



Confédération
internationale
Société de Saint
Vincent de Paul

45th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 14 September – 6 October 2020

Item 3: General Debate

Joint oral statement delivered by: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

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Madam President,

APG23 and the co-signing NGOs would like to denounce once more the serious violation of children and women' rights caused by the practice of maternal surrogacy.

During the period of lock-down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, dozens of babies born from surrogacy at the BioTexCom clinic, were crammed into a salon of the Venice hotel in Kiev, waiting to be delivered to the "intending parents" who were unable to travel due to the border blockade. Similarly, "as many as 1,000 babies born from surrogate mothers for foreign families have been left stranded in the Russian Federation. These facts have brought under the eyes of the world once again the reality of maternal surrogacy, in particular the commercial one, a degrading and inhuman practice, linked to the exploitation and trade of human beings, women already victims of conditions of poverty and children.

The former Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children¹, clearly said that children face becoming commodities as surrogacy arrangements become more prevalent, and urgent action is needed to protect their rights. She also added that commercial surrogacy, as a growing industry driven by international demand, currently practised in some countries, usually amounts to the sale of children.

There is no right to have a child under international law. On the contrary, human dignity is desecrated by the practice of maternal surrogacy and the human rights of women and children are violated.

We call upon the Human Rights Council, responsible for the protection of human rights, to deliver a resolution that bans maternal surrogacy and protect women and children from this new type of exploitation and slavery.

Thank you!

¹ Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, statement released in Geneva in March 6th 2018