



***Jewish Unity for Multiple Parenting***

***Campaigning for Improved Relationships Between Divorced Parents & Children in the Jewish Community***

## **Press Release**

### **For Immediate Distribution**

20 April 2006

#### **JUMP Supports International Parental Alienation Awareness Day on**

**25 April 2006**

***Jewish Unity for Multiple Parenting (JUMP)*** is committed to supporting International Parental Alienation Awareness Day on Tuesday 25 April 2006 and all extensive activities happening on this day around the world to continue to increase knowledge and understanding of Parental Alienation.

#### **What is Parental Alienation**

**Quote from an alienated child aged 5 years old**

“I did not know you could still love both Mum and Dad.”

Parental alienation is a condition most often observed in children affected by high conflict divorce and/or separation. It is one of the most damaging outcomes affecting children. The most common symptom of children affected by parental



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alienation is their severe opposition to contact with one parent and/or overt hatred toward such parent when on the surface there is little and often, no logical reason to explain the child's behaviour. Parental alienation involves one parent systematically brainwashing and manipulating children with the sole purpose of destroying a loving and warm relationship they once shared with the other parent. It also deprives children of their right to be loved by and showing love for both of their parents. The effects of parental alienation can last well into adulthood and may last for a lifetime with tragic consequences.

Dr Richard Gardner the eminent US Child Psychiatrist through his work during the 1970s and 1980s first coined the term parental alienation. He began seeing a distinct pattern of child behaviour he had not encountered before. He described this in his key note presentation at the International Conference on the Parental Alienation in Germany, in October 2002 (<http://www.rgardner.com/refs/ar22.html>) as follows:

“In this new disorder, I not only saw programming ("brainwashing") of the child by one parent to denigrate the other, but also self-created contributions by the child in support of the alienating parent's campaign of denigration against the alienated parent.” Sadly Dr Gardner died in May 2003 but the work that he started continues today in earnest across the world to establish the existence of



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this condition, to recognise the significant and destructive impact it has on children and importantly aim to prevent it or reverse its effects which is much more difficult to do.

#### **Activities to Support Parental Alienation Awareness Day**

- Increased media awareness by parenting groups across the UK and internationally including the Parental Alienation Awareness group (<http://www.parental-alienation-awareness.com/default.asp>) based in the US.
- Support from an eminent UK child psychologist, Dr Ludwig Lowenstein (<http://www.parental-alienation.info/>)
- Submission of a European and International joint letter on Parental Alienation to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Contact: J Fitzgerald via [fried@aesops.force9.co.uk](mailto:fried@aesops.force9.co.uk) – letter accessible via: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/euro-dads/message/28519>)

A JUMP spokesperson said, “It is a sad and unwelcome reality to face the realisation that your marriage that you had fully committed to for all the right reasons is no more. You have to deal with the harsh realities of somehow contributing to the failure of one of the most important human relationships we all aspire to making successful. To also have to face up to seeing your children torn emotionally between being with their mother and father and being forced to make



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a choice between them by one parent and feeling powerless to stop this process is even more heartbreaking.

To see your children systematically turned against you to the point that your original loving relationship with them has turned into verbalised hatred and vilification of you and that they no longer want you in their life, is like a living bereavement.

This problem is not a gender issue – mothers and fathers alike are suffering, however the biggest sufferers of all are the children who have been denied a relationship with a loving, caring and devoted parent for completely fabricated and unacceptable reasons. There are no winners in a situation like this – only losers and everyone must be made aware of the very real consequences of such actions – for all our children’s sake.”

JUMP’s key initiative for 2006 will be the publication of a Jewish Parenting Plan with the aim of it being supported and endorsed by the Chief Rabbi’s Office, the Jewish Board of Deputies and the wider Jewish community. The intention is that this Plan will be annexed to the updated Department for Education and Skills Parenting Plans published in February 2006 ([http://www.orderprocessor.co.uk/files/273033\\_NewParentBk.pdf](http://www.orderprocessor.co.uk/files/273033_NewParentBk.pdf)).

The hope is that in the future Jewish parents forced to turn to the Courts to



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resolve parenting difficulties when their marriage sadly comes to end will have clear and supported Jewish parenting guidelines as to what is expected of them in sharing precious time with their children and thus avoid the significant pitfalls and difficulties other Jewish parents have experienced in the past including the devastating impact of parental alienation where Jewish parents are excluded from their children's lives.

- End -

**Background Information on Jewish Unity for Multiple Parenting (JUMP)**

JUMP was formed in December 2001 to raise awareness of parenting time problems children and parents face following marital separation and divorce in the Jewish community, and to try and effect a real change in perceptions and attitudes within a religion which is so family orientated but is not really reacting to the increasing rate of divorce and these associated problems. JUMP aims to achieve essentially the opportunity for both mothers and fathers to be equal parents that would be fully supported throughout all areas of the Jewish community.



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JUMP has developed close links with Rabbis and Jewish social, medical and legal representatives and has an ongoing dialogue with the Chief Rabbi's Office and the President of the Board of Deputies.

Although JUMP's focus is clearly to support Jewish parents who experience these post-divorce parenting difficulties, the group has also established positive links with other national and international parenting groups including Families Need Fathers (**FNF** - <http://www.fnf.org.uk/>), Equal Parenting Council (**EPC** - <http://www.equalparenting.org/>), Mothers Apart From Their Children (**MATCH** - <http://www.matchmothers.org/>), Euro-dads&mums (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/euro-dads/>), the Grandparents Action Group (**GAG** - <http://way.to/gaguk>), and Parent and Abducted Children Together (**PACT** - <http://www.pact-online.org/>).

#### **Important Note**

As many members of JUMP are still involved in legal proceedings involving contact arrangements with their children post-separation/divorce it is important for their children's sake that their identity is protected.

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