

NAME OF YOUR MP

DATE

Make Contact Denial & Parental Alienation a Criminal Offence

Dear X

Last year, campaign group Fathers4Justice released findings of a ComRes poll, which found that an estimated two million dads might not see their children on Father's Day, while one in five dads, feared losing, or had lost contact with their children and a similar number knew someone who had experienced this.

The poll was featured in the Sunday Telegraph here:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/06/16/four-10-dads-have-not-seen-kids-fathers-day-survey-finds/>

When ComRes asked how this had impacted on those affected, a third said they had experienced or knew someone who had experienced distress, or mental health issues after being denied access to their children.

A copy of the polling was sent to the former Prime Minister and the former Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee.

I am sad to say that neither replied.

I believe that fatherlessness is a dangerous epidemic causing untold emotional harm to children and fathers, as well as to the social fabric of society in terms of anti-social behaviour and the costs of family breakdown which are now in excess of £50 billion a year according to the Relationships Foundation.

This is why I am writing to you and asking you to commit this Father's Day to ending this crisis.

In particular, I would like to ask you if you support the following proposals:

1. A legal presumption of 50/50 Shared Parenting and Child Support after separation.
2. Include Contact Denial and Parental Alienation within the government definition of domestic violence, and make these criminal offences.
3. Swift enforcement of court orders when one parent uses COVID19 to deny the other access to their children.
4. Legislation that introduces automatic parental responsibility for all fathers - even when they are not married.

I am hoping you will commit to supporting every child's human right to a father as defined under Articles 7 and 9 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

NAME