Notes, comments and links
By Ulf Andersson

How everything started
After an E-mail to the Men’s Party in Germany (http://www.maennerpartei.eu), January 16th 2008, I was asked to write about how the conditions were in custody battles in Sweden, which I did. The Men’s Party forwarded my E-mail to 900 E-mailaddresses and published my mail on their website under the folder ”Europe”.
(The website has been updated and the E-mail was removed on April 28th).

On January 18th, I recieved an answer from Mr. Franzjörg Krieg, spokesperson for and founder of the local division of Väteraufbruch für Kinder, Father Interruption for Children, in Karlsruhe/Südpfalz (http://vafk-karlsruhe.de) and chairman in the regional division of Baden-Württemberg. In the E-mail I was invited to attend the Father Congress for which Franzjörg was the initiator and main responsible arranger for.

I thought that this sounded very interesting and I kindly accepted the invitation. It’s important to find out how the reality looks like for the children and their fathers in custody battles in other countries, at the same time as you make contact and exchange experiences. Among other things my participation at the Congress means that the members in PappaRättsGruppen, The Father Rights Group, get their stories told to fathers in another country.

Väteraufbruch für Kinder e.V., Kreisgruppe Karlsruhe/Südpfalz will here on be shortened VAfK Karlsruhe.
The Congress was to be held at Sportschule Schöneck.

The entrance to the dining room at Sportschule Schöneck.

The photo comes from the website, http://www.sportschule-schoeneck.de/

Sportschule Schöneck, photo number 9 of 12 in the photogallery on the website

**The Goals of the Congress are**
- that an extensive political programme for families **together** with fathers will be presented
- that current scientific development- and attachmentpsychological recognition will be taken into deeper consideration within the practice of the family law
- to strengthen the networks for the father political commitments

**The proposals from PappaRättsGruppen:**

NO to
- Genderneutral marriages
- Surrogate mothers
- Inseminations for single and lesbian women
- Foster home care of the child when the father has moved for the housing of the child in the custody battle
An European Father Organization: The European Father Union/
Union Europäischen Väter (UEV)
A global father network: Global Father Alliance (GFA)

The Black Ribbon-Campaign
In Sweden the Pink Ribbon-Campaign for the benefit of the research of breastcancer is being held every year. The proposal from PappaRättsGruppen is to hold The Black Ribbon-Campaign for all the children who aren’t allowed to see their fathers and for all fathers who commit suicide because they miss their children.

In Europe, 2 000 fathers commit suicide every year because they miss their children.

- A signed agreement about the child’s right to both its parents and joint custody/alternated housing and contact, already in the beginning of the relationship/marriage which is legally binding within: the Children’s Welfare Office, the Lower Court, the Higher Court and the Supreme Court
- Manifestation outside of IKEA department stores
- Active defense in the War on Fathers:
  "Father, where were you and what did you do in the War on Fathers?"
- Better exposure in the media and in the society

Franzjörg discussed the proposals from PappaRättsGruppen with the members of the local division in Karlsruhe, who thought that the proposals were worth considering, but it was too little time to come to make a decision on the proposals during the Congress.

Program/Agenda for the Father Congress

Friday, May 2nd
9.00 PM The Author Michael Kornmahler reading from his book “Tankred de Bayeux”

Michael Kornmahler
Tankred de Bayeux

http://www.sigurd-verlag.de
http://www.wetterfahnenmacher.de
Saturday, May 3rd

9.30 AM  Family politics with fathers
Dr. Johannes Berchtold, Head of the men’s political constitution in the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection in Vienna

Emphasized the importance of the need of a committed father- and mensmvement for successful family politics. He referred to the many father manifestations held in Austria, for example the latest – held on April 4th in front of the Parliament in Vienna
http://www.kindergefuehle.at/index.php?module=demo_wien

I made a request to Mr. Berchtold and asked him to hold his lecture to the Swedish government

10.30 AM  When father is missing: developmentpsychology and psychosocial effects of fatherlessness
Professor Med. Dr. Matthias Franz, expert in psychotherapeuthic medicine, neurology and psychiatry at the University Clinic in Düsseldorf

The loss of a father is traditional
- because of war
  World War II was made as an example of, which many of the participants could identify with
- today: structural fatherlessness (custody battles)

Professor Matthias Franz claimed that children growing up without their fathers are more likely to become mentally ill, than children growing up with a present father. The Feminist 68-Movement with the highly ideologic idealized ”stepfathers” had a very deep impact on the German children from the war generation.

Intrigues in movies with absent fathers, where the father is being replaced by a fantasy stepfather in the shape of a machoman – who hardly has time for a family, for example in movies with the Governor of California (Arnold Schwarzenegger) such as Terminator 2 and Terminator 3.
The fact that the professor avoided to call Arnold by name, evoked thunderous applause and laughter from the Congress participants.

