

Childism and Misopais (and corrections)

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The power of the written word is a phrase we respect. Because, from our perspective, each word we use, how we use it, and how we express and connect our thinking not only has the power to unravel the chaos, distortions, and the harms RAT perpetrators intentionally inflict unto the persons—infants, toddlers, children, youth, and captive adults—they victimize, but the written word also has the ability to promote healing. For example, consider the previous sentence that spoke of persons who were victimized. We spoke not of victims but of persons. We spoke of infants, toddlers, children, youth, and captive adults being persons. Why?

One of the goals of the RAT torturer is to destroy the personhood of the persons they victimize. This leaves the victimized person feeling, perceiving, believing they are a non-person, an “it”, an object, an animal, or “*just a pile of shit*”. So, every time we write the phrase “a person who has been victimized” and every time a person who has been victimized reads these words the message slowly filters into their spirit that they are a person. As one woman told us, “*No one had ever told me I was a person before.*” This one act of how we use language becomes part of the task of deconstructing the trauma, becomes part of the healing process, and works at destroying the victimizing power of the RAT torturer; thus, our respect and attention to using the power of the written word and the spoken word.

We also consciously struggle to change our language—written and verbal—for larger global reasons. For instance, how can a person who has been so brutally victimized as to not know they are a person come to understand the concepts of human rights—of their human rights? How will they learn that the fundamental of human rights is “the dignity and worth of the human person”¹—their fundamental right to dignity and worth unless we write, speak, and practice the concepts of human rights in our everyday discussions and relationships? The person who has been victimized needs to know that at every age—as an infant, a toddler, a child, a youth, and as an adult—they were entitled not to be “subjected to torture [RAT] or to cruel, inhuman or

¹ United Nations *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

degrading treatment or punishment”² This global language is necessary if the cycle of ritual abuse-torture is to be broken! So lays the power of the written word to shape human relationships.

Deconstructing the ideology of the RAT torturer/family/group helps construct understanding about why they do what they do. In our efforts to understand why the RAT torturers do what they do we listened to the women in our kitchen table research project. We came to believe that the RAT torturers have a total disregard for children of all ages, beginning with the infants that are born to them. There was an ideology that went beyond the total disregard for the child’s humanness and their human rights; a disregard that we could only explain as a fundamental hatred of children—**misopais**. A bias comparable to the deep rooted hatred embedded in racism, classism, or genderism and misogyny. Their fundamental ideologies involved the hatred of children—**misopais** and a bias against children—**childism**.

When we asked the women participating in our kitchen table research project for their opinion they stated that as painful as it was to admit to such a reality it was the only sensible conclusion. *“How could a parent or other adults do what they did to me if they cared”*, was the frequent response. And, as one woman stated, *“We were not allowed to care in the family.”* This illustrates, once again, the need to find the right words to express the reality as we were hearing and understanding it—to be able to express the wholeistic disregard for children required words like **childism** and **misopais**—thus appreciating the impact and the power of the written word.

And, now for a correction: In our efforts to find a word comparable to **misogyny**—the hatred of women—that would encapsulate and express the hatred of the child we originally used the word **childogny**; however, we have since learned from a person who attended the S.M.A.R.T. conference in Connecticut in August (2003) that our creativity was flawed. Since learning of our error we have done further research by contacting a professor of Greek language at Dalhousie University, in our home province of Nova Scotia. From the professor we learned that the word **misopais** is not listed in the Greek dictionary, rather it had to be formulated from two Greek words ... “**mis**” meaning hatred and “**pais**” meaning children. Thus this research led to coining the word “**misopais**”. We are now replacing the word

² Article 5, United Nations *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

childogny with the word **misopais** in all our writings. We apologize for our error. And, we apologize to our readers.

We are constantly learning as we progress along this path of breaking the silence and breaking the cycle of ritual abuse-torture. We are appreciative of the feedback we receive, such as the above example, as it makes us and “the Movement” stronger. There is power in words because it shapes reality and without reality there is no truth, and without truth how can there be healing?

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Revised December 2003

Revised September 1, 2004

Revised June 10, 2012

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ISBN 0-9734527-0-6