

## **Oral Statement on the Commercial Maternal surrogacy and human dignity**

**31st Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Geneva, 29 February – 24 March 2016**

**Item 3 General Debate: Commercial Maternal surrogacy violates human dignity**

APG23 and the other co-signing NGOs rise up their voice against the practice of Commercial Maternal Surrogacy.

This widespread phenomenon is a new example of sale of children and even violence against them.

We are witnessing a process of women's degradation and the use of their bodies as a simple children's production instrument. Maternity, that is a natural phenomenon, is contaminated by an economic-financial prospective based on the service closed in a negotiation.

The newborn becomes the object of a legal contract and, as such, it is picked as in a catalogue, ordered and purchased. Paying the price at birth, only after a medical examination has verified the absence of "flaws and defects", makes the child more similar to a factory good than to a human being.

The baby comes to life only because he/she is the planned response to a desire that otherwise would remain unsatisfied, without any consideration for his/her inherent human dignity.

What about the damages provoked by early separation of a newborn from the woman who has been responsible for his/her carrying and delivering?

What about the deprivation of breast-feeding these newborns are subject to?

What about the right of every child – including the one born via surrogacy - to know the biological mother or the woman who carried the pregnancy until delivery is completely ignored?

What about the trauma for the eventual other children of the surrogate mother when they will discover that she gave away the newborn for economic reasons?

It is time to take a global action against commercial maternal surrogacy as a violation of human dignity.

We ask the Human Rights Council to promote a resolution that decisively condemns the phenomenon of commercial maternal surrogacy and bans this practice at international level.