

ICAMS - new members and 3 ongoing actions

Newsletter January-February 2021

Dear friends, dear members of ICAMS,

We are very happy to welcome two new members to ICAMS and we welcome them :

- SE NON ORA QUANDO? GENOVA (Italy)
- PROEQUALIDAD INICIATIVA (Colombia)

The beginning of the year is marked by action against the work of the Hague Conference which, if we do not block it, will lead de facto to the regularisation of surrogacy. Furthermore, the editorial work to publish a book on surrogacy is finally underway, first with the English version, then with the French version and finally with the Spanish version. At the beginning of March, we will launch jointly with EnoMW a study on "maternity and migration". On this topic, the news summarised below shows that surrogate mothers are also victims of trafficking.

The Hague Conference (HCCH) is working to regulate surrogacy. It is a real blank cheque to the globalized surrogacy trade

Reminder: The HCCH's work on filiation in the context of GPA will result in the regulation of surrogacy. This approach amounts to making it socially acceptable. No, GPA does not fall within the remit of the HCCH of private international law because it is a question of human rights.

The HCCH Expert Group in charge of this work is biased. It has not consulted any feminist or donor-conceived children's organisations. It only considered the regulation of GPA and did not consider an abolitionist alternative.

CIAMS has written to each MEMBER STATE of the HCCH asking them to stop their work. This request is supported by 2300 signatories and 240 organisations from 55 countries (the HCCH has 85 Member Countries). **Thank you to all of you who have supported our approach by signing the appeal.**

CIAMS has also written to the group of experts to express its disagreement with their work.

From 1 to 5/03/2021 - the HCCH General Affairs and Policy Council will meet. This Council has mandated the group of experts. CIAMS will again express its opposition to the HCCH working on surrogacy. **This week we will offer you the opportunity to participate in a new campaign via social networks.**

Dominic Ongwen: First person convicted of the crime of forced pregnancy by the ICC

"In addition to the fact that a child soldier was being tried for the first time, Dominic Ongwen's trial is unprecedented for two other reasons. **One is that, for the first time, the ICC has found an accused guilty of the crime of forced pregnancy that appeared in 1998 with the Rome Statute, the founder of the international court.** The former LRA commander is thus responsible, among other things, for "sexual and gender-based crimes, namely forced marriage, torture, rape, sexual slavery, enslavement, forced pregnancy and outrages upon personal dignity that he committed against seven women (whose names and individual histories are specified in the judgment) who were abducted and placed in his home," the ICC says."

(Translated from french)

https://www.francetvinfo.fr/monde/afrique/ouganda/dominic-ongwen-l-ex-enfant-soldat-que-la-justice-internationale-n-exonere-pas_4283591.html

THAILAND

Surrogate babies stranded by Covid

"The Covid-19 outbreak has left many newborn babies of illegal surrogate mothers stranded in Thailand because of international travel bans.

"Many babies from commercial surrogate mothers could not be given to the clients due to the Covid-19 travel ban in many countries," Dr Akom Praditsuwan, the Department of Health Service Support (HSSD), said yesterday.

Dr Akom said the babies were now being cared for by officials from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security as police and other agencies tried to track down all those complicit in the illegal business to charge them with human trafficking."

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2059463/surrogate-babies-stranded-by-covid>

THAILAND

Illegal transnational surrogate network disguised for years as a cleaning company

"Cybercrime police have cracked down on an illegal transnational surrogacy ring disguised as a cleaning company.

The officers acted after discovering that surrogate mothers were unable to deliver surrogate children to their parents overseas due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The authorities raided 10 locations involved in the illegal transnational surrogacy network in and around Bangkok, arresting three surrogate agents and four Thai surrogate mothers."

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2063455/swoop-on-surrogacy-network>

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Trafficking in human beings: European Parliament calls for revision of the directive

REVISION OF THE DIRECTIVE

On 8 February MEPs debated trafficking in human beings. This form of slavery is on the rise and has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis, new technologies and migratory flows. The European Parliament wants tougher measures against this crime, a quarter of whose victims are children.

Many forms of trafficking and exploitation exist, such as sexual exploitation and labour exploitation. Trafficking also takes place through other activities such as begging, financial exploitation through fraud, organ removal, **illegal adoption, the sale of babies and trafficking in human beings through surrogate motherhood**. The latter concerns 18% of the victims.

(Translated from french)

<https://www.vie-publique.fr/en-bref/278567-parlement-ue-reviser-la-directive-sur-la-traite-des-etres-humains>



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