

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 07 July 2026 21:21

To: VictimsandWitnessesofCrimeBill <victimsandwitnessesofcrimebill@niassembly.gov.uk>

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Victim Impact and Child Safeguarding Following Domestic Homicide

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I am submitting this evidence not only as a member of the public, but as someone personally connected to the devastating reality behind why laws like Jade's Law are urgently needed. I am also the person behind the Jade's Law for Northern Ireland Facebook page and campaign, where I regularly hear directly from members of the public about their experiences.

Through this platform, I receive messages from victims who are living in fear—people who feel they cannot leave abusive partners because they are being threatened with what could happen next. Some describe being told that their lives will be destroyed if they try to leave. Others speak about ex-partners using the threat of gaining or exercising parental responsibility as a form of control, leaving victims feeling trapped, powerless, and unsafe.

My experience is rooted in the aftermath of domestic homicide—where a parent has killed the other parent, yet the system has historically failed to respond in a way that truly protects the children left behind. In these cases, the justice system does not end its impact at sentencing. The consequences continue through family courts, contact arrangements, and the rights still afforded to the perpetrator.

Jade's Law exists because of a tragic and unacceptable gap: children can still be forced into contact—directly or indirectly—with a parent who has taken the life of the other parent. This is not just a legal oversight; it is a failure to recognise the trauma, fear, and lifelong emotional harm inflicted on those children.

From both my personal experience and the testimonies I receive from others, it is clear that the system too often prioritises process over protection. There is a dangerous disconnect between criminal justice outcomes and family court decisions, leaving children and victims exposed to further harm. Families are left to fight, relive trauma, and navigate a system that should already be safeguarding them.

This is why change is urgent.

The Victims and Witnesses of Crime Bill must go further to ensure:

Automatic protections are put in place for children in cases of domestic homicide

The rights of perpetrators are restricted where they conflict with the safety and wellbeing of victims

Victims' voices are not only heard but actively shape decisions affecting their lives

There is clear alignment between criminal and family courts to prevent harmful contact arrangements

No child should ever be placed in a position where the system forces continued connection with the person responsible for such profound harm. No victim should feel unable to leave an abusive relationship because of threats tied to the justice system itself.

Jade's Law represents progress—but it also highlights how much more needs to be done. This Bill is an opportunity to close those gaps once and for all. I urge the Committee to listen not just to policy, but to lived experience. Because behind every message I receive, every case, and every campaign, there is a real person living in fear and a future that depends on the decisions made now. The time for change is not in the future—it is now.



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