

ROME 2024
International conference
FOR THE UNIVERSAL ABOLITION
OF SURROGACY

TO THE KIND ATTENTION OF

Ms Lindita Nikolla

Speaker of the Parliament

FOR INFORMATION:

Mr Bajram Begaj,

President of Albania

Mr Edi Rama,

Prime Minister

Ms Albana Koçiu,

Minister of Health

Paris, the 10th of June 2024

Madam Speaker of the Parliament,

Dear Ms Nikolla,

We understand that Albania is on the brink of legalising both domestic and international surrogacy through a draft law “On sexual and reproductive health” which is expected to soon pass into law in the Parliament of Albania. We urge you to reconsider what harm will be done to children and women around the world, should this law pass.

We also want to align with the petition of the Interreligious Council of Albania, which demanded to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection on May 28th 2024, that “surrogate motherhood should not be allowed in Albania, because it seriously violates the dignity of women and children; constitutes an increased risk for human trafficking, organ exploitation, exploitation of minors, of women for ordered births, also defined by the Directive of the European Parliament” and which we can testify with our own lives that “it can create strong psychic and psychological traumas for the child when he is made aware of the method of conception¹” and “it is a form of abuse on the surrogate mother, who also endures medical negligence”.

¹ <https://www.cna.al/english/aktualitet/projektligji-per-shendetin-riprodhues-knfsh-takim-me-ministrine-eshe-i399703>

We write to you as an adult [born from surrogacy](#) and an ex-surrogate mother and as representatives of the Casablanca Declaration (you can read more of our [objectives](#) here). Our personal experiences have led us to speaking up for those without a voice.

This law will ensure there are even more children removed from their mothers at birth. It may be by agreement, with or without financial incentives, or via contracts but the effects will be the same.

All surrogate-born children are commissioned into being and are removed from their mothers at birth. Those children who are raised by heterosexual legal parents may also never know of their origins. It will not be possible to force commissioning parents in a opposite sex couple, by law that they must inform their children of their origins, you can only encourage it.

The UK, for example, is supposed to practice altruistic surrogacy with a 'friendship first' approach: our supporters, Surrogacy Concern and Stop Surrogacy Now UK, are be able to provide many examples of how this model doesn't exist in reality: there is no altruism in surrogacy, but just exploitation and trafficking of motherhood.

It is important at this point for us to highlight that any vague legislation on surrogacy is very dangerous for the dignity of for women and children. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt a complete ban on all forms of surrogacy to not allow this new form of modern slavery to happen in Albania, on the contrary of the current proposal on the table.

If the current draft law proceeds, you will maybe make many adults very happy by legalising and legitimising commercial and domestic surrogacy, but in turn you will be creating lifelong trauma for children at the expense of the dignity of many women in need.

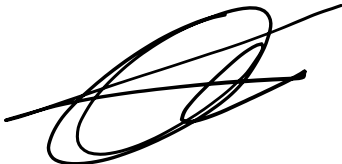
Please do not allow for history to repeat itself. It is time to learn from the lessons of the past and prevent the trade in children.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Mrs Olivia Maurel

Spokesperson, Casablanca Declaration



Mrs Gloria Ruiz Orozco

Member of the Casablanca Declaration Group

