



FLINT

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The Good Childhood enquiry.

As an NGO whose primary interest is family related issues we find that there would appear to be an obsessive strategy with the Government and it's supporting agencies such as Social Services, Police, CAFCASS, NSPCC, CSA to demonise fathers and children.

From the Home Office own reports it is envisaged that the majority of children will have some form of criminal record in the next ten years. This observation is further supported by the Howard penal reform group who have found a massive increase in the number of children having criminal records over the last ten years.

The difficulty is, in order to understand the problem there is a denial within the Government circles and it's agencies and the Courts of what are the causes e.g. the largest study taken to date on child abuse in the USA states clearly that the mothers are more responsible. **Female Parent Only 44.7%**, Male Parent Only 15.9%, Both Parents 17.7%, Female parent and other 7.9%, and Male Parent and Other 1.1.

Similar NSPCC studies are available but because most of these show female abuse there is a brick wall mentality and the NSPCC portrays fathers rather than mothers as the main offenders.

Similarly all major independent studies including Home Office own studies show that Domestic Violence [DV] is a perpetration by both sexes in virtually equal numbers. But to date all advertising campaigns show the men/ fathers/ husbands as the perpetrators of DV.

It is this difficulty in which children find they become invisible and have little or no effective voice.

In addition to the difficulties they face within a parental breakdown scenario the children are also at the mercy of the likes of Social services/ CAFCASS/ NSPCC who have more power and/ or powers similar only to M15/ M16 to remove children from families without giving any reason and although the Judges may make orders that these organisations must give reasons and open files, the very same judges and senior judges will refuse to implement or enforce those orders contrary to ECtHR articles 6, 8, 13 and 17.

With the above scenarios currently the kingpin of our policy towards children, it is a wonder that the jails are not already full of delinquent children.

In the USA where one of the largest studies was conducted, it showed 10% of the population being mother headed was responsible for 80% of child delinquency/ criminal activity and in the UK Sheffield Hallam University found 80% of all anti-social behaviour orders were given to children from single mother homes. Note; we do not believe that the children by design and/ or some unknown hereditary problems may inhibit such delinquent behaviour but are forced into it by State apparatus. The message, that we should spy on our children from the current Home Minister can only exasperate the situation. This is no different to the actions in the formation of the Nazi Empire.

The most ambitious effort to identify bad parents is underway in the UK, where the "New Labour" government has proposed spending nearly over 200 hundred million pounds to create a database of all children and their parents. The database is designed to detect child abuse, and will contain dozens of "data points," monitoring everything from children's immunization records to whether they're eating properly. These records will be available on request by Charities, and other agencies upon permission of the Local Authority who do not have a good track record where children are concerned. Further the Government is permitting finger printing of children in schools ostensibly for biometric registers yet widely open for abuse.

Many people believe that they are being letdown by all those who purport to help and their wishes are never taken into account. Children's wishes and feelings are also blackened by the failure to recognise Parental Alienation Syndrome by the UK Judiciary whilst battered women's syndrome [not in DSM1V] is used in the Criminal Courts, PAS is not recognised as it is not in DSM 1V, yet it has passed two frye tests in USA, a Mohan test in Canada and been recognised in Courts in Israel, Spain, Germany, USA, Canada and Holland. Not being believed affects dramatically childhood and also psychological and emotional development.

Children truanting from school is now at an all time high and yet whilst the Government names and shames the offenders as they do with divorce cases of the rich and famous, anti-social behaviour orders and teenage criminality; children are not permitted to be named in the closed world of the Family Court. These double standards have tremendous effect in the childhood of a number of children we have spoken to and there is distinct mistrust of anyone and anybody in Authority.

Friends

Majority of these children regard any body in power as untrustworthy and against them. Very often there is tremendous peer relationship between different children from different backgrounds suffering similar abuses. Examples of these are

children that will stand up to social workers etc when one of their peers is being threatened, and that they will 'lie' in order to assist and/or cover up for their friends.