Thirty percent of the single mothers have psychiatric problems, which of course reflects on the children. It’s scientifically proven that boys are suffering worse than girls because of the psychiatric problems of the mother.
11.30 AM  Myths about peaceful women  
Prof. Dr. Gerhard Amendt, Univeristy of Bremen, The Insitute for Gender- and Generationresearch, Humanitarian and Health Issues

The conditions between the genders as an ideology.  
The mothers are programming their sons to be the perfect man, which  
the fathers of the boys obviously weren’t.  
In the worst scenario case, this can lead to boys as grown men start to  
 oppress women.

Mamas Boy-Syndrome  
A boy quickly learns what mother wants and how to please mommy.  
This doesn’t necessarily have to mean incest, but the fact of incest  
between mothers and sons can’t be ignored. The unhealthy favoring the mothers make  
by preferring sons before daughters could mean considerable consequences.  
The professor made very careful parallels between the Nazi ideology and the Feminist ideology.

I asked the professor if he knew abot the political party The Feminist Initiative in Sweden.  
The professor answered:  
”- The Feminist Initiative are a bunch of idiots!”.  
*The professor got applauses and laughters for his answer to me.....*  

12.30 PM  Lunch  

1.30 PM  ”In the Best Interest of the Child” - for whom?  
Critical remarks of the managing of a legal concept used within  
legislation, the justice, science and by the Childrens Wellfare Office  

Thomas Mörsberger,  
The German Insitute for Juvenile Care and family right  

By the frequent use of the concept ”In the Best Interest of the Child” it has become inflative and the definition the concept once had, is now lost.

It could make a major difference:  
– IF the best interest of the child is the GOAL of the practical work  
– IF you only use the term as an exception  
– IF it will be referred to the best interest of the child which will be regulated as a section in the Act

That the best interest of the child will be considered in a custody battle, is and will remain an utopia.
Family politics with fathers!
One of many families at the Congress.
Photo: Piotr Woelke, VAfK Karlsruhe

2.30 PM  **Experiences of a fatherhood after separation and divorce**
Ramon Jovani Wendt, VAfK Karlsruhe

Ramon spoke about his experiences with a functioning fatherhood to four children with three women. He is very unique and he belongs to a minority of fathers who have a functioning contact with his children and good relations to the mothers of his children.

3 PM  **Ten years of the Children Rights Reform – a balance sheet**
Peter Tholey, VAfK Karlsruhe, Head of the family politics workteam

As Peter Tholey’s lecture with parallels between the Nazi ideology and the Feminist ideology conforms with my (Ulf Andersson) personal views, I will therefore translate the whole lecture of Mr. Peter Tholey after the short summary.

Please observe, that Peter Tholey not in any place in his lecture compares the genocide of the Nazis or the Concentration Camps with feminism.

Peter Tholey quoted Mein Kampf ("My struggle") by Adolf Hitler and drew parallels between the Nazi ideology and the Feminism, in the War on Fathers in custody battles fought today. "The powerlessness of the child is the power of the mother".

Historic retrospect to the Nazi times: the influences of Hitler, the Nazi view on the superiority of the mothers and the Arian race and stories about the everyday life in Germany during World War II. Spoke about the SCUM-manifesto by Valerie Solanas.

The fathers are still regarded as second rated parents. It will take a long time before fathers will be considered to be equally good custodians and housingparents as the mothers and the road will be very long and rocky.
Account by Peter Tholey for the Father Congress 2008

Ten years of the Children Rights Reform – a balance sheet

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,
Ten years ago, 1998, the Children Rights Reform came – that calls for a celebration.

The married fathers has full participation right in the decisionmaking when it comes to how their children ought to be raised, while the unmarried fathers has an extensive contact right – not to say, a duty to have contact with their children. The single parent whom the child lives with have to co-operate with the other parent and in this way the child gets access to both the parents after a separation or a divorce.

One would almost have thought that this is a state of Paradise while glancing through the paragraphs.

But in the practice of justice a totally different story takes place - there is no other legal place where the practice of justice and the law is so far away from each other as in the current Family Court. The reasons for this, can according to documented research findings be found further back in time, than the time of the Children Rights Reform.

In 1924, Adolf Hitler wrote his main work "Mein Kampf" during his imprisonment at the fortress Landsberg in the city of Landsberg am Lech. This book shouldn’t really be to any interest to anyone today, because it’s not characterized by the conception about the family, raising children or understanding for the development of the gender roles – which ten years later where carried out with an authoritarian, state power and always played a central part of the standard in the current practice of justice for families.

"In the Nationalstate the army will never again be individual and pace back and forth, but shall be provided with the highest education in the upbringing of the Fatherland which shall apply... in this training the boy will... not only learn to obey orders.. He shall also be taught to keep silent, not only when being reprimanded, but he also have to learn, when necessary to silent endure injustices."

*Quote from Mein Kampf*

To have to silent endure these glaring pieces of injustices, this virtue of a soldier which is assumed that todays separated fathers possess – a continuation of the virtue, with an obvious accompanying obedience when they get the information that they can’t see their children anymore – despite the joint custody.

