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## **Emerging Research: Review of UK research and practice in parental alienation**

Evidence shows that most professionals working in UK family law have little knowledge on effective interventions for parental alienation. A review of UK research and practice in parental alienation was therefore needed. This research was awarded a grant by the international Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) in February 2020 and is being led by Dr Angela Morgan of the University of Wolverhampton, and founding member of the University's Violence Against Women and Girls Research Cluster (VAWGRC), which she has led for 5 years since its inception. The research is being delivered collaboratively with two external partners, Dr Nahid Ahmad of NA Research Consulting and Marilyn Webster of Prime Resolution. The project aim is:

To provide guidance for professionals who make recommendations and decisions regarding child contact, such as child protection social workers, mental health evaluators, Family Court Advisors and family court judges.

The project comprises a literature review and a scoping study of clinical and therapeutic practice. The literature review covers three main areas of research: 1) legal responses to parental alienation, 2) the role of mediation in addressing parental alienation, and 3) promising therapeutic interventions which have evidenced effectiveness. The scoping study will survey relevant organisations in the UK across the statutory, voluntary, and private sectors. Combined, these methods will map (and gap) current UK provision for those experiencing parental alienation. The findings will be used to produce a catalogue of UK provision for parental alienation.

Findings will contribute to the development of guidance and training for family mediators, therapists and family court actors. The research is expected to be

completed by September 2020, at which point dissemination and impact will be shared both within the UK context and internationally through the PASG.

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