

PRESS RELEASE

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European Parliament condemns all forms of surrogacy

The national pro-life charity, LIFE, warmly welcomes the decision by the European Parliament to condemn all forms of surrogacy.

Surrogacy undermines the human rights and human dignity of the birth mother and child and therefore can never be ethically justified.

Today, the European Parliament adopted the 'Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2014'. Paragraph 114 stated that the European Parliament "condemns the practice of surrogacy, which undermines the human dignity of the woman since her body and its reproductive functions are used as a commodity." The report emphasised that commercial surrogacy in particular "shall be prohibited and treated as a matter of urgency in human rights instruments".

LIFE Spokeswoman, Clara Watson, said "the European Parliament has given the only ethically proper response to the serious violation of the human rights and human dignity of the surrogate mother and child. Whilst the woman is dehumanised, commodified, and exploited through surrogacy, the rights of the child are relegated to the lowest rung on the ladder."

She added, "Surrogacy requires a woman to distance herself not only from her own body, but the child who grows within her, in order to successfully complete the surrogacy contract. It means a woman must nurture and deliver a product, which coincidentally is also a human being, who she must then deny all interest in. In all forms of surrogacy, the woman is reduced to a container and her pregnancy is made into a function to serve others.

However, surrogacy does not only undermine the human dignity of the woman, but also the dignity of the child. Legally, the only party who possesses clear, unarguable and inalienable rights is the child born of a surrogacy agreement. Therefore we bear a responsibility to protect and prioritise these rights. At no point are the needs of the child paramount, or even addressed, during the surrogacy process.

LIFE, as a charity which values both the lives of women and children, is delighted that the European Parliament has come out so strongly on this issue. If we are serious about protecting women and children, we cannot be content with such violations of human rights."

Notes to Editor

The relevant paragraph:

"114. Condemns the practice of surrogacy, which undermines the human dignity of the woman since her body and its reproductive functions are used as a commodity; considers that the practice of gestational

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surrogacy which involves reproductive exploitation and use of the human body for financial or other gain, in particular in the case of vulnerable women in developing countries, shall be prohibited and treated as a matter of urgency in human rights instruments."

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