And the mothers?

"The goal of being raised by women undoubtedly belong to the future mothers” - Hitler demanded in "Mein Kampf” - which further demanded »already in the early childhood...the necessary hardening is needed for the future life« to be successful.

Through a basic education from the mother it has to be possible that »during the first years of the child receive a firs-rate foundation which leads to serve the later development« - by which he meant an unconditional submission to the NS-state.
Nationalsocialist family politics was foremost a mother politic. "The ability to cope with a motherhood is what makes a woman equal to the man and gives her a dominant position", the nationalsocialist propaganda proclaimed at the time.

The role as fathers mainly took place outside of the family. As ”Arian warriors”, they had to go to Volga, The Northpole Army or to the north African desert to fight for their ”new native countries” and the Führer, the people and the Fatherland to die the death of heroes. Their families got to meet them at the front, and then the absence of the fathers was established as normal. This is how the social secretaries and the Family Court still relate to fathers today.

A soldier had to marry his pregnant girlfriend, in emergency by a representative with powers. But even in The Third Reich there were unwed fathers. It’s true that a change in the law was made in 1940, which stated that unwed fathers had full participationright in the decisionmaking when it came to how the child was going to be brought up. "The Führer emphasized with determination, that the care for the childs best wasn´t the crucial in the first place, but the mothers rights to the child by ethic”, an eye-witness wrote. Adolf Hitler put the mothers inviolable claims of power to her child above the childs interest in having two present parents. Even with the family rights practice of today it’s very common that the will of the mother is being equal to whats best for the child - a catastrophic heritage.

The doctor Johanna Haarer stood by Hitlers’ side. Her books »The German mother and her first child« and »Our babys« were the mandatory guidelines during The Third Reich and the following decades for many families concerning the care of babys and small children. Nationalsocialist upbringing was based on the exact directions given by Johanna Haarer, an upbringing without the ability to care – a very coldhearted upbringing.

Haarer’s military hero picture of the mother was based on a mistrust characterized on her view on human beings: the birth, the nursing, the care, nourishment and upbringing was described as an existencial struggle for the child, which could only end with victory or defeat. She thought that the motherhood meant a load, danger and a fear of the animal urges of the child. If the mother stopped being strict, the child would become a cruel tyrant in the house. ”Show no weakness” she wrote, ”don’t hesitate too long! The child can feel this with its thousands of sensitive senses – and then you have lost, mother dear!”.

To make sure that this wouldn´t happen, Haarer allowed the mothers to use force and sadistic rituals so that they could feel power through aggression and by being cold. ”After a couple of nights, or after the first night really”, Johanna Haarer wrote, ”the baby have understood that it’s no use in crying”.

My apology to Mr. Peter Tholey; here I would like to present my own case: Example: At an observation of putting XXXXXXXX to bed when she doesn´t want to go to sleep, XXXXXXXX force her down in the bed and holds the quilt so that XXXXXXXX can´t move. After a short while XXXXXXXX says that it hurts. XXXXXXXX releases the quilt and says ”I´m leaving the room, if you´re not asleep!” and starts to walk out of the room. XXXXXXXX begin to cry heart-breaking. XXXXXXXX says that ”the threatvariation always work”.

The powerlessness of the child is the power of the mother.
Today we know that the use of violence, retaliation and sadism played a decisive role in the success for the NS-movement, in which the coldhearted mothers as active members in the movement was considered to have contributed to.

When Magda Goebbels, the wife of Joseph Goebbels, poisoned her seven children in the bunker of the Führer in April 1945, she put the consequences of this good motherhood into practice. She alone had the universally prevailing power over her children and killed them – in her conviction that it was the best she could do for them.

While the mothers have the inviolable rights to exercise violence against the children at their disposal, the fathers have been allotted a completely different role: they get to pay for everything.

It was the Nationalsocialist legislators who through the ”decree for matrimonial protection, family and motherhood” from March 9th 1943 introduced the duty to pay alimony as a ”punishment against the family”.

This principle, ”the mothers shall have all rights and the fathers shall have all the obligations”, have been kept unchanged until this day. Through the Youth Welfare Office, the mothers get help from lawyers and help with debtrecovery in civil right claims put at their disposal through tax money. This aid does not however obligate the staff from the Youth Welfare Office to arrange contact between the children and the fathers: a personal contact between the children and the fathers isn´t something the aides at the Youth Welfare Office have foreseen. The Youth Welfare Office represent children against fathers in liabilityclaims to compensate the children for their loss of the fathers materialy. Through law suits, foreclosures and fines, the fathers get extorted on the last cent - which often ends with the stricken getting his social existence annihilated.

In The Third Reich there was a so called national work duty, a prevailing force labour for young men. Today it´s as obvious that separated fathers are being forced to a gainful employment. When a mother says that she can´t work because she has to take care of the children, this is usually accepted. If a father would say the same thing, an imaginary tax is put upon him and foreclosures of his salery is being done until he reaches subsistence level – if he´s not serving a prison sentence. This system of appriciation from the Nazi time represents the annihilation of the existence of the fathers today and makes it impossible for separated fathers to take care of their children in any greater extent.

When the warfathers returned home from the trenches and imprisonments in 1945, many of them where traumatized and disoriented. They never had a chance to get use to a civilian life with their families and willingly took over the conceptions on upbringing from Johanna Haarer. They had become social through the barracks from the national work duties and the national defense (Wehrmacht), and now it was this spirit from the barracks who prevailed in the family. There was no ”get a move on” or ”no objection”. In the school ”race and order” prevailed, and you had to learn this until it was time to ”get gassed”.

Flogging was very common until the end of the 60’s, in the school, at home: the children were beaten in every place, just like the books on upbringing by Johanna Haarer recommended – which even increased her book sales.
Only someone who have experienced how it was in those days, or someone who at least can feel an intense rejection from it, can feel the anger and the determination and understand why the next generations were opposing to this kind of upbringing.

After this, a new generation of fathers grew up – who weren´t wearing this heavy backpack with military upbringing. These “New Fathers” resigned a career to raise their children in an emotional and competent way instead.

Through the spreading of the Anti-Baby-Pill (the birth control pill) in the 60´s, the German feminism started – which questioned the established genderroles. Here the enemy picture of the father as an ”assaulting rapist” played a very important role. In the feminist discussion the repudiation of the books by Johanna Haarer wasn´t a thing to raise on the agenda – because she was a woman and her ideas were good by nature. That the fathers were unnecessary was propagated everywhere in the feminist dogma, which gained ground in the scientific institutions in colleges and universitys and became a very important teaching subject.

In her SCUM-manifesto (Society for Cutting Up Men), the feminist Valeri Solanas in 1983, described ”how the men appreciate their father role” : ”basically the fathers haven´t achived anything else than to dissolve the world by their decomposing. The man has a reversed Midas touch: everything he touches turns into shit”.

In the mid 90´s the men- and father hostile feminism experienced a renaissance: in radicalfeminist periodicals cries for killing men were raised once again, like Valerie Solanas attempted murder on her friend Andy Warhol in 1968. Hostile jokes about men was ranked high on the agenda: ”What´s a man in hydrochloric acid? Answer: a problem solved.” ”What should a woman do when a man is running zigzag? Answer: Keep shooting!”. Racist agitation, accepted just like in the Nazi ideology.

Except for the abolition of men, the radical feminists has a goal in their agitation: to destroy the traditional family. During the 80´s the bourgeois marriage was described as a shelter for permanent oppression and rape of the woman, which got the temporary shrews with surprise in their eyes to notice how the majority of the married women was running around unharmed, happy about that their men were pouring money on them. This type of propaganda made the married women to repudiate against it. Then you had to think of something else to crush the traditional family: sexual abuse against children.

Feminist counselling clinics for children and women having been exposed to sexual abuse rose sky high during the 90´s. Today they still carry names with great importance, like: Zartbitter (dark chocolate), Wildwasser (white water), Allerleirauh (all kind of furs; from fairytales), Hautnah (skintight), Zerspiegel (funhouse mirror), Schattenriss (silhouette), Alraune (mandrake), Belladonna, Kobra and Trotz allem (after all).
Everywhere signs of sexual abuse was found and that's why quicktests with very accurate drawings with Phallos-like objects as goals and dolls with distinctly genital parts to show the children the unspeakable, was developed. Associates to the Youth Welfare Office in psychiatry and the social service was educated in a hurry to discover presumed dark secrets in families, so they could start tearing them apart.

Women in their mid 40’s suddenly realized the reasons why they were depressed and unhappy through regression therapy, and got an abundance of memories: even I was molested as a child. The estimated number on unreported cases of children who had been sexually abused reached preposterous heights – it was said that every child had been molested at least four times during their years in school.

The girls and boys who the social pedagogics at the Children Welfare Office suspected had been victims of child abuse were taken into custody, away from their parents immediately. The legal counterstrikes of the parents with the help of the paragraph “danger of delay” in the Parental Section of the law, was scuttled.

A tragic occurrence in 1994 became known as the ”process in Worms”, in which the lawsuit was about numerous children who had been sexually molested. The claimed perpetrators were judged on beforehand and through the medial attention they had to stand at the pillory: mothers, fathers, a grandma – who died in custody; twentyfive people in all.
In the city of Worms (in Rheinland-Pfalz), it seemed as if a child molestation sect had seen the daylight. The radicalfeminist scene celebrated this as an immense success. The accused were put in jail and the legal process began. The last one ended in 1997 with an acquittal through proven innocence. The children were separated from their parents and became enormously traumatized. Some of the children visited the rapidly educated ”discoveresses” (the female discoverers) between thirty and fifty times.
A ”NO” was not accepted as an answer. The children were questioned for as long time as it took to get the desired answer: memories from their childhood that had left them scarred.

