

This personal account was written for and presented in part in the April 2002 Canadian Parliamentary process in hopes to strengthen the laws against sexual predators and sexual exploitation of children. A mother whose children were stolen from behind her back and sold into pedophilia by the father prepared the following writing. She is describing the enormous impact felt by the non-offending parent during the years of fighting on behalf of her children.

EFFECTS OF SUPPORTING A PERSON WITH DID --- A PARENT'S VIEW

POSITIVE PERSONAL GROWTH:

- Witnessing their extraordinary courage, tenacity and life-long struggle to survive and heal against all the odds inspires awe and a deep commitment to support DID child/ren with every ounce of your being for as long as it takes; and challenges a parent to move:
- From the comfort zone of the societal status quo towards a most uncomfortable, often reprehensible societal reality where organized pedophilia flourishes without acknowledgement or outcry;
- From the comfort zone of a self-serving perception of self towards more honest self-analysis which demands painful but essential fundamental changes to a more accountable being in the world;
- Painful recognition that your infant-child/ren's only way of surviving the atrocities depended on pretending the atrocities were happening to someone else (the essence of DID); and knowledge that perpetrators depend on enforced secrecy to flourish, behooves a parent-supporter to be grounded in reality and committed to personal honesty, openness and pursuit of truth and justice because anything less serves the secrecy, treachery, lies and perverse power of child-predators, and societal denial.
- A baptism of fire in a spiritual war against our own children

INCONSOLABLE GRIEF AND ANGUISH:

- For the clandestine, relentless, systematic assault on and obscene perversion of your pure infant-child/ren's physical, emotional, psychological, cognitive, sexual/gender and spiritual development and innate potential;
- For your infant-child/ren's unseen and unclaimed violently plundered birth-rights of innocence, trust and safety from harm;
- For failing your infant-child/ren by not recognizing the monster in sheep's clothing who haunted your home and made them his own;
- For not being there to expose and destroy the monster;
- For not being there to protect, comfort and save your innocent infant-child/ren;

- For your parental failure to heed the cautionary warnings of childhood fairy tales that monsters are by nature evil, and therefore duplicitous and come in all guises to ensnare the unwary;
- Thereby, in your blind ignorance, betraying your infant-child/ren's unconditional trust; failing to notice the theft of your infant-child/ren's innocence; failing to notice the assault on your infant-child/ren's body, mind and soul; failing to slay the monster; thus letting him roam free; and perverting the fairy tale ending.
- And even more unbearable, knowing that God knows that in truth you would have laid down your life to save your infant-child/ren then; and would do so today and in any time in the future; knowing that your infant-child/ren were destroyed by default. *This is the obscene reality which cannot be changed or obliterated to appease the anguish of the DID parent-supporter. There is no choice but to accept that and never rest until your DID child/ren emerge from the fire re-purified and infinitely wise.

ANGER

- Outrage towards the perpetrator/s that knows no bounds;
- At societal denial of or reluctance to believe child victims of adult abuse;
- At societal failure to be proactive in investigating, charging and prosecuting pedophiles to the full extent of the law; and enforcing court-mandated treatment for all sexual offenders;
- At societal failure to be proactive in protecting child, adolescent and adult abuse victims, particularly the legal system which holds the power/means to do so;
- At failure of the medical/psychiatric profession to proactively expose the reality of child abuse and its devastating short and long-term consequences;
- At failure of the medical/psychiatric profession to correctly diagnose and provide specialized long-term psychotherapeutic treatment for DID survivors;
- At continuing failure of the majority of mainstream psychiatrists to acknowledge the reality of DID, and to diagnose and treat this externally-imposed condition; with some psychiatrists still actively rejecting DID thereby making an incorrect diagnosis and denying the DID survivor any possibility of obtaining appropriate and effective treatment; this is unconscionable and arguably also professionally negligent;
- At the failure of many child/adolescent psychiatrists to correctly diagnose DID in children and thus fail to mitigate a life-time of pain and dysfunction; this is unconscionable and arguably also professionally negligent;
- At the societal "conspiracy of silence" and/or skepticism regarding DID and RA and its preventable criminal causes;
- At the reluctance of some mental health professionals to include, inform and obtain a comprehensive family history from the non-offending parent-supporters of their DID child/ren, ostensibly in the name of confidentiality but wearing a flimsy veil of undeclared suspicion; and despite evidence of the parent's ongoing financial and physical support of their DID client/patient;
- At the societal practice of "mother blame" of non-offending parents on the basis that they "allowed" the incestuous abuse of their child/ren by the perpetrator-

father. This is sometimes the case in fact. However, it is also a fact that adult perpetrators are much too cunning to commit the crime of child abuse in the presence of or with the knowledge of a non-offending parent. Perpetrator fathers do not abuse children in front of the mother any more than they would do so in public in front of the masses. Perpetrators abuse children in secret and enforce the child-victim's silence with threats and fear. This so-called "mother-blame" is a societal construction designed and used to discredit the non-offending parent and to provide a weapon for the perpetrator to defend himself against the indefensible.

