



## STATEMENT: STOP SURROGACY NOW CAMPAIGN

We are women and men of diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds from all regions of the world. We come together to voice our shared concern for women and children who are exploited through surrogacy contract pregnancy arrangements.

Together we affirm the deep longing that many have to be parents. Yet, as with most desires, there must be limits. Human rights provide an important marker for identifying what those limits should be. We believe that surrogacy should be stopped because it is an abuse of women's and children's human rights.

Surrogacy often depends on the exploitation of poorer women. In many cases, it is the poor who have to sell and the rich who can afford to buy. These unequal transactions result in consent that is under informed if not uninformed, low payment, coercion, poor health care, and severe risks to the short- and long-term health of women who carry surrogate pregnancies.

The medical process for surrogacy entails risks for the surrogate mother, the young women who sell their eggs, and the children born via the assisted reproductive technologies employed. The risks to women include Ovarian Hyper Stimulation Syndrome (OHSS), ovarian torsion, ovarian cysts, chronic pelvic pain, premature menopause, loss of fertility, reproductive cancers, blood clots, kidney disease, stroke, and, in some cases, death. Women who become pregnant with eggs from another woman are at higher risk for pre-eclampsia and high blood pressure.

Children born of assisted reproductive technologies, which are usually employed in surrogacy, also face known health risks that include: preterm birth, stillbirth, low birth weight, fetal anomalies, and higher blood pressure. A surrogate pregnancy intentionally severs the natural maternal bonding that takes places in pregnancy—a bond that medical professionals consistently encourage and promote. The biological link between mother and child is undeniably intimate, and when severed has lasting repercussions felt by both. In places where surrogacy is legalized, this potential harm is institutionalized.

We believe that the practice of commercial surrogacy is indistinguishable from the buying and selling of children. Even when non-commercial (that is, unpaid or “altruistic”), any practice that subjects women and children to such risks must be banned.

No one has a right to a child, whether they are heterosexual, homosexual, or single-by-choice.

We stand together asking national governments of the world and leaders of the international community to work together to end this practice and **Stop Surrogacy Now**.



### Individual Signatories:

Kathleen Sloan  
Feminist leader, activist, and author  
USA

Phyllis Chesler, Ph.D.  
Emerita Professor of Psychology, Feminist activist, Scholar and Author of, *Sacred Bond: The Legacy of Baby M*  
USA

Marjorie Murphey Campbell, J.D.  
Founder of NewFeminism.co  
USA

Renate Klein, Ph.D.  
Biologist, social scientist, and coordinator FINRRAGE (Feminist International Network of Resistance to Reproductive and Genetic Engineering)  
Australia

Ruchira Gupta  
Founder and President, Apne Aap Women Worldwide  
India

Jennifer Lahl  
Founder and President of the Center for Bioethics and Culture Network  
USA

Janice G. Raymond, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and author of *Women as Wombs: Reproductive Technologies and the Battle Over Women's Freedom*  
USA

Kajsa Ekis Ekman  
author of *Being and Being Bought - Prostitution, Surrogacy and the Split Self*  
Sweden

Jessica Kern  
Product of a surrogate pregnancy  
USA



Sylviane Agacinski  
Feminist philosopher, author of *Corps en Miettes*  
France

Gail Robinson  
“Surrogate” Mother  
USA

Michel Onfray  
Philosopher and Writer  
France

Farida Akhter  
Women's rights and health activist  
Bangladesh

Tanya Lynn  
Surrogate mother  
USA

Gary Powell  
LGBT activist and public administration campaigner  
United Kingdom

Elisa Anne Gomez  
surrogate mother  
USA

Donna Hughes  
Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Endowed Chair in Women’s Studies, University of Rhode  
Island  
USA

Helen Alvare, J.D.  
Professor of Law, George Mason University School of Law  
USA

Gaëlle Cariati  
graduate student in International Relations from University of Calabria  
Italy



Julie Bindel,  
Writer, author, broadcaster, and feminist campaigner against violence against women  
and children  
United Kingdom

Deborah Hornstra  
M.A. Health Advocacy, Sarah Lawrence College  
USA

Gertrud Åström  
Gender equality expert, feminist activist, president of the Swedish Women's Lobby  
Sweden

Lord David Alton  
Member of British Parliament  
United Kingdom

Matthew Eppinette  
Executive Director, The Center for Bioethics and Culture  
USA