The children who were treated this way, forgave all of the involved - even the District Attorneys and the judge. The majority of these children still today refuse to have anything to do with their parents because of the considerable amount of time they were completely cut off from their parents.

The disintegration of fully functioning families by the radicalfeminist counselling (the Children Welfare Office and the Women Shelters) have had a durable success. With the same emotional frost and cruelty against the children which is reminding of the methods used by the predecessor, the Nazi-Ideologist Johanna Haarer.

Today, the first actual resistance is rising. The fathers are no longer accepting to be totally absent from their children nor agreeing to be considered as criminals by silently awaiting help from women who are openly repudiating feminism. In 1997 the book of facts ”The Used Man – put to death and impoverished - fathers after a separation” by Karin Jäckel was published.
Matthias Matusek wrote an article in Der Spiegel about the ”fatherless society”, who won the approval by the affected fathers in October 1997, but it started off a wave of hate attacks – from feminist.
The Children Right Reform who came in 1998 started off reactions divided into two: the politicians were hoping there would be a higher level of morality in paying the alimony by the affected fathers, while the radicalfeminist scene called for a public boycott of this reform.

Ladies and Gentlemen, here I would like to take a short break: The many aspects in this subject would make one very boring by being chronological and therefore this is just a mind tickler (food for thought).

I’d like to raise an item, where the proceedings of the Family Courts most obviously plays a conclusive role.

Through the introduction of the Roman Law more than a thousand years ago, a central principle of the concept of justice was tried among us: the assumption that someone is innocent. The Principle of Innocence says, that the accused is innocent until proven guilty. During the Medieval Ages the Principle of Innocence was succeeding the Law of the Jungle and Blood Vengeance and became conclusive for the mankind to live together in peace and success:

The Principle of Innocence is the basic principle for all modern practice of the law. But even during the past centuries, people have had painful experiences of another kind of law – the Law of Opinion.

Under the Law of Opinion, the Principle of Innocence is abolished and replaced by a strong ideologic kind of Principle of Guilt. The accused is being sentenced on beforehand and have to prove his innocence first. According to democratic conditions of the law this isn’t possible at all: noone can prove that nothing happend to anyone. The Law of Opinion doesn’t have anything to do with the constitutional state, its only serving the ruling conditions of the power. Through the Law of Opinion the accusation is proof of the deed. Nationalsocialist and Stalinistic laws of opinion lead to mass arrests through snitching by personal and political opponents. The Law of Opinion automatically cause a breakdown of all constitutional rights.

When the fathers stand trial because of false accusations and being treated as criminals who have to prove their innocence, before they are allowed to see their children and to live with them – this has more to do with the Law of Opinion than the legal security. In many cases the fathers crumble under this burden and give up in their frustration - in other cases the Law of Opinion leads to a considerable tightening in the conflict between the parents.

Ladies and Gentlemen, what is the result of ten years of Children Rights Reforms?

Until next time, we can only hope that the fathers for the first time in history will be allowed to be considered to be complete parents, even after a separation or a divorce. But the road will be very long and rocky. The legislators have once again failed to enforce joint custody for unmarried parents, but unmarried fathers are still pulling the load to secure the material standard for mother and child. Both parents, father and mother, should be assured equal right to their existance and having equal responsibility for the child.
At the moment, a strong ideoligical divorce-co-operating scene are acting: a mixture of the nationalsocialist mother cult and a radicalfeminist hostility against men, doing everthing to keep the fathers distant from their children. Like slaves the fathers are supposed to work off the collective guilt, which because of the art of the deed have escalated to – by being men having a child together with their wives. A considerable part of the judge corps, councellors, children councellors etc, are a part of this scene or being heavily influenced by it.

Page 7 of 8

An alarming big part of the Family Courts are striving backwards after a lived joint custody, like the law reform has foreseen. The fathers are considered to be second rate parents or considered to be expendables. The mothers on the other hand are considered to be untouchables and they are given the full responsibility - and their accusations against the fathers are in fact worth as much as actual proof. The children are being used as means to accomplish the goal: to keep them isolated from their father and by suggestive influence undermine his authority (position).

The stronger ideologically a Family Court is working, the more it strikes back against the regulations and belittle their own professional competence. This is how separation between parents and couples in a relationship is being ignored in these courts and an understanding of the roles is being applied with force by the state, like it could have been described in "Mein Kampf" by Hitler.

Occasionally more and more Family Courts turn to the "Model of Cochem" and practice in the art of peacemaking in the tense conflict between the parents. At the same time, the radicalfeminist scene is trashing the practice of Cochem, meaning that it can only be applied in individual occasions and try to prevent the practical application with all their force.

Read more about the model of Cochem
http://www.vafk-karlsruhe.de/content/cochem.php

A few, but brave judges – both female and male, really respect the childs interest in being attended to by both its parents, even in occasion of a separation or a divorce. Honor to whom the honor is due, you are held in high esteem.

