

Activity report 2020

CIAMS now has 36 members from 12 countries

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# Summary

3 major events marked the year 2020:

* The work with Latin-American organisations leading to publication of a Latin American Manifesto, and the creation of a permanent group.
* The publication of the project of an International Convention on the Abolition of Surrogacy, supported by 3,300 signatories among them 300 NGO in 65 countries.
* The International call to halt the work of the Hague Conference

2020 was also a year of intense communication boosted by new digital tools that allowed very well attended webinars, but also Podcasts, workshops, forums...

We must also underline the involvement of our members in lobbying their representatives on surrogacy, or supporting the collective initiatives of ICASMS and organising public events on surrogate motherhood.

# Actions targeting public opinion.

## In France

CIAMS took part in numerous webinars and campaigns in 2020 as follows.

**May the 5th -** As last year, ICASMwas a signatory of the French 8th March call (international day for women's rights), and organised a conference on "**Surrogacy, in the context of women's rights**” In partnership with the “Paris Women Centre”. This event was written up in the Paris official record of events around the 8th March..

**July the 2nd**- Podcast organised by the SCELLES Foundation: “Are you Ready to carry another woman's child?” with Ana Luana Stoicea Deram

**September the 18th-20th**- 5th Worldwide Women’s March (Toulouse): "the Feminists Forum for prepare for tomorrow": ICASM, along with the “Mouvement du Nid” (ICASM member) drew a parallel between prostitution and surrogacy.

**November 25th –** ICASM press conference **"Towards Surrogacy":** On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. it was meant as a reminder that surrogacy is also violence against women. With Clara Berglund (Secretary General Swedish Women's Lobby), Ana Deram (Co-President CIAMS France), Berta O'Garcia (Co-President CIAMS Spain), Liliana Forero Montoya (Coordinator Iniciativa ProEqualidad Colombia) (Access [here](https://youtu.be/aoDLG6EjYbQ)).

**December 16th -** ICASM discussed surrogacy in **"Femmes Libres" programm, on Radio Libertaire (**[**HERE**](https://www.mixcloud.com/FemmesLibres/emission-femmes-libres-du-16-d%C3%A9cembre-2020-sur-radio-libertaire-894/?fbclid=IwAR14g_Xgtetm6JfP5DuYnnzV7L0DK2i0VfTahombFT34dROFaoT461V5VN0)**)**

**December 18th -** Webinar organised by ICASM and featuring Alice Ferney. her book **“L'INTIMITE” (Intimacy).***.* With Ana Deram and Alice Ferney. (to be seen on [CIAMS youtubechannel](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n-b2kh_X5c)).

## INTERNATIONALY

## Germany

**January 10th** - ICASM Support to "The Reproductive Justice Campaign! The current ban on egg donation and surrogacy in Germany must be maintained" organised by German journalists and academics (Berlin 10 01 2020).

## UK

**June 2020 -** The WHCR invited ICASM to speak on surrogacy on its webinar attended by approximately 500 people. The WHCR subsequently shared these people contact details. ICASM was thus able to contact them, offering a subscription to the ICASM newsletter.

## Sweden

**June 16th** - Webinar with the Swedish Women's Lobby "How do we stop the reproductive trade in women and children?

## Ukraine

**In June and July -**In reaction to the scandal of babies stranded in the Ukraine, a country where commercial surrogacy is flourishing, ICASM campaigned to raise public awareness of the consequences of this practice and to make the Ukrainian and European authorities accountable for this attack on women and children dignity.

**ICASM** therefore **wrote to the Ukrainian President** and, initiated by **the Swedish Women's Lobby**, **called on NGOs to endorse this letter** to the Ukrainian President. In parallel, a **cyber-action**, launched by the Spanish group **"Mujeres por la abolicion",** supported by **ICASM,** challenged the **European authorities and political groups**.

**ICASM** was invited to a **webinar** initiated by **STRADA** (Ukrainian NGO) with representatives of the Ukrainian government on **"Surrogacy: reproductive technology, exploitation or human trafficking?** https:[//www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcottQLjb4o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcottQLjb4o)

ICASM issued a press releasedemanding the abolition of surrogacy in Ukraine.

ICASM also got in touch with Maria Dmytrieva from the Democracy Development Centre in Ukraine and connected to the facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/feminism.ua/permalink/3417183768312638/>

## Spain

**November 2nd –** a shortvideo capsule made by Mujeres por la Abolicion on reproductive exploitation with Berta O. Garcia ([Available on Facebook](https://fb.watch/4-KeRSII-5/))

## Latin America

**November 12th** - Launch of the Latin American Manifesto against Reproductive Exploitation (GPA) :

Live broadcast on the CIAMS Facebook page ([accessible on Facebook](https://fb.watch/4-KeRSII-5/)).

**November 12th** - 2nd Abolitionist Day (Argentina) with ICASM (Berta O. Garcia) - ([access Facebook live](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1455680944637436))

**November 13th** - "**Alto a los vientres de alquiler**" (Stop surrogacy) with ICASM (Berta O. Garcia) - ([Access Facebook live](https://www.facebook.com/surrogacy.abolition/videos/2008930282575320))

## Belgium:

**November 13th-** - Webinar organised by ENOMW (CIAMS member) “**SURROGACY - Globalised Reproductive Exploitation of Women and Girls”** [**(Access viaYoutube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E30aqEAK70c&list=PL7UCXYZ5PuE3PVOFFNUM4luJu6VfFuvAB&index=2&t=829s)**)**

# Institutional actions

## ECHR (European Court of Human Rights)

The CIAMS with the support of CoRP (ICASM member) members intervened twice in 2020 before the ECHR

1. CASE D v. France Application no. 11288/18. (ruled) the ECHR issued a judgment stating that the refusal to record the birth certificate of a child born abroad from surrogacy does not infringe the respect for privacy insofar as other solutions are available to establish parentage. (Press release of the case D.v. France of the Corp and CIAMS in Annexes)
2. Case **no. 26848/18 S.C. and others v. Switzerland** (pending). This case concerns the incomplete recording in the Swiss civil status registers of the birth certificate of a child born in California by a surrogate mother for a Frenco-Swiss couple. The child was subsequently adopted by the biological father’s spouse. The application, unprecedented to date, has been filed not only on behalf of the biological father, his spouse and the child, but also on behalf of the woman who gave birth to the child, in other words the Californian surrogate mother.

## The Hague Conference

1. Drafting and dissemination of an international convention