



**Danish Fathers
Association**

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UN Secretary-General UN Human Rights Watch

**Report by Danish Fathers Association
May 2018**



**To: United Nations Secretary-General
United Nations Human Rights Watch**

Copy: National Danish Police
National Human Rights Institute
National Equality Committee
Danish Ministry of Equality, Children and Justice
Danish Parliament Gender Equality, Children and Justice Committees
The Council of Europe
European Commission DG Justice

Subject: Sever harassment, smear campaigns and surveillance in human rights work for children and fathers

Addressing and preventing acts of intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups seeking to cooperate with the United Nations on human rights have been a long-standing concern to the United Nations.

The United Nations – and particularly its human rights bodies and mechanisms – rely on the cooperation of the people they serve. Individuals and groups engaging with the UN provide valuable on-the-ground insights and information, alert the UN system to evolving situations, and push for relevant action to be taken. The freedom to engage with the UN is a basic exercise of fundamental freedoms and human rights of all, and must be respected and protected. When those engaging with the UN face intimidation, threats, imprisonment and worse for doing so, we all lose, and the credibility of the UN is damaged. The UN as a whole has a collective responsibility to stop and prevent these reprehensible acts.

Designation of the Assistant Secretary-General for human rights to lead UN efforts to put an end to intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the UN on human rights

The Secretary-General publicly has expressed his deep alarm over the increase in reprisals and intimidation against people cooperating with the UN on human rights.

The Secretary-General announced, after consultations with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, he had asked Andrew Gilmour, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, to lead the efforts within the UN system to address intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the UN on human rights. These efforts will build on and complement existing efforts, and will include strengthened engagement with Member States and other key interlocutors.

Currently, multiple actors are engaged in responding to reprisals within the UN system, including OHCHR, the Human Rights Council, special procedures and treaty bodies.



CHILDREN AND FATHERS

The Danish Fathers Association hereby send its formal notification on what we experience as sever and systematic harassment of young volunteers and voluntary leaders, as well as fathers and smear campaign and surveillance of father and children organizations in Denmark. The Danish Fathers Association was, founded in 1977 being one of the world first children and father organizations working to protect and respect human rights and gender equality for women and men, boys and girls.

The Danish Fathers Association submitted in 2015 an UN Examination report on children and fathers in Denmark as part of the UN human rights examination of Denmark. We have been a member of the national institute for human rights equality committee and has recently presented what is probably also the “world’s first” gender equality catalog for children and fathers with 348 items in 12 themes related to human rights violations and concerns in Denmark and most western world countries.

We have during our work on a weekly basis experienced sever and systematic harassment, smear campaigns and surveillance. The harassment are performed by individuals as well as small groups of people who through harassment try to make it difficult for our organization to secure human rights and gender equality for both mothers and fathers as well as a better upbringing for children in families with shared parenting.

It has not been possible to take legal actions at this stage or to use freedom of speech by young volunteers, voluntary leaders, nor fathers due to the protection of children in specific children cases including children that have been, abducted from Denmark and are wanted by Interpol. The reason behind the hesitation to take action is that the actions could endanger the children.

EXAMPLES

We hereby provide examples of the harassment of our young volunteers of voluntary leaders and fathers.

1. Hate speech

We experience a well-known “feminist” and former journalist on her personal blog uses images of our young volunteers and leaders with many incorrect statements and false accusation. Our young volunteers and voluntary leaders with no criminal records working in legal councils and law firms are, for example shown together with criminals, murders and child abusers. The individual has recently received a court decision to remove content, but in media stated she was not, convicted.



2. Tagging

We experience articles with incorrect information and false accusations being systematic tagged with our association and volunteers names, so that search engines on social media find it.

3. Stalking / surveillance

We experience persons follow everything we do on a daily or weekly basis trying to misuse the smallest issues or issues not related to the Danish Fathers Association trying to generate scandals and smear campaigns on purpose.

4. Fake news

We experience a small group of well-known “feminist” journalists in Denmark that on national media has made several debate or blogs articles, where they despite professional knowledge about the importance of checking stories and facts, try to create a “bad picture” of children and father organizations. This with information they have not checked and very easily could have checked as being wrong and false.

5. Danish Women Organization Awards

We experience that a leading women organization in close personal network with the above-mentioned individuals and small networks has given awards to some of the worse hate speakers against fathers we have seen in Denmark. This without checking the information and facts, causing anger and harassment towards children and fathers.

6. Hate campaigns doing political reforms

We experience the same women organizations that awards hate speakers misusing images of our young volunteers, at the same time creating campaigns against rape and violence against women in what seems to be coordinated with parliament discussing about political reforms for human rights protection of children and fathers in general.