Even within the Childrens Welfare Office something is happening. Thus far, fathers have been considered to be an enemy or at least a brick standing in the way of progress, someone you ought to cut off as soon as possible – today the role as a father is recognized as an important part of parenting. In those cases where a calm co-operation can be accomplished, the Childrens Welfare Office save a lot of time and money through involved fathers.

Especially in those cases where there’s a minor conflict between the parents after a separation, the Children Rights Reform from 1998 shows a positive effect.
More families are applying "half the time each" after a separation, through which the children are being raised by both their parents. Very often the parents have a new partner and a child with the partner. In this case, the children grow up in a "Patch Work-family", which makes the children expand their social competence extraordinary.

It would be desirable, that "the half time each model" and "the Patch Work-family" had a real impact in the law, and above all in the practice of family law. In that way, the necessity of the care of the child would be received permanently by father and mother.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
thank you for your attention.

3.30 PM Discriminating structures in the practice of the family law
Franzjörg Krieg, spokesperson and founder of VAfK Karlsruhe, chairman in the regional division of Baden-Württemberg and initiator and main responsible arranger of the Father Congress

Men/fathers are being discriminated against within a majority of areas in the practice of the family law.

"No legislator can force a judge to a ruling".

Because of limited time, Franzjörg only brought up four (4) of the 1500 cases he has documented. The documentation file goes by the description "separated fathers".
In Germany the mothers have sole ownership rights to their children. The fathers are only good for paying the alimony. However, it’s not obvious that the fathers will be allowed to see their children.

One of the cases documented by Franzjörg, is Alex and his daughter Nikita.
Daddy Alex and his Princess Nikita, who called me "Schwedenkönig" - Sweden King. I had the honor of signing my name in a very small purple book (1.8 x 1.2 inch) with a twined, yellow ribbon, owned by the Princess.

*Photo: Piotr Woelke, VAfK Karlsruhe*

Yes, Alex is allowed contact with his daughter. But it has costed him blood, sweat, tears, emotions, money and a part of his health. Me and Alex really bonded. We really got a great connection. Our father-Résumés look a lot like each other in many ways. Nikita was in on the conversation and played with daddy all the time.

*When you see a father and his child, you really understand why you are a Father Rights Activist, fighting for the best interest of the child in custody battles, and that all children have the right to BOTH their parents, and that the father is to be equal with the mother as a custodian and housing parent.*

Those of you who want to read about Alex´ case, can do it under the file **Fall Alex B** on the page [http://www.vafk-karlsruhe.de/content/faelle.php](http://www.vafk-karlsruhe.de/content/faelle.php)

During his lecture, Franzjörg showed what he thinks about the discriminating structures in the practice of the family law:

*Daddy is ALSO right!*

*Photo: Ulf Andersson*

*What most unfortunatly can´t be seen in the photo, is that Lady Justice has a mustasche...*
Day 1: The participants at the Congress listening interested during a lecture.  
*Photo: Piotr Woelke, VAfK Karlsruhe*

4.00 PM **The consequenses of the political work of Väteraufbruch für Kinder**  
Dietmar Nikolai Webel, from the National Association of VAfK

Mr. Webel spoke about that the political work of VAfK had achieved some changes.  
The work of VAfK to bring the fathers into the discussion about the family and in the family politics have been noticed by many institutions who want to co-operate with VAfK.  
VAfK put themselves at disposal and are available as experts.

4.30 PM **Coffeebreak and press-conference**

5.00 PM **Workteams**

- Separated fathers  
  (my workteam, among others with Franzjörg Krieg, spokesperson and founder of VAfK Karlsruhe, and the Authorized Psychologist Ursula Kodjoe)

The difficulties for fathers to get information from the schools, despite having joint custody. Demands on more education for social secretaries and judges.  
I brought up the topic that us fathers have to change the prejudice views on fathers by the public, the Childrens Welfare Office and the media. This suggestion aroused approval among my workteam and several of the participants nodded their heads. My proposal was however not noted in the protocol. But I’ll bet you a dollar that I was there.
- The result of an extensive family political programme
- Being a father against the grain
- From equality to genderperspektive - doing the splits with one leg?
- Counselling within Väteraufbruch für Kinder as a reaction on the conditions of the practice of the family rights/family law

6.30 PM Supper

8.00 PM Platformdiscussion: models of solution within family politics
The protocols of the five workteams were brought up and was discussed by the panel consisting of: Dr. Johannes Berchtold, Thomas Mörsberger, Franzjörg Krieg, Rainer Sonnenberger, Authorized Psychologist Ursula Kodjoe, Prof. Dr. Gerhard Amendt and Dietmar Nikolai Webel from the National Association of VAfK.

One of the proposals put forward to the panel during the questioning time, was, a greater consciousness/awareness in the legal practice when it comes to the rights of a child outside the wedlock to have contact with its father. I really don’t have to tell you, that the man putting this proposal to the panel - a father from Munich (München), got so hard applause that the roof almost caved in on us.