Robert Oscar Lopez, Ph.D.  
President of the International Children's Rights Institute  
USA

Alana Newman  
Founder of The Anonymous Us Project and Advocate for Donor-Conceived People  
USA

Charles C. Camosy, Ph.D.  
Associate professor of theological and social ethics, Fordham University  
USA

Christopher White  
Director of Research and Education, The Center for Bioethics and Culture  
USA

C. Ben Mitchell, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy,  
Union University  
USA



Evan Grae Davis  
Filmmaker and director of *It's a Girl*  
USA

Katy Doran  
Donor Conceived Activist  
USA

Matt Doran  
Founder of the free social network: [www.DonorChildren.com](http://www.DonorChildren.com)  
Donor Conceived Advocate Connecting Biological Family and the Community  
USA

Claudia Corrigan D'Arcy  
Board Member of Adoption Rights Coalition  
USA

Jeffrey M. Togman, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Political Science and Film at Seton Hall University  
Director of the film *We're Not Blood*  
USA

Cathi Swett, J.D.  
Attorney and Adult Adoptee Advocate  
USA

Mirah Riben  
Author of *The Stork Market: America's Multi-Billion Dollar Unregulated Adoption Industry*  
USA

Miriam Grossman, M.D.  
Adolescent and adult psychiatrist and women's health activist. Author of *Unprotected*  
and *You're Teaching My Child WHAT?*  
USA

Melinda Tankard Reist  
Writer, feminist, activist  
Australia



Nkechi Asogwa, M.D.  
President, Doctors Health Initiative  
Nigeria

Adesuwa Onyenokwe  
Publisher and Editor in chief of TW Magazine([www.twmagazine.net](http://www.twmagazine.net))  
Nigeria

Ego Egonu, M.D.  
Physician, Derry Clinics  
Nigeria

Sanjay Khanna  
Convener, Socio-Economic Welfare Society  
India

Babita Khanna  
Gen. Secretary, Socio-Economic Welfare Society  
India

Lalit Pasricha  
Project Coordinator, Socio-Economic Welfare Society  
Canada

Eliette Abécassis  
Writer, author of *Qumran* and *La Répudiée*, which inspired Amos Gitai's film *Kadosh*  
France

Johanna Langhorst  
Reporter  
Sweden

Eberechukwu Okey-Onyema  
Executive Director, Healthy Living and Women Empowerment Initiative  
Nigeria

Annika Lundegårdh, R.N.  
Nurse and President of the Women's Committee of the Centre Party in Uppsala  
Sweden



Nina Björk  
Author  
Sweden

Ebon Kram  
Chairman  
Sweden

Erika Beckman  
Chairman, National Organization Against Sexual Abuse  
Sweden

Jane Eriksson  
Vice-Chairman, National Organization Against Sexual Abuse  
Sweden

Yvonne Hirdman  
Professor of Women's History at the Gothenburg University  
Sweden

Karin Svensson  
Chairwoman, Roks, The National Organization for Women's Shelter and Young  
Women's Shelter  
Sweden

Ebba Witt-Brattstrom  
Author, Feminist, and Professor in Nordic Literature, University of Helsinki  
Finland

Nina Rose, M.D.  
Vice President, Swedish Women Doctor's Society  
Sweden

Caroline Norma, Ph.D.  
Lecturer in Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University  
Australia

Jorunn Friis Reset  
Organisational secretary, Women's Front  
Norway



Helen Pringle, Ph.D.  
Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales  
Australia

Seyran Duran  
Chairman of the Kurdistan Women's Association in Sweden  
Sweden

Ruth Nordström  
President of Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyers  
Sweden

Rebecca Ahlstrand  
Attorney, Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyers  
Sweden

Maria Mies, Ph.D.  
Founding member of FINRRAGE (Feminist International Network of Resistance to  
Reproductive and  
Genetic Engineering)  
Germany

Shagufta Omar  
President, Pakistan Chapter of the International Muslim Women Union  
General Secretary, Women's Aid Trust  
Pakistan

Mia Fahlén, M.D.  
Senior Consultant Surgeon  
Sweden

Ana Reis, M.D.  
Feminist physician, Former representative of FINRRAGE  
Brazil

Viviane Teitelbaum  
President, European Women's Lobby  
Belgium





Myfanwy Cummerford  
Donor conceived advocate and Founder of TangledWebs  
Australia

