## VIGIL FOR VICTIMS OF PARENTAL ALIENATION

HAPPY PARENTING - MALTA (FOR HAPPIER CHILDREN) (HPM4HC)
INSISTS ON FAMILY COURT REFORM: INNAQQSU L-ABBUŻ!

## Corradino Correctional Facility 25th April 2022 19:30

International Parental Alienation Awareness Day (IPAAD)

With silent compassion towards inmates who are victims of Parental Alienation.

Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) has made various proposals for changes in the law and improvements in the Family Court procedures. It has been proposed that parents – fathers or mothers – who fall victim to parental alienation should not be sent to prison on grounds of allegations or because they genuinely cannot pay maintenance.

There should be a dedicated board made up of legal professionals and others who are experts in the field of social welfare. It is they who should advise the Judicature.

Looking back, we remember clearly certain cases, covered by the media, in which victims were sent to prison for no just reason. We can mention, for example, the cases of Emmanuel Camilleri and Nicholas Azzopardi. But there are more!

In these matters, our Maltese nation should be more conscious of the irreparable harm inflicted on parents and especially children. Children do not deserve to have one of their parents sent to prison unjustly. The stigma that this causes is in itself a heavy burden.

Who can recover the days, weeks, months and years spent in prison?!

Who can restore the mental and emotional health of those involved? And this applies not only to the parent who ends up in prison, but also to close family members.

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Who can bring back those parents who, once they are serving or served their prison term, give up hope and contemplate or even commit suicide?!

Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) provides support to victims of Parental Alienation and is concerned about the delays in enacting changes to the law.

We have members who are in prison because they could not afford maintenance, or because of serious allegations such as that of domestic violence falsely or wrongly interpreted inflated in an exaggerated manner and child sexual abuse — a common lie made by the alienating parent who is often found to be suffering from mental problems. The alienating parent often appears as one who should be pitied and whose allegations should be believed as truth. Sometimes half-truths distort the story in such a way as to favour the wishes and purposes of the alienating parent. The alienating parents are "skilled masterminds of manipulation" and appear "cool, calm, charming and convincing".

Unless the professionals involved in such cases are trained in the field of Parental Alienation, they could cause more harm than good.

## CHILDREN NEED BOTH PARENTS - PARENTAL ALIENATION IS FAMILY VIOLENCE

AX The Palace - Royal Hall - 06 May 2022: Malta's 2nd International Experts' Seminar on Parental Alienation <u>HappyParentingMalta.com/seminar</u>

