Corrigendum for "‘I see a wall… then I cannot reach my son.' Coercive control tactics by one parent alienate the child from the other' by Sietske Dijkstra

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This is a corrigendum regarding the article by Dijkstra, S. (2023): "‘I see a wall… then I cannot reach my son.' Coercive control tactics by one parent alienate the child from the other’, Journal of Gender-Based Violence, 7(2): https://doi.org/10.1332/239868021X16481299024267. The article, published in this issue of the Journal of Gender-Based Violence, has been corrected by the author and journal. The decision is the result of an investigation based on concerns raised by a third party.

Potential conflicts of interest were omitted regarding funding from sources that might be seen as having a vested interest. The author received funding from the Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) in March 2018 of $2000 to support the presentation of her work at conferences and for writing up her research for publication in a book based on the conference. While the funding from PASG does not necessarily constitute a conflict of interest, it should have been declared by the author in the ‘Funding’ section of the article. Another source of funding was the author’s self-funded agency, which might have led to financial gain for the agency, thus constituting a conflict of interest that should have been declared by the author.

We acknowledge that there are difficulties in handling the ethics of this kind of practice-based research and that the author did not in the article provide sufficient clarity regarding the relationship between the interview sample and her agency. The author has provided the following statement to explain more fully the development of the sample, relationship to her agency work, and consent to participation:

Since 2012 I have been involved with the issue of complex divorce. I have developed and given a course for professionals on violation patterns in relationships and divorce. Part of this activity included the results of a focus group with divorced women each of whom was the mother of one child. These results were published in a Dutch-language article on the relationship between violence and divorce. In that article I reported on the controlling and intimidating behaviour of ex-partners (see Dijkstra, 2016). I was then invited to do a voluntary workshop for a female client organisation called Stichting Zijweg which was involved in empowering women in handling violence in relationships. In this workshop 18 participants shared stories about how
they had lost contact with their children after divorce. I invited workshop participants to do a further personal interview, if they were interested, and three participants contacted me for such interviews of whom two participated in the study. In the beginning it was not my intention to undertake this either as exploratory research or as clinical outreach. Instead, it gradually grew by word of mouth, snowballing as additional mothers volunteered to talk about the lack of contact with their children and the difficulties they were facing in their post-divorce relationships. For me these were powerful and shocking conversations, and they inspired me to record most of the interviews with the permission of the interviewees. The ten mothers who finally took part in the study which forms the basis of the article in the Journal of Gender-Based Violence gave me their consent and agreed to my using the recorded conversations for publication.

The author agrees that the work by Emma Katz is cited incorrectly and would like the version on page two of the article to be replaced by the following: ‘Katz (2016) considers in this article how children can be harmed by and resist coercive controlling tactics perpetrated by their father or father figure against the mother, based on interviews with 15 mothers and 15 children. She notes that these tactics often prevented children from spending time with their grandparents and their mothers, and speaks of monitoring, isolation, verbal, emotional and financial abuse.’

Reference