7. Book selling based on hate speech

We experience books with hate speech and incorrect information being marketed and sold on hate blogs in violation of Danish commercial laws being associated with fathers or father organizations to increase sales and create smear campaigns.



8. Smear campaigns on Children toys sponsorship

We experience hate speech and incorrect information by the same few well-known persons, when receiving sponsorships from large companies for example free children toys sponsorships. Trying to create smear campaigns against the companies so that they do not support our association working for human rights of children and fathers.

9. Attempt to prevent parliament hearing on children and fathers

We experience attempts to prevent a hearing on children and fathers in the Danish Parliament by contacting parliament politicians with incorrect information and smear campaigns that has stopped politicians to participate.

10. Research Institutions contacted with incorrect information

We experience that researcher from international top universities working on shared parenting, children's health and children and father issues with our organization; have been contacted by a well-known "feminist" journalist. They has been, provided with incorrect information and with an attempt to create a smear campaign.

11. Journalists and media contacted

We experience that journalist and media many times have been, contacted with incorrect information and false accusations. Among other by the same "feminist" journalist and a person in the network that has several court decisions for false accusations admitting among other false accusation of child abuse in court. This to create smear campaigns against fathers and father's organizations.

12. Personal information on voluntary leaders

We experience that "feminist" journalist(s) in direct contact with person(s) that has several court verdict on incorrect information, including admitted false accusation of child abuse, tries to find, create and distribute incorrect information about voluntary leaders on social media and in hate groups.

13. Smear campaign due to UN Woman Committee contact

We experience that "feminist" journalist(s) has followed voluntary leaders personally trying to create smear campaigns when providing important information about fathers and children to the UN Gender Equality Women Committee.



14. Hate groups

We experience the same few persons are behind hate groups on the internet and Facebook with messages like “never get children in Denmark” creating systematic harassment and smear campaigns based on incorrect information. Creating hate and harassment of fathers and father organizations in general.

15. Lawyers ethics and methods

We experience family lawyers systematically are having a different approach based on the gender when they represent parents in court and a group of lawyers that are using the same methods to get fathers out of their child's life. For one lawyer we have a very large number of fathers who independent of each other have experienced the same incorrect information and false accusations about violence and abuse in their children cases. Also the lawyer has tried to represent clients wanted by Interpol for children abduction at the same time stating she did not know where the mothers were.

16. Family law

We experience that due to family law that historically are based on a single parent that any father in Denmark and in most western world countries within a few hours can lose contact to his child and the child to the father using the same unethically and systematic methods by the mother, mother groups or lawyer.

17. National newspaper with personal network to known “feminist”

We have experience a national newspaper having editors with personal networks to feminist allowing them to provide incorrect information to the public without any professional journalistic checks. If fathers and our fathers associations correct the information, it is being ignored by the editors and our comments will be linked online to the incorrect information to sell more newspapers and create smear campaigns preventing freedom of speech for children and fathers.

18. Freedom of speech or criminal conduct

We experience that these persons and groups are trying to use freedom of speech for what seems to be simply criminal conduct.



19. Violence against women, murder and harassment

We experience systematically use of false accusations and incorrect information by mothers and woman groups for example in children social cases, where the fathers cannot be to blame, based gender inequality in family law and welfare benefits.

20. Court verdicts on false accusations

We experience that even though there is court verdicts on incorrect information and smear campaign it does not have or only have little effect. The institutional human right protection system does still not protect the victim.

21. Family research based only on mothers

We experience family researchers and national research institutions are presenting research as 'family research', but really has only asked mothers and not fathers. The research is showing a one-sided picture of the family situation of the children and the whole and truthful picture is, kept away from politicians and influencers. Thereby preventing the necessary changes in the contemporary system to secure human rights protection, equality of parents and a better upbringing of the children.

22. State funding

We experience a systematic lack of funding of children and father organization compared to mother and children organizations. State accountants have found illegal financial support in ministries that children and father organizations have not been informed about, nor have had, the chance to apply for.

23. Private funds with tax reductions

We experience systematic lack of private funding on specific funds with tax reduction supporting mother and children organization. Male board members have, in two cases informed us informally that women executives at two Danish funds personally "did not like children and father organizations". Causing what could be gender discrimination in tax reduced funding.

24. Private funds invitations to mother organization and ministry advisors

We experience that a private fund with tax reduction has invited politicians, ministry advisors and the specific minister legal personal making Danish Family Law on trips



jointly with mother organizations without the invitation of children and fathers organizations.

