

To: Status of Women Committee

Violence in our homes has been normalized in our country and needs to be addressed and stopped. As survivors our failed system expects us to stay calm, patient, and act nicely which is both highly unrealistic and enslaving as if someone is holding your head under water and your drowning and being asked not to react. Stay calm when someone you love or your kids are being hurt and or harmed. Stay calm while someone is strangling you and you try to come forward and discover your chances to prove it are gone. Women and children are stuck because they have nowhere to go, no access to Money or help, are in another country and are scared to report anything due to deportation and are legally

Unable to flee for safety with serious repercussions.

Children are forced into unsafe and unprotected situations despite the facts, documentation, and proof. Our children are given no rights while the abusive parent is given all rights. Were told as parents to teach our children from day one to have a voice and protect themselves and to stand up for themselves and yet when faced with DV and coercive control, professionals and Judges Dismiss these teachings and force them into dangerous unsafe and other times deadly scenarios and situations.

Many professionals are not educated in DV and coercive control. Custody and access assessments need to be better mandated and proper in depth and ongoing education and training in DV and coercive control for these professionals needs to be mandated.

(EX: Dr Postuma out of Vancouver BC was up on multiple charges and law suits for many unprotected children being forcibly removed from safe parents and given to abusers. He was let off due to Canadian law stating an expert witness cannot be held accountable for their testimonies in trials)

This law NEEDS to be removed and addressed for professionals destroying families and in many cases resulting in death of women and children.

Keira's Law Bill C-233 needs to be passed in Canada mandating DV and coercive control education and training for all Family court Judges and officials and professionals alike. There needs to be criminal convictions implemented in custody disputes and especially in high conflict cases.

We need a National Safe Parent Coalition and enforcement of a child's right to live free from abuse and that the child's safety, implicitly in the law, MUST be made TOP priority in all custody decision making.

There needs to be legislation that helps to empower victims, strengthen law enforcement, improve statutes to close loop holes and correct injustices. Provide protection and services and Justice for young victims of violence, help for children exposed to DV and engage men in preventing violence. Provide economic support and security assistance of all types of workplace harassment. Protect indigenous women and children especially on tribal lands from DV, sexual violence, trafficking, stalking and all other related injustices.

Create and implement DV and coercive control definitions of psychological patterns of mental, emotional, physical, financial, legal, sexual, and all other forms to become quantified in punishable and enforceable steps by courts such as penalties, jail time and criminal convictions especially in relation to child custody cases and access. This also needs to be held towards power individuals such as government officials, politicians, law enforcement, etc.

DV and coercive control should be mandated and implemented into all curriculum in universities and college programs for law enforcement, child services, psychological areas and legal areas and all careers based in and around children etc.

We need to work towards a goal of PRO child safety, PRO safe parents, PRO ethical attorneys and Judges who care about the well being of children and actively

Stand up for protection of their clients from all forms of abuse, DV, and coercive control post separation as well as trauma informed court rooms.

We need to recognize and address the DV and coercive control Power wheel and the causes of intimate partner violence such as Intimidation, Isolation, Coercion, Threats, DV, toxic masculinity, etc. Also need to readdress international legislation such as The Hague Convention and include these factors in this legislation and prevent abusers from using this as another avenue to control and isolate safe parents and children.

Im a Safe parent with a child and we are survivors and still dealing with ongoing DV and coercive control, 8 years into our high conflict custody battle and \$500,000 in legal fees to date and no end in sight. I'm financially drained as well as emotionally, and mentally beyond exhausted. I have to constantly watch my child be put in harms way according to my court order wondering if my Child will be returned, or what abuse is being endured during unsupervised access, or god forbid something worse. The court order is not followed and never has been and always being defied. I have no avenues to enforce anything and no real protection for me Or my child. I'm watching the repercussions of this situation in my child's emotional and mental state as we struggle to navigate and find help and protection through all this. I feel Completely helpless and like a huge failure for my child as a safe parent.

Our children and the survivors need and voice and help and protection and deserve nothing less

Thank you

Sincerely

A Drained Mother