Isla MacGregor  
Tasmanian Public Interest Advocate, Whistleblowers Tasmania  
Australia

Simone Andrea  
Survivor of Prostitution, Director of NorMAC  
Australia

Martine Segalen  
Professor Emeritus in Ethnology, Université Paris Ouest  
France

Genevieve Couraud  
President of the Observatoire Droits des Femmes CG-13  
President of ECVF, Politicians Against Violence Against Women  
France

Yvette Roudy  
Former Minister for Women's Rights  
France

Irene Tabellion  
President, La Lune, L'Association Strasbourgeoise de Femmes Homosexuelles  
France

Marie-Josèphe Bonnet, Ph.D.  
Historian of Women, Arts, and the Second World War  
France

Anne-Yvonne Le Dain  
Deputy, Socialist Party  
France

Elfriede Hammerl  
Journalist and Writer  
Austria



Nora Tenenbaum  
Representative, Coordination of Associations for the Right to Abortion and  
Contraception  
France

Maya Surduts  
Representative Coordination of Associations for the Right to Abortion and Contraception  
France

Nnenna Chikezie  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development  
Nigeria

Alice Schwarzer  
Editor of EMMA and co-founder of Mouvement de Liberation des Femmes (MLF)  
Germany

Nathalie Heinich  
Sociologist and Research director at Le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique  
(CNRS)  
France

Monette Vacquin  
Psychoanalyst and author of *Frankenstein et les Délires de la Raison* and *Main Basse  
sur les Vivants*  
France

José Bové  
Member of the European Parliament (Green Group), Former Chairman of Confederation  
Paysanne / Via Campesina, and Founding member of ATTAC France  
France

Emma Sahlén Grip  
Press Officer, National Organization for Women's and Girls Shelters in Sweden, Roks  
Sweden

Arun Dohle  
Executive Director of Against Child Trafficking  
Germany



Roelie Post

Author of *Romania for Export Only: the Untold Story of the Romanian Orphans*  
The Netherlands

Anjali Pawar

Director, Sakhee Pune  
India

Gita Ramaswamy

Concerned activist for child rights  
India

Jin Vilsgaard

Contact person for ACT  
Denmark

Kat Pinder

Sex trade survivor activist and Member, Amnesty International against pimps and buyers  
Australia

Martine Billard

Deputy of Paris 2002-2012, secretary of the delegation for women's rights of the National Assembly 2007-2012, author of a proposition of law against violence against women in 2007 with Marie-George Buffet  
France

Gloria Casas Vila

Spanish/Swiss activist against prostitution and surrogacy

Etienne Dujardin

Lawyer  
Belgium

Sophie Heine, Ph.D.

Senior Research Fellow at Egmont, Royal Institute for International Relations  
Belgium

Josina Kamerling

Head of Regulatory Outreach  
Belgium



Michel Ghins  
Action for family, President  
Belgium

Xavier Lombard  
Companies founder  
Belgium

Bernard Michelet  
Companies administrator  
Belgium

Tara Hewitt  
LGBT Activist  
United Kingdom



### **Organizational Signatories:**

Swedish National Committee for UN Women, Sweden

Swedish Women Doctor's Society, Sweden

Roks, The National Organization for Women's Shelter and Young Women's Shelter, Sweden

Swedish Women's Lobby, Sweden

Kurdistan Women's Association in Sweden

Women's Organisation's Committee on Alcohol and Drug Issues, Sweden

European Women's Lobby, Belgium

LeCorp, France

La Lune, L'Association Strasbourgeoise de Femmes Homosexuelles, France

Coordination of Associations for the Right to Abortion and Contraception, France

Cercle d'Etude de Réformes Féministes (CERF), France

EMMA, Germany

Against Child Trafficking (ACT), the Netherlands

Sakhee Pune, India

The Center for Bioethics and Culture, USA

FINRRAGE, Australia

Women's Bioethics Alliance, Australia

Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyers, Norway

Se non ora quando – Libere, Italy



Generazione Famiglia, Italy

Make Mothers Matter, France

Feministas Mexicanas contra Vientres de Alquiler (Femmva), Mexico

Stop Vientres de Alquiler, Spain

Abolish Surrogacy, Australia

Women's Liberation Front, USA

Breaking Free, USA

OBJECT, UK

Nordic Model Now!, UK