Support Not Separation

SUPPORT not SEPARATION

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Press Release: International Women's Week

NINE YEARS OF PROTEST outside the FAMILY COURT: WED 4 March 2026

This month marks nine years since SNS started our monthly picket outside central family court. We will be marking the successes of key demands which we've helped to win during these years:

● **AWARENESS THAT TOO MANY CHILDREN ARE TAKEN INTO CARE.** The public now knows that thousands of children are taken into care, not because they've been harmed, but because of poverty and discriminatory assumptions by social workers and the courts, especially against single mothers. Families of colour, immigrant families, and disabled mothers and children are much more likely to be targeted.

● **AWARENESS THAT UNSCRUPULOUS PRIVATE COMPANIES SHOULD NOT BE BENEFITING** from mothers and children's heartbreak. Companies commonly charge £2,000 a month per child, bankrupting local authorities in the process. A number of local authorities are beginning to reverse this privatisation.

● **THE COURTS ARE NOW PARTLY OPEN:** Journalists and legal bloggers are allowed to report on family court cases, ending decades of secrecy and finally exposing judges, CAFCASS, Social Services, so-called "experts" and other professionals to public scrutiny.

● **"PRESUMPTION OF CONTACT" IS BEING ABOLISHED.** The legal presumption that children are better off if they spend time with both parents has been debunked as "presumption" has been shown to be the key lever used by abusive fathers to continue their coercive control over mothers and children, endangering their lives and wellbeing. Six years on from the MOJ's "Harm Report" which criticised family courts as "sexist, racist and class biased", with a "contact culture" favouring violent men over women and children, the government has finally introduced legislation to abolish "presumption". While this is a significant victory, we strongly object to it being brought in as part of the Courts and Tribunals Bill which aims to restrict the right to trial by jury.

● **"PARENTAL ALIENATION" HAS BEEN DISCREDITED AS JUNK SCIENCE.** For years the misogynist fathers' lobby has been enabled and encouraged by CAFCASS, so-called "experts" and judges to accuse protective mothers of "parental alienation" (PA). In 2022 we defeated attempts to include PA in the definition of domestic abuse in the Domestic Abuse Act. In 2024 the Family Justice Council said it was a "harmful pseudo-science". CAFCASS has been forced to update its Domestic Abuse Practice Policy so they no longer "dismiss or minimise domestic abuse as 'historical' or as a one-off incident ..."

● **MOTHERS & CHILDREN WILL NOW BE PROTECTED FROM UNREGULATED "EXPERTS".** In a recent High Court ruling Re Y (Experts and Alienating Behaviour: The Modern Approach), the President of the Family Division confirmed that unregulated/unqualified "experts" like domestic abuse denier Melanie Gill must not be allowed to give "evidence". **WE'RE CALLING** on president of the family court Sir Andrew MacFarlane to urgently review all cases where children have been taken from their mothers on the recommendation of these dangerous charlatans, and for mothers to be able to go back to court, with legal aid, to overturn these barbaric judgements.

● **AWARENESS THAT THE SCANDAL OF FORCED ADOPTIONS IS NOT ONLY "HISTORIC".** A growing movement of adult adoptees, together with birth families, is exposing the lifelong trauma caused by forced adoptions which continue to this day. Over **90% of adoptions in the UK are without parental consent** – the highest level of any European country. This most cruel abuse of power by the State must stop now!

Despite these major changes in public awareness, law and practice, thousands of (mostly single) mothers and our children, especially if we have a disability, continue to be hauled through Child Protection and/or family court for no good reason, leaving us separated not only from each other but from grandparents, siblings and wider families and communities.

We will continue campaigning to end this child removal industry which has profit at its heart, and for a Care Income for mothers and other carers so that children can be with their families safely, where they belong.

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