



BOTH PARENTS MATTER

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ‘independent’ panel membership

The Ministry of Justice announced a review of how the family courts protect children and parents in cases of domestic abuse and other serious offences on Tuesday 21 May

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spotlight-on-child-protection-in-family-courts>

Membership of the ‘independent’ review panel was announced on 21st June 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/family-justice-panel-update>

The purpose of the panel and the enquiry is **‘...to gather evidence on how the family courts protect children and parents in cases of domestic abuse and other serious offences.’**

The panel includes at least two well-known feminist academics whose independence is highly questionable. It also includes the Acting Co-Chief Executive of Women’s Aid. There are no representatives from Wales and none who understand or represent the experience of fathers.

We are writing to Paul Maynard MP to request that our charity be invited to put forward a representative to address concerns of bias and ensure greater public confidence in the enquiry.

WHAT WE’RE ASKING FROM YOU?

1. Table a question to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice – Paul Maynard MP about the selection process for the panel including the criteria determined for membership – and specifically why no individual who represents the experience of fathers nor anyone who can represent the interests and perspectives of Wales has been included in the panel when a representative body for women – ie Women’s Aid?
2. Support our proposal for a representative of our charity to join the panel to ensure that both Wales and the experience of fathers is properly represented.

Further information about the charity and its work can be obtained here www.fnf-bpm.org.uk

AEGIS is a specialist domestic violence support service for male victims of domestic abuse

Both Parents Matter provides information, advice and assistance to parents and grandparents with child contact problems. Access to free one to one legal advice is available from specialist family solicitors at our face to face meetings