

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“Christmas is for Fathers Too” says British Second Wives Club

“It’s a difficult time of year for many of us. My thoughts are with everyone, in the hope one day that all families will recognise that children have both a mother and father, so it is important to put aside differences and share these special times.” BSWC Member.

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As we near Christmas, with its associations of family and children, the stress levels of many step-mothers and their partners is mounting. The BSWC wishes to echo members in issuing this challenge: “Why can’t women be the bigger person and share Christmas with their children’s Dad?”

These are just a few examples of the sadness experienced by BSWC members at this time of year:

“My husband has never been allowed to spend Christmas with his children”.

“We have never had Christmas. The children’s mother early on took that as her own”

“My husband has not seen them on Christmas Day in the twelve years we have been together. He is always made to feel like the ‘second choice’”

“According to my husband’s ex, it is “tradition” that the kids wake up at hers on Christmas morning”

“He has NEVER, in the 7 years since they split up...had his daughter stay over on Christmas Eve”

“My partner’s ex told him when he walked out he lost the kids for Christmas”..

In other cases, contacts are arranged over Christmas only to be cancelled at short notice, just when hopes are high. Stories abound of tickets bought for pantomimes that children never attend; visits arranged with paternal grandparents that are ultimately undertaken without the grandchildren. Members stress that mothers are short-sighted if they think this behaviour impacts only on their ex-partner: children and grandparents suffer too.

Members understand a mother’s desire to spend Christmas with children- “I think it’s very hard...when my daughter goes off to her Dad’s ...(but)I know she has a lovely time. ...”

“I would want my child to wake up with me...and open the gifts...[it takes] strength ...to say...”Yes, OK, you can have our child on Christmas Day”.

The problem is that for a mother to have this right exclusively is unfair. Some members feel angry at this injustice: “I don’t think it takes “strength” for a mother to “allow” Christmas Day contact it’s a question of what’s right and fair...I was a single mum ...and used to take it in turns I felt this was what was right for our son, I didn’t feel I was making a special concession...because he wasn’t my possession.”

One member concedes that some fathers may be uninvolved throughout the year, then suddenly expect contact at Christmas: “However, that is *not* the case for the partners on this forum. Many of them would love the opportunity to spend more time - or any time - with their children...For dads like that, special days like Christmas can feel especially upsetting as they feel, yet again, they are missing out on their children's childhood. In those cases, the mother's claimed "hurt" were she to miss Christmas Day with the kids, shouldn't "trump" the dad's feelings year after year...”

The British Second Wives Club offers support and comfort to women whose partners have been married before. For more information go to:
<http://www.thebritishsecondwivesclub.co.uk>