Health

The rapid spread of sexually related diseases is a classic example of a society in decline. Commercially led pressures like mobile phones does not assist but makes matters worse.

Teenage pregnancy in the UK is at all time high and the highest in the world yet studies showing conclusively the link between teenage pregnancy and fatherlessness is ignored.

Again on health there is an active encouragement by Government agencies to involve children experimenting with their sexuality and to become sexually active at very early age. As part of this strategy young girls have a blank cheque to have abortion on demand without consent of the parents.

The majority of children that from single mother headed homes have had no set pattern of diet and they ate whatever they were given often with harmful additives and MSG. Very often it was easier to 'bribe' the children into buying hamburgers for their diet instead of proper meals cooked at home whereby they could all sit around the table.

A study of Primary School children showed that the children were coming into school unable to use a knife and fork or to sit at a table to eat. Most of the children at home simply snacked whilst lounging on the sofa watching soap on TV.

Obesity is now a targeted problem yet without sufficient exercise and lack of good food is no surprise. Obesity is a result of missed childhood as a result of the various Government policies.

Values

Consecutive Governments have used children as unsuspecting participants in the social experiments carried out over the last thirty years. The sophistication of the social experiment is now being proposed to be aided by the database on children.

Nowhere in any of the Government policies to date has there been emphasis of strong family units. It is therefore not surprising childhood values are now learnt from soap operas and the commercial programming.

Lifestyle

Lifestyle is more dictated by the obsessive Government policies to commercialize anything and everything and parents having little or no time to put quality into their children.

The best example of this is in the Asian families where parents work almost continuously and there is a breakdown in the family network.

All the children that we have spoken to, to-date would rather have parents at home than any fancy toys or cosmetics. Equally the majority felt that Government policies force them into sexual activities as they feel anywhere and everywhere they look they are being bombarded with sexual literature, free sexual aids to such an extent that they are unable to get a free cup of tea but they can get as many contraceptive aids as they want.

Children as young as five face greater emphasis when taught on sex education than when taught the three R's.

Learning

Instead of being taught the three R's, family values and social and communal living respecting one another, much of the emphasis is on social engineering and it is therefore not surprising that children leave schools unable to read or write.

Conclusion

So far we have been critical of the Government's approach everyone in power's approach to the destruction of childhood and childhood innocence. The way forward we believe is an active encouragement of moral, social, spiritual and communal values. This dogma of lying to denigrate one sex against another by these agencies must stop. As for the children both their father and their mother means the same thing and it is part of their childhood.

We also believe marriage must become attractive and the sanctity of marriage protected. Government must not encourage policies which falsely purport to show mothers as disadvantaged and fathers as ruthless, violent, bullies and child abusers.

There must be tax incentive for one partner to stay at home and care for the children fulltime. Marriage should be actively supported by the Government as it provides the best outcomes for children.

There must be open accountable of the activities of Social Services, Police, NSPCC, CAFCASS, Judiciary etc.

The hypocrisy that currently exists with reference to the best interests of the children must be stopped and children should have a voice with whom they want to stay as opposed to untrained social workers making comments under oath such as 'I can tell if a mother is emotionally unstable from over a mile away, I don't need to see them I can just sense it.'

The grandparents role must be strengthened and their rights to their grandchildren should not be decided by the resident parent's wishes.

The Courts also must not cover-up abuses by the State agencies and/ or by junior courts but should be bold to make decisions of what is genuinely in the best interests of the children.

Family Courts must not be an adversarial process and where it is possible involvement of the legal profession and the Courts must be kept to a minimum. Where there is no lawyers or Courts involved we have been able to mediate successfully with warring parents. The lawyers are well-known to promulgate the difficulties as the longer proceedings last the more they get paid and there is little interest in resolving the welfare issues in closed Courts with no public access to temper the hands of justice and as many know through experience resemble the old fashioned and prohibited star chambers.

On behalf of FLINT

Yours,

Shaun O'Connell