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## Input Submission - Gender Disinformation Report

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### Conceptual issues

#### *What do you consider to be 'gendered disinformation'?*

1. A recent concerning example is SR Ms Reem Alsalem's recent Report & specifically her speech to the UN on 23rd June 2023.
2. I refer to the following transcribed statements from Ms Alsalem:

#### **Gender Disinformation Statement #1**

*"The reality is though, which the report tried to highlight, is that it (PA) is predominantly used and invoked against mothers."*

3. I am part of a worldwide support group of Alienated Parents. There are hundreds if not thousands of us in that group. The gender mix would be approx 50/50 Mums & Dads or maybe even 60/40 Mums to Dads.
4. In Australia there's currently a [Change.org](https://www.change.org) EMMM petition entitled:

***"A Legislation against Parental Alienating Behaviours, it's Child Abuse & Family Violence."***

5. As of 4th July 2023, this petition has 33,895 signatures.
6. The people who have signed are Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles, Children, Friends, Legal & Psychological Professionals.
7. Ms Alsalem's needs to spend time with alienated Mums & Dads and not simply make sweeping unscientific statements that don't reflect the reality on the ground around the world.
8. Which **peer reviewed** scientific research paper does Ms Alsalem's rely on to make this statement?
9. Did Ms Alsalem's collate, assess & report information & research from **all** stakeholder submissions or just the people and/or organisations that aligned with her views?

## Gender Disinformation Statement #2

*“And it (PA) is invoked as a tool during custody, child custody proceedings precisely to divert attention from the history of domestic violence or abuse either against the mother and the child.”*

10. So is it Ms. Alsalem’s view that mothers who are alienated from their children, are the ones perpetrating domestic violence and/or abuse against the child?
11. Again, which **peer reviewed**, longitudinal research does Ms Alsalem rely on to support her statement?
12. Ms. Alsalem’s statement fails to take into account the scientifically well documented link between mental health Cluster B Personality Disorder Pathology & Parental Alienation abuse behaviours. She doesn’t mention this.
13. Her default is, Dad’s at fault.
14. Late last year, I emailed Ms Alsalem my feedback for her report. I provided information & for example, photographic evidence of my beloved children’s mother distressingly hugging a letterbox in order to prevent me from putting a monetary gift & card in for our daughter.
15. Ms. Alsalem didn’t even acknowledge receipt of my email let alone express any concern about the photograph. My real-world feedback just didn’t sit comfortably with her Report Confirmation Bias.

## Disinformation Statement #3

*“I also would like to address the objections that I had received, also from a number of organisations, about me concurring that parental alienation is not a scientific concept and that the point of departure for the analysis of the information was indeed that it is not a scientific theory as per not the mandate really the medical, psychiatric and psychological associations that are experts on this.”*

16. Before I address the disinformation in the above statement, I’d like to highlight that despite objections from “a number of organisations”, Ms Alsalem remained convinced she was correct & they were all mistaken.
17. A reasonable, objective person might pause, reflect & re-examine all the evidence presented, given entire organisations were raising objections & citing peer reviewed research & other evidence. Ms Alsalem chose not to do so.
18. I raised in my feedback document to her that there are numerous psychological scientific peer reviewed papers addressing the phenomenon known as Parental Alienation.
19. I specifically referred to two peer reviewed papers published in two of the most prestigious Academic Psychology Journals in the world such as:

“Developmental Psychology & the Scientific Status of Parental Alienation” authored by Harman, J. J., Warshak, R. A., Lorandos, D., & Florian, M. J. (2022). *Developmental psychology - Journal of the American Psychological Association*

<https://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Fdev0001404>

“The Five Factor Model for the Diagnosis of Parental Alienation” authored by William Bernet MD & Laurence L Greenhill MD - *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*.

[https://www.jaacap.org/article/S0890-8567\(21\)02046-3/fulltext](https://www.jaacap.org/article/S0890-8567(21)02046-3/fulltext)

20. I offered that these world-renowned Psychology Journals are not in the habit of publishing ‘pseudo-science’.

#### **Disinformation Statement #4**

“However, there is no scientific way to attribute this (PA) to any specific action by any of the parents.”

21. This is a false & misleading statement by Ms. Alsalem.

22. There are several diagnostic tools that are used to diagnose & assess Parental Alienation cases from Realistic Estrangement cases such as the Five Factor Model mentioned above.

23. For more PA information & research please visit

<https://emmm.org.au/academic-articles>

24. Ms Alsalem’s unjustified & unscientific denunciation of Parental Alienation as a genuine psychological trauma adds further distress to alienated families. Haven’t we all suffered enough?

25. Ms Alsalem’s was clearly guided & persuaded by the research of *Meier et al. (2019)*. I attach a scientific methodological comparison between *Meier et al. (2019)* and *Harman and Lorandos (2020)*.

26. I would offer that the attached concerns raised about the scientific methodology used in the Meier Paper are not insignificant.