25. Parliament members being misinformed

We have experience a Parliament member being, incorrectly informed by hate groups linking to hate blogs with severe harassment of our young volunteers and voluntary leaders. On mentioning, it was not removed. Court verdicts later declared content on the hate group linked removed.

26. Media programs stopped

We experience national television programs on children and fathers human rights issues being stopped or editors not daring to bring programs on children and fathers human rights issues due to the risk of harassment and smear campaigns.

27. Risk of media harassment

We experience media and journalists not daring or being, allowed by editors to make positive and professional interviews on children and fathers due to the risk of harassment and smear campaigns from “feminists”

28. Violence against children and fathers

We experience severe psychological, financial and physical violence against children and fathers due to gender discrimination that are being ignored

29. Lack of statistics on violence against children and fathers

We experience lack of understanding and financial support, hereby statistics of violence against children and fathers due to gender discrimination, making the numbers for violence and financial support to women higher. This is creating an imbalance in the general understanding of violence against children and parents in general.

30. Children, parent and lawyer Murders

We experience murders of lawyers and attempt to murder fathers being “glorified” by hate groups – and we experience murders of children by parents due to severe gender discrimination, that we believe could have been and should have been prevented.



This is just some of the examples we experience in our human rights work for children and fathers. Having the same respect for women and men, boys and girls.

The Danish Fathers Association has for the protection of children ignored the severe harassment, smear campaigns and surveillance, but have urged the human rights institutional protection to take actions.

It seems very clear that the method used is to create hate and fear of children and fathers and children and fathers organizations to prevent political reforms and a modernization for ordinary citizens and children and fathers in general in respect of family life and human rights for all citizens.

The patterns, persons and networks involved is, well documented today. It seems that the patterns in Denmark is identical for many western world countries.

OUR HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS

The main, focus of the Danish Fathers Association is related to the UN Children convention article 2 and 7 as well as the Human Rights convention and the European Human rights convention articles 8, 14 and 17. We do see clear human right violations on a daily basis in most western world countries without institutional protection.

Convention on the rights for the child:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

*Article 2: States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, **sex**, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or **other status**. 2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.*

*Article 7: The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and. as far as possible, **the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents**.*

European Convention on Human Rights:

https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf

*Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life 1. **Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life**, his home and his correspondence. 2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in*



accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

*Article 14 Prohibition of discrimination. The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without **discrimination on any ground such as sex**, race, color, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or **other status**.*

*Article 17 Prohibition of abuse of rights **Nothing in this Convention may be interpreted as implying** for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or perform any act aimed at **the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein or at their limitation to a greater extent than is provided for in the Convention.***

THE HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION IS MISSING

For years the Danish Fathers Association on behalf of children and fathers has tried to get the institutional and formal human rights protection organizations involved and to understand and address the human right issues and harassment of children and fathers. However, this has not been possible and we experience clear gender discrimination in the institutional human rights protection support.

This is some examples:

The National Danish equality committee

The national Danish equality committee has received more than 25 principle human cases as example of violations for children and fathers. However, the committee does not address the UN children convention, nor the human right convention in its work, but only the Danish legislation. Because the Danish family legislation today is violating the basic human rights of children and fathers the committee has to use the UN conventions, but it does not. Even though Denmark is committed to both the UN convention for the child and the European convention for human rights.

The National Danish Human Rights Institute

The same situation applies to the national Danish human rights institution that from several years of experience simply do not have the knowledge and understanding of children and father issues. IN the advisory committee of the institute, there are two women organizations present and one LGBT organization. However, no children and father organizations, which seems to be a clear violation of the Danish Gender Equality Act. One of the things we have experience is that the institute either don't have any knowledge about the children and father's issues and when they are confronted state it is politically based when it is done by women and not political based when done by men, having the effect that the situations are handled all differently and are excused as political free speech although being harassment.



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The Danish Gender equality ministry

The Danish Gender Equality ministry are every year publishing a governmental strategy on equality. However, it seems clear that knowledge about children and fathers is simply not present. The gender equality catalog is normally, based on women issues instead of an equal representation of the 3-5 most important issues for women, men, boys and girls.

The National Danish Police

We experience that the national Danish Police in many situations are doing a good work. However, it is also clear that the national police are being, affected by woman campaigns and do not have understanding and support towards the systematic harassment, smear campaigns and surveillance against fathers and children and fathers organizations that are very clearly more than just single incidence, both systematic and sever harassment in the Human Rights work.

Law firms

We experience lawyers and law firms not daring to handle cases, where they know they will receive smear campaigns and harassment by women groups.

ATTACHED:

- UN Examination Report by the Danish Fathers Association, 2015
- Council of Europe resolution on children and fathers, 2015

On Behalf of the Danish Fathers Association

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