- At the practice in the Criminal Justice system of using so-called "vindictive wife syndrome" as a defense by lawyers for perpetrator-fathers. "Vindictive-wife syndrome" is a societal construction that is designed and used as a defense on behalf of perpetrator-fathers by their lawyers who know their perpetrator-client's crime is indefensible.
- At the practice in Family Courts and Children's Courts of using so-called "vindictive wife syndrome" to discredit non-offending mothers by lawyers acting for perpetrator clients. "Vindictive wife syndrome" is a societal construction that is designed and used to discredit non-offending mothers fighting to ensure the safety of their incestuously abused child/ren. It is cynically used by lawyers for the perpetrator- father in order to gain legal advantage for their client. It is an arguably corrupt practice that puts vulnerable children at further risk and has become enshrined as a legitimate legal weapon.

CHRONIC STRESS AND FRUSTRATION:

- At constant crises and chaos;
- At constant unpredictable disruptions, interference, undermining of day-to-day structure and stability of family life;
- At inability to make long-term plans/decisions/commitments;
- At constant difficulties/struggle to fulfill work, family and social commitments;
- With internal system parts, i.e. switching; non-cooperation; acting-out; addictive behaviors; self-harm and suicidal behaviors, etc;
- At displaced anger of DID survivor;
- At cognitive distortions of DID system parts;
- At lack of back-up/support from medical profession and/or failure to recognize, diagnose or effectively treat DID survivors;
- At lack of understanding of DID by family, friends, etc.
- At difficulties for DID survivor in maintaining job, study, friendships, social life, and other commitments;
- With ongoing trust/mistrust issues;
- With ongoing safety issues and ever-present possibility/fear of ongoing contact/abuse of DID survivor by perpetrator/groups;
- At lack of community education, understanding, support for DID survivors;
- At lack of community understanding and support for parent and other supporters;

- At lack of feedback on therapeutic progress from DID survivor's treating doctor or therapist to assist parent-supporter who otherwise struggles in a "need-to-know" vacuum;
- At treating doctor or therapist's failure to appreciate that the parent-supporter is on deck for all the hours, days, weeks and years, except when the patient/client is in their office, struggling alone to steer without a rudder and to keep a sinking ship afloat in all weathers and stormy seas without the benefit of any instruction, training or strategies which the treating professional has more often than not failed to provide.
- To add insult to injury, this professional "blind-spot" and the very "caretaker" commitment which the parent-supporter has made, renders them convenient scapegoats for any one of the myriad therapeutic set-backs that may occur between therapy sessions. This is a professional construct which falls under the umbrella of "mother blame" for a parent-supporter; and perhaps "vindictive wife syndrome" for a wife/partner.
- Over the extremely long, painful, arduous, fraught, crisis-laden healing process, within an unknown time-frame and uncertain outcome;
- Ongoing fears that your loved one may never recover;
- Difficulty in securing long-term effective and affordable DID treatment and medical insurance ;
- Lack of appropriate and affordable counseling/support for parent-supporter;
- DID survivor is often difficult, demanding, draining and very needy;
- Ongoing physical and emotional exhaustion for parent-supporter which engenders feelings of helpless and hopelessness because there is no end in sight;
- Feelings of loneliness and isolation due to being outside the "norm" of mainstream society and its continuing lack of community awareness/understanding of DID;
- Ongoing ever-present risk/possibility of DID loved one's premature death from suicide;

LOSSES:

- Of jobs; of income; of money; of friends; of social life;
- Of peace of mind, of safety, of stability, of security, of respite from stress;
- Of trust in society and its institutions;
- Of birth-child's innate and future potential;
- Of any form of remuneration for unrelenting effort and no guarantee of the "golden handshake" of your DID loved one's healing/recovery;
- Of a "normal" life;
- Of "what might have been" for both DID survivor-child and supporter-parent.