Sunday, May 4th
9.00 AM The future prospects for boys
Dr. Bruno Köhler, MANNdat e. V.

Today there isn’t any equal parenting.

Boys has a lower level of education than girls.
The share of male students in high schools has dropped drastically since the 1970’s.

Young men are out of work in greater proportions than young women are. Boys score lower than girls in all subjects.

Unfair and single-track investments in girls within the education system.

"Special investments in boys is not a solution".
- Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Confederation, Germany

Where are the lobbygroups for boys?

"If we want to make it easier for our daughters, we have to make it tougher on our boys".
- The periodical EMMA, 1986
09.30 AM  **Family and profession – promotion of the fathers**  
Rainer Sonnenberger, from the National Association of VAfK

*I sat this lecture out and made new connections with people in the entrance. There I met a reporter from the Father Radio who wanted to make an interview with me – which I did. This meant that I missed out 20 minutes of the next lecture.*

10.00 AM  **Experiences and deliberating counselling**  
Authorized Psychologist Ursula Kodjoe, familytherapist and mediator

*Immidiate intervention by a lawyer as a first step in having a working contact.*

*How the parents should talk to each other and how they will co-operate after a separation or a divorce.*

*An eight-year-old boy gave her the title to a book: ”Please, can´t you make them stop arguieng?”.*

This happend during a family therapeutic councelling session when the parents had left the room and the boy stayed to speak with her.

Do you know what your childs dreams and hopes are about?  
Do you know what´s your childs favoritemeal?  
Do you know the name of your childs best friend?

You shouldn´t use the day care center, the pre-school or the school as your private battle field in a custody battle. The information to the fathers about the childs schooling even when having joint custody, leaves a lot to wish for.

Strategies: to keep yourself as a passive ”victim”.

Good advice how you should act to get a working contact between the children and their fathers.

→  *Unfortunately, not even the best advice in the world will help when it comes to reality. To get a contact working, assumes a working communication between the parents. In the majority of the custody battles in Sweden, there is a lack of communication between the parents and in many cases this is a permanent condition.*
11.00 AM Closing plenary and thanking for the service

**Consensus at the first Germanspeaking Father Congress not arranged by a government**

All of the 120 participants agreed with Mr. Dietmar Nikolai Webel, from the National Association of VAFK:

**Father Congresses are called for (needed) and it will be more of them in the future.**

Mr. Franzjörg Krieg and the local division from Karlsruhe got compliments and very good résumés for a Congress well carried out. The National Association thought (like all the rest), that the Congress had been a success. A second Father Congress could be held in Karlsruhe.

12.30 PM Lunch
2.00 PM Departure

**My impressions and regardings of the Congress**

My rumor had preceded me:

Everyone had heard about the Swede. When you meet an old pal in Germany, you say: "Der alte Schwede" (the old Swede). I’ve been very well taken care of and nicely treated.

The Father Congress was an open forum: the public payed an entrance fee of 63 $ (USD). It was many families at the Congress with children from infants to teenagers who had child care and activities. I also met many fathers who asked themselves "what have I done" and "why did this have to happen to me". I wasn’t the only foreign participant: there were also fathers from Switzerland and Austria attending. Not to forget that Dr. Johannes Berchtold also is an Austrian.

I must say that I’m extremely impressed by VAIK Karlsruhe for their kindness, professionalism, the organization, planning, the compilation of the programme and the choice of lecturers. That I had my very own driver, guide and photographer in Piotr Woelke put at my disposal, made me feel very welcome with the VIP-treatment I’ve recieved.

Some fathers was allowed to have contact with their children, who they brought to the Congress. It was wonderful to hear laughing and playing children. Children having fun and being very attached to their fathers.

Piotr Woelke

*Photo: Ulf Andersson*
It is my distinct point of view, that I´ve managed to make my daughters voice heard and that I did good public relations for PappaRättsGruppen and that I left a positive and lasting impression of myself to the other participants at the Congress.

It was a new and positive experience for me to meet women who actually understood me and agreed with me – at the same time as the slaughtered the feminist discriminating practice active in the Childrens Welfare Office and the Courts as well in Germany as in Sweden. I made good contact with all the participants, but to name a few: the Author Michael Kornmahler, four of the lecturers, two reporters and another authour. These accounted for, loved to take a seat beside me and I loved to sit by them at breakfast, lunch and supper. Then we also had rewarding conversations during the smokebreaks and between the lectures.

However, the best contact I got with members of the local division in Karlsruhe, but I also made good connections with members from the divisions in Hamburg and Dortmund. I´ve got good contact with a male Swiss social worker by the name of Ruedi Oswald. An undiscribing feeling of being surrounded by equal thinking people.

