



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Times letters: Helping children recover from the pandemic

WRITE TO [LETTERS@THETIMES.CO.UK](mailto:LETTERS@THETIMES.CO.UK) | Thursday April 07 2022, 12.01am BST, The Times

Sir, The process of separation is failing millions of children and parents (“Marriage is good for society but it needs a rescue plan”, Thunderer, Apr 6). It’s one of the greatest, least-recognised health risks to our children. Removing the requirement to assign blame or fault in the divorce process is a step in the right direction, but it’s far from the great leap forward that’s needed to safeguard the mental health of children during any separation process. We need to think more broadly about the issue of relationship breakdown, which should be treated as an urgent health issue for parents and children. This requires cultural change in our society and institutions, and a more joined-up approach from government. Enhanced investment in relationship support services is essential, as is placing family wellbeing at the heart of the conduct and policy of government and business. “No-fault” divorce does not achieve this. We created the Parents Promise last year to help raise the issue and need the minister for children and families to show real leadership on it.

**Aidan Jones**, CEO Relate; **David Curl**, CEO Two Wishes Foundation; **Carina White**, founder, Black Mums Upfront; **Bob Greig** and **Rebecca Giraud**, founders, Only Mums & Dads, **Aruna Bansal**, founder, Asian Single Parents Network; **Penny Mansfield** CBE OnePlusOne; **Christina Brown**, founder/CEO of The Motivational Mums Club and Young Positive Minds; **Ben Hine**, professor of psychology and victimisation, University of West London, **Dr Angharad Rudkin**, chartered psychologist (BPS), **Rt Hon Shaun Woodward**, and **James Hayhurst**, founder, Positive Parenting Alliance. All on behalf of the members of The Positive Parenting Alliance.