

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH ON 15 NOVEMBER IN PARLIAMENT TO CHANGE PRESUMPTION OF CHILD CONTACT WITH ABUSIVE PARENTS IN FAMILY COURT

Right to Equality, an organisation dedicated to championing gender equality under the law, is set to launch a groundbreaking campaign on 15 November, hosted by Jess Phillips MP and Caroline Nokes MP, at Parliament! This campaign aims to challenge and change the existing presumption of child contact in the family court so that no child should be forced to have contact with abusive parents, shedding light on the critical need to prioritise child safety and well-being in legal proceedings.

Changing the Presumption of Child Contact with Abusive Parents

15 November, 2023

11.30 to 14.00

Committee Room 18, House of Commons

This event is by invitation only

The campaign, which is led by Dr Charlotte Proudman (founder and lead of Right to Equality) and Dr Adrienne Barnett (Reader in Law at Brunel University London and adviser to Right to Equality), advocates for a fundamental shift in the family court system by challenging the presumption of child contact with abusive parents and calls for the urgent need for legal reform that prioritises the safety and well-being of child and adult victims of domestic abuse.

With a growing awareness of the harm that can be caused to children from the presumption of contact, Right to Equality is spearheading this initiative to bring about legislative change and create a safer environment for children navigating the complexities of family court proceedings. The campaign launch event will feature prominent speakers, including experts in child protection, experts on domestic abuse, and legal professionals who will share insights and perspectives on the pressing need for reform.

The key objectives of the campaign include:

- Raising awareness on the issue of child contact with abusive parents and its impact on the safety and well-being of children and victim parents involved in family court cases.
- Advocating for change by calling for reconsideration and reform of the existing statutory and de facto presumption of child contact, ensuring that the family court system prioritises the safety and best interests of the child.
- Supporting survivors through uplifting their voices. The presumption of contact can significantly impact survivors of domestic abuse; this launch invites them to share their experiences and contribute to the dialogue surrounding the need for change.

- Engaging stakeholders by fostering collaboration and engagement with policymakers, legal professionals, child welfare organisations, and survivor advocates to create a comprehensive and effective approach to family court reform.

Right to Equality has invited members of the media, lawmakers, advocacy groups, and members of the public to join us on 15 November at Parliament to launch this important campaign. Representatives from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's office, Voices Charity, SafeLives, the Lioness Circle, Refuge, Rape Crisis England & Wales, Women's Aid, Rights of Women, Survivor Family Network, Latin American Women's Aid, the Victims Commissioner's Office and Firebird have RSVP'd to attend.

Together, we can work towards a family court system that truly prioritises the safety, well-being, and future of the children it serves.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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