27. Ms Alsalem would have been wise to exercise greater caution when concurring with, & reporting conclusions from this paper given its methodological shortcomings.

#### **Responses of States, companies and organizations**

***What measures have States, digital companies or international organizations taken to combat ‘gendered disinformation’?***

28. There are wonderful **gender-neutral** organisations that are providing balance in relation to the phenomenon of Parental Alienation.

29. They focus on education, science & support for families in stark contrast to the gender disinformation of those seeking to divide the international community into gender political camps.
30. These organisations include:
  - (a) Eeny Meeny Miney Mo Foundation -Australia <https://emmm.org.au/>
  - (b) Parental Alienation - UK <https://parentalalienationuk.info/>
  - (c) Good Egg Safety - UK <https://goodeggsafety.com/>
  - (d) Parental Alienation Awareness - UK [https://paawareness.co.uk/parental-alienation/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwho-IBhC\\_ARIsAMpgMofwj-US1Uek2KArB-Y5o7J1ocNSYpu2IvoVT\\_EwMVpn9bEg8Jo\\_1oYaAl63EALw\\_wcB](https://paawareness.co.uk/parental-alienation/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwho-IBhC_ARIsAMpgMofwj-US1Uek2KArB-Y5o7J1ocNSYpu2IvoVT_EwMVpn9bEg8Jo_1oYaAl63EALw_wcB)
  - (e) International Council on Shared Parenting - <https://www.twohomes.org/>
  - (f) Parental Alienation Study Group (International) <https://pasg.info/>

***To what extent do these responses comply with international human rights law standards, in particular freedom of expression?***

31. Well for one thing, they are not discriminating on the basis of gender like Ms Alsalem & her supporters are. United we stand, divided we fall.
32. These organisations are not trying to limit Ms Alsalem's freedom of expression. She is entitled to her views & to report them.
33. Where we have issue with her report & statements is she has intentionally censored & omitted any information about the scientific basis of Parental Alienation along with the submissions of many alienated parents (including many mothers).
34. The lack of transparency in the preparation of this report reflects an intentional repression of the freedom of speech of opinions that do not agree with her.
35. Besides the suppression of expression, this is also against Ms Alsalem's mandate as SR.
36. Among the information that has been concealed is:
  - (a) Whether and (if so) how submissions were recorded.
  - (b) The inclusion and exclusion criteria used to determine which submissions would be referred to in the final report.
  - (c) The date when all submissions (not excluded on the basis of confidentiality) would be published and available to read.
  - (d) The date when a list of all the organizations, agencies, individuals and others (not excluded on the basis of confidentiality) who made submissions as a result of the call for inputs, would be published and available to read.

- (e) Which 'stakeholders and experts' were invited to take part in the series of online consultations.
- (f) The criteria used to determine which 'stakeholders and experts' would be invited to take part in those online consultations.
- (g) Whether and when the evidence elicited from those online consultations will be published and available to read.

***How effective have these measures been in addressing 'gendered disinformation'?***

- 37. Organisations like those I have mentioned above have provided detailed submissions to Ms Alsalem on the subject of Parental Alienation.
- 38. It's impossible for them to address such gender disinformation if Ms. Alsalem refuses to "allow them a seat at the table".

**Finding solutions**

*What recommendations do you think the Special Rapporteur should make and to whom on combating gendered disinformation?*

- 39. I think Ms. Kahn should address the aforementioned concerns organisations & individuals have raised in relation to Ms Alsalem's report.
- 40. I understand this is a sensitive issue given Ms Alsalem is also a UN SR, but gender disinformation needs to be addressed **wherever it is found** & especially if it's affecting UN decision & policy making.
- 41. A new independent SR should be appointed to assess all the information provided to Ms Alsalem & a revised report published.
- 42. If Ms Alsalem has been found to have censored & suppressed relevant information & peer reviewed research from organisations & individuals that didn't align with her view, then she should face disciplinary action for deliberately attempting to mislead the United Nations.

***What issues or areas of gendered disinformation require further research in your opinion?***

- 43. I think the claim that Parental Alienation is only a concept used by fathers to leverage better outcomes in family law matters needs to be assessed through gender neutral research.
- 44. Whilst some parents might attempt such a legal tactic, it doesn't negate the overwhelming evidence that Parental Alienation exists & can be scientifically diagnosed (5 Factor Model) and delineated from Realistic Estrangement cases.
- 45. Research could focus on the number of mothers & grandmothers experiencing Parental Alienation. I presented Ms Alsalem with the names of all the women I know who are experiencing Parental Alienation. It's a long list. I doubt she even read it.

46. Another area of much needed Research is best practice gender neutral therapeutic treatment programs for families experiencing Parental Alienation & Coercive & Controlling Abuse.
47. What treatment works & what doesn't would be so helpful for international efforts to address the harmful long-term damage inflicted on families by Parental Alienation.

*Please provide references or links to relevant research or reports.*

48. Kindly refer to the attached document plus the Scientific Papers & Organisation URL links I've listed above.

**END**