Everyone I spoke to commended me because I speak good German. They´ve asked me where I´ve learned to speak that well: two years on a crashcourse in German for conversation (without any grammar), "Kurz und Gut" between 1985 and 1987 and very thorough listenings of my favoriteband Die Toten Hosen. As a non-included bonus with my travel, my German has become even better and I´ve learned new words and expressions.

For example: when everything is going down the drain and going straight to h**l, instead of cursing – the Germans say:

"Uppsala!"

I like that.................
One occasion at the Congress impressed me especially: the parents Sabine Van der Elst and Pascal Gallez who have experienced that their children have been abducted/kidnapped by their ex-partners, came to Karlsruhe and the Father Congress by foot, on their 410 Mile march from Brussels to Strasbourg to hand over a petition to the European Parliament. It was an honor to meet them in person and to sign their petition in real life. Of course, I’ve signed their petition on their homepage, http://1777.lapetition.be

I commended Sabine on the incredible achievement to walk all the way. My tears weren’t very far away when she said:
- We’re doing it for our children.
I asked her if it wasn’t hard walking, she answered that it was tough and that she had a lot of blisters on her feet.
Facts from the Congress:
We were 120 participants in total.
ONE reporter was pre-announced to the press-conference, SEVEN came.
As you can see from the links at the end of this document, the first Father Congress in Germany had a huge importance.
Not only was I the only Swedish participant, I was also the only Scandinavian.
This speaks for itself, but it really says more about other so called Father Groups in the Nordic, than it actually says about PappaRättsGruppen.

Announcement/For knowledge:
Politically incorrect = antifeminist PappaRättsGruppen, that is, are approved and accepted by the only National Father Group in Germany, Väteraufbruch für Kinder e.V.

On June 28th 1997, me and my former girlfriend – the mother of my daughter, went to Germany to experience the 1 000th concert of Die Toten Hosen as two of 62 000 people at the Rheinstadion in Düsseldorf.
May 1st 2008, I went to the first Germanspeaking Father Congress not arranged by a government and held in Karlsruhe, to preach the Gospel of my daughter and to reach a fraternization and international co-operation with our German fellow fathers and brothers of misfortune. The members in PappaRättsGruppen had their father-Résumés sent by E-mail in good time before the Congress.
In 2,5 days I’ve manage to destroy the very false illusion in Germany of Sweden, the Land of Fairytales as a forerunner and good example when it comes to "the best interest of the child" in questions concerning custody, housing and contact.
The other participants were very impressed by the fact that the European Court have decided to open my case:

**Case Number 31149/07 Andersson VS. Sweden**

Finally, zum Abschliess am Abschluss, I’d like to quote my favoritband Die Toten Hosen (The Dead Trousers) from Düsseldorf with some lines from the song Das Wort zum Sonntag (Sunday’s Sermon):

”As long as Johnny Thunders*) lives, I will be a punk
As long as there´s something to drink, our parties will go on
As long as I still find two friends, we will roam the streets
As long as the surfers trash us, I know that there´s nothing better!”


This is hopefully the beginning of a wonderful friendship and the beginning of a new era.

Next on the agenda after the Father Congress, is the Father Manifestation i Berlin on June 14th 2008 (I’m sorry that I can’t attend)

http://www.demo.vafk.de

On the Father Front, there are a lot of news,
Yours Truely reporting

**Ulf Andersson**

**Links associated to the Father Congress (in selection)**

Information about the Father Congress

http://vaeterkongress.vaeteraufbruch.de/

29.04.2008
NETECHO: When the ex-partner have abducted the common child link can be reached by furtherlinking from the link below

http://vafk-karlsruhe.de/content/vaeterkongress.php

and click on ”ihre Petition gegen Kindesentführungen”

01.05.2008
Netzeitung: Fathers arm themselves for interruption

http://www.netzeitung.de/politik/deutschland/999218.html?Vaeter_raesten_zum_Aufbruch

02.05.2008
Deutschlandradio Kultur: ”We have to raise this topic on the agenda”

http://www.dradio.de/dkultur/sendungen/thema/779437/bilder/image_main/
02.05.2008
FOCUS ONLINE: The First Father Congress in Germany
link can be reached by furterlinking from the link below and search on the German headline
http://vafk-karlsruhe.de/content/vaeterkongress.php

03.05.2008
Genderama: The First Father Congress in Germany
http://genderama.blogspot.com/2008/05/erster-vterkongress-in-deutschland.html

Unfortunately, this link to the Evening News on SWR-BW doesn’t work

04.05.2008
Der Westen: The Emancipation of men

04.05.2008
MÄNNERSACHE: Father interruption in sunshine
link can be reached by furterlinking from the link below and search on the German headline
http://vafk-karlsruhe.de/content/vaeterkongress.php

The first pictures from the Congress

Advice to fathers
http://www.papa-help.ch/

05.05.2008
FAZ.NET: The Principle of Adam
link can be reached by furterlinking from the link below and search on the German headline
http://vafk-karlsruhe.de/content/vaeterkongress.php

MANNdat – the genderpolitical initiative
http://www.manndat.de