



THE COUNTESS

Re: ALCI conference

Dear Council Members,

My name is Judith Murphy. I am a retired social worker and am writing to you on behalf of The Countess in my capacity as the lead on child safeguarding, a think tank focused on social policy issues and societal developments that affect the rights and welfare of women and children.

We are writing to express our concern regarding the ALCI's decision to invite Jacob Engelsman to deliver two sessions at this year's conference. Our concern arises from his advocacy for the inclusion of men who identify as women in lactation support groups and his promotion of induced lactation among men as part of what he describes as "inclusive parenting". The inclusion of males in breastfeeding support settings raises significant ethical concerns and is detrimental to the interests of mothers and children.

We are extremely concerned by statements made by Mr. Engelsman regarding the motivations behind induced lactation in men. In one presentation, he referred to "lactation for kinksters," a term commonly associated with fetishist sexual practices. In his book "Lactation for the rest of us", he suggested that some men may seek to induce lactation to experience "gender euphoria" or for reasons including "curiosity, fun, or sexual gratification"

These statements are deeply troubling. The use of an infant for the benefit of an adult, as described by Mr. Engelsman, constitutes a breach of adult responsibility, and is a form of abuse.

The introduction of concepts such as "sexual gratification" into discussions relating to infant feeding is an extremely disturbing development. From a child safeguarding perspective, any discussion of breastfeeding infants in a sexual context should raise serious safeguarding concerns. Sexual motivations must never be associated with activities involving babies and young children. The suggestion that infant feeding could be connected, even in limited circumstances, to sexual gratification is incompatible with established child protection principles.

For this reason, we believe the ALCI should carefully review the implications of providing a platform for these views. Endorsing or normalising practices that blur the boundaries between childcare and adult sexual interests undermines child safeguarding standards.

Our concerns arise solely from our commitment to the welfare of women and children. They are not motivated by hostility towards any individual or group, regardless of how they identify. We use clear and sex-based language because accuracy is essential when discussing motherhood, child development, and safeguarding.





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In matters of child protection, clarity must take precedence over ideology, and the rights and welfare of children must remain the paramount consideration.

Furthermore, encouraging men to engage in what is described as "co-breastfeeding" interferes with the natural relationship between mother and infant, which involves complex and interdependent physiological processes. Such practices prioritise adult preferences over the best interests of the child, and they decentre the mother-baby dyad to the detriment of both.

In addition to these broader safeguarding concerns, we are deeply troubled by questions relating to induced lactation in men and the potential implications for infant welfare. In order to induce milk production, males require medications such as Domperidone, a prescription-only medicine primarily used to treat nausea and vomiting. Domperidone increases prolactin levels and may stimulate milk production. However, mothers who use this medication for lactation support are generally advised to do so only under medical supervision and for limited periods. There is no evidence that the secretions produced by males using this protocol are of nutritional benefit to an infant, and no evidence that it is in the interest of the infant to be fed in this way.

We therefore urge ALCI to reconsider its decision to provide a platform to Mr Engelsman and to conduct a thorough review of the safeguarding implications of the views he promotes. Organisations entrusted with supporting mothers, infants, and families have a particular responsibility to ensure that their policies, educational programmes, and invited speakers uphold the highest standards of child welfare and professional ethics.

We believe that silence or inaction in the face of these concerns would represent a serious failure of safeguarding responsibility. The issues raised are too important to dismiss as matters of personal identity or individual choice. They concern the protection of children, the dignity of mothers, and the maintenance of clear professional boundaries in infant care. We therefore respectfully request a formal response outlining how the ALCI has assessed these safeguarding concerns and the reasons for its decision to endorse and promote these views through its conference programme.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Murphy
Lead on Child Safeguarding
The Countess
24/08/2026

