers, it is keeping the child with the parental alienator the abuser. This acquiescence is enabling parental alienation when women's aid is supposed to be protecting the abused mothers, daughters and sons. An abuse that hits at the very core of who they are as a mother, a woman and a human being?

As taxpayers and stakeholders Scotland's Alienated mothers deserve an answers:-

- to when the Scottish Government and Scotland's Woman's Aid will recognise this parental alienation abuse?
- to what timeframe and resources will Women's aid use to setup the services to meet the alienated mothers and children's needs?

In the least these victims of this abuse deserve to be heard and would openly welcome a respectful and open dialogue.