

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### END VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE (EVE) STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH DIMITRA PANTAZOPOULOS: ADDRESSING PARENTAL ALIENATION AND COERCIVE CONTROL

Montreal, QC/ Canada – End Violence Everywhere (EVE) is heartbroken and outraged by the ongoing injustices faced by Montrealer Dimitra Pantazopoulos, a devoted mother who has been separated from her children by court order for almost six years. Information regarding her case is available [here](#). Dimitra’s story highlights the devastating consequences of coercive control and systemic failures within family law and youth protection that disproportionately impact survivors of abuse, when abusers easily weaponize the failings of the system against the survivor.

Dimitra, an honest and loving mother, has endured decades of abuse & coercive control by her ex-partner, resulting in the loss of custody of her children—a tragic outcome through no fault of her own. Despite her tireless efforts to reconnect with her children, Dimitra has faced insurmountable barriers, including judgments steeped in parental alienation claims and the inability to secure legal representation.

EVE recognizes that cases like Dimitra’s are far too common. Research shows that survivors of abuse often face disbelief, bias, and systemic barriers in family & youth courts, which can lead to devastating rulings that separate children from protective parents. Parental alienation claims are frequently weaponized by abusers to manipulate the system, undermining the safety and well-being of children, survivors and community as a whole.

#### A Call to Action

Dimitra’s story is not just an individual tragedy—it is a wake-up call for systemic reform. We call on policymakers, legal professionals, and family courts to:

1. Recognize that Abused Women are being seen as ‘Alienating’ Mothers and Violent Men as ‘Good’ Fathers: [Double Standards in Child Protection and Child Custody Proceedings](#)

2. Immediately abide and recognize the report written by Ms. Reem Alsalem, United Nations special rapporteur on violence against women, which states “the discredited and unscientific pseudo-concept of parental alienation is used in family law proceeding by abusers as a tool to continue their abuse and coercion and to undermine and discredit allegations of domestic violence made by women who are trying to keep their children safe.
3. That in accordance to UN report immediate actions are taken to ban and prohibit the use of parental alienation allegations and related concepts, which are discredited and pseudo-scientific.
4. Recognize that abusive post separation fathering tactics of accusing the mother of “alienating the children against him” be recognized as a form of post separation abuse and coercive control.
5. Recognize and provide restitution by allowing judgments rendered in youth or family courts, where victims of abuse were declared as “alienating” be re-opened at no cost to the victims.
6. We call on Minister of Youth Protection Lionel Carmant to declare any judgments and claims by youth protection whereby there are claims of alienation be considered as null and void given that parental alienation is not even part of the Youth Protection Act, a fact he himself has publicly stated to the media countless times.
7. Recognize that domestic violence and coercive control are criminal acts and should therefore be handled and investigated by the police instead of being handed over to untrained youth protection workers.
8. Ensure Access to Representation: Provide resources to ensure all parents, especially survivors of abuse, have access to competent legal representation.
9. Prioritize the Best Interests of Children: Uphold the safety and emotional well-being of children as the highest priority in custody rulings. Decisions should be child centric and not about the rights of an abuser as a father.

#### Standing with Dimitra

EVE stands in solidarity with Dimitra Pantazopoulos and all parents who have been unjustly separated from their children due to systemic failures. Dimitra’s courage in sharing her story is a testament to her love for her children and her commitment to justice.

As an organization dedicated to ending violence and supporting survivors, EVE calls on community members to demand accountability, advocate for systemic change, and support mothers like Dimitra who are fighting for their families.

## Support and Resources

If you or someone you know is experiencing coercive control or facing challenges in the family court system, EVE offers resources, advocacy, and community support to help navigate these difficult circumstances.

Together, we can create a system that protects families, prioritizes safety, and ensures justice for survivors.

## About EVE

End Violence Everywhere (EVE) is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting survivors of domestic violence, raising awareness about intimate partner violence, and advocating for systemic change. We believe in a world where all individuals can live free from violence and oppression.

For more information:

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Interviews with Ms. Pantazopoulos can be arranged.