



Mr Valeriu GHILETCHI  
Chairperson  
Committee on Social Affairs, Health and  
Sustainable Development  
Parliamentary Assembly  
Council of Europe

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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Re: Draft Report on Human Rights and ethical issues related to surrogacy

Mr President,

*No maternity traffic* respectfully urges the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development not to endorse the practice of surrogacy, either explicitly or implicitly, but to unambiguously condemn this practice as a blatant violation of human rights and of the values of the Council of Europe.

It would be a loss for human rights if this harmful practice had to become officially accepted by the Council of Europe.

*No maternity traffic* wishes to warn the Members of the Committee that “regulating” surrogacy implies its acceptance.

*No maternity traffic* calls the Committee to clearly stress that surrogacy poses many problems and shall therefore be discouraged with the aim of eliminating this practice in Europe.

You will find attached a report containing the main elements of information that we consider useful for a proper understanding of surrogacy and the work of the Committee. We would appreciate if it could be distributed to its Members.

*No maternity traffic* respectfully asks the Committee not to rush in adopting a draft resolution and recommendation, and solicit the opportunity to be heard by the Committee in order to present its arguments and to submit officially its petition.

This petition, launched by *No maternity traffic* has already been signed by almost **100.000 European citizens**.

This Petition states:

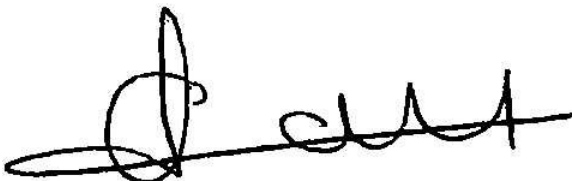
**“Because human beings are not objects,  
Because they cannot be given, rented, or sold,  
We ask the Council of Europe to commit to an effective prohibition of surrogacy.  
Surrogacy is an exploitation of women; children are not goods to be bought, conceived and abandoned by their mother. It breaks their parentage. It is a form of human trafficking.  
Surrogacy violates European and International law, in particular the conventions on the rights of the child (1989), on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (1979), on the adoption of children (1967 and 1993), on human trafficking (2005) and on human rights and biomedicine (1997).  
The defense of human rights must adapt to new threats on humans. Europe must set an example for the universal abolition of the surrogacy.  
Women and children are not objects!”**

The signatories demand in particular that

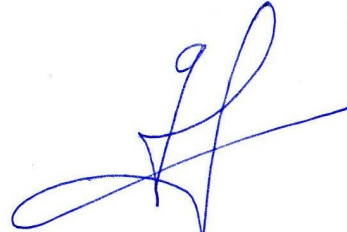
**“the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe clearly condemn all practice of surrogacy itself, as contrary to the rights and dignity of people”**

The petition can be found at this address: <http://www.nomaternitytraffic.eu/>

Yours faithfully,



Caroline Roux



Gregor Puppinck

*No maternity traffic* is an initiative launched by the “International Union for the Abolition of Surrogacy” (Union Internationale pour l’abolition de la gestation pour autrui). It calls the bodies of the Council of Europe to ensure the abolition and the effective prohibition of the practice of surrogacy as soon as possible. The International Union for the Abolition of Surrogacy is dedicated to working through all legal means to implement the international prohibition of the commodification of the body, especially through surrogacy. The Union was founded at the initiative of national and European associations working for the respect of childhood, women, dignity and human rights.

Contact : [contact@nomaternitytraffic.eu](mailto:contact@nomaternitytraffic.eu)