

31st Regular Session of the Human Rights Council

29 February to 24th March 2016

ITEM 3: General Debate

Joint Statement

“Commercial Maternal surrogacy violates human dignity”



Mr President,

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23) and the other 9 co-signing NGOs¹ rise up their voice against the practice of Commercial Maternal Surrogacy.



This widespread phenomenon is a new example of sale of children and even violence against them.



We are witnessing a process of women's degradation and the use of their bodies as a simple children's production instrument.

*Company of the Daughters
of Charity of St. Vincent de
Paul*

Maternity, that is a natural phenomenon, is contaminated by an economic-financial perspective based on the service provision-payment mechanism.

The newborn becomes the object of a legal contract and, as such, it is picked as in a catalogue, ordered and purchased. Paying the price at birth, only after a medical examination aimed at verifying the absence of "flaws and defects" makes the child more similar to a factory good than to a human being.



The baby comes to life only because he/she is the planned response to a desire that otherwise would remain unsatisfied, without any other consideration about his/her inherent human dignity.



What about the damages provoked by early separation of a newborn from the woman who has been responsible for his/her carrying and delivering?

What about the deprivation of breast-feeding these newborn are subjected to?

What about the right of every child – including the one born via surrogacy - to know the biological mother or the woman who carried the pregnancy until delivery is completely ignored?



What about the trauma for the eventual other children of the surrogate mother when they will discover that she gave away the newborn for economic reasons?



It is time to take a global action against commercial maternal surrogacy as a violation of human dignity.



We ask the Human Rights Council to promote a resolution that decisively condemns the phenomenon of commercial maternal surrogacy and bans this practice at international level.



Thank you.

¹ Association Pionts-Coeur; Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul; International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE); Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Fédération Internationale d'Associations de Médecins Catholiques (FIAMC); International d'Apostolat des Milieux Sociaux Indépendants (MIAMSI); Pax Romana; Teresian Association; World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO)