



Position of Make Mothers Matter on the Practice of Surrogacy

Surrogacy (altruistic or commercial gestation) is a developing practice with international ramifications giving rise to markedly varied opinions that reflect the nature and importance of these issues. Make Mothers Matter wishes to raise awareness of policy makers about the risks of legally recognizing surrogacy.

Risk of commercialisation and exploitation

In many countries where surrogacy is legal, there is evidence that the majority of surrogate (birth) mothers take on this role through financial necessity, and that the baby is the object of a commercial contract.

Make Mothers Matter is opposed to the commercialisation of a mother's body and to all forms of child commoditization.

Legal dissociation of the functions of motherhood

Commercial surrogacy takes the dissociation between child and mother to another level, beyond any other form of medically assisted pregnancy. It breaks the coherence between the various roles of the mother – genetic, uterine and social.

Make Mothers Matter considers that this legal dissociation, reinforced by the separation at birth necessitated by the contract, does not take into account the impact of pregnancy on the birth mother and the bond formed between the birth mother and her baby throughout the pregnancy.

Identity challenges facing the child

Besides the impact on the baby of this period in the birth mother's womb and the contractual separation, which must follow, the growing child will have to deal with often multiple family filiations.

Creating a legal minefield

Court cases will ensue as a result of disagreements, unexpected situations, a disabled child, a health problem with the birth mother. The contract will be contested

Make Mothers Matter wishes to highlight that this issue risks generating such legal complexities that few cases will result in a decision.

Therefore, MMM is opposed to the legal recognition of the practice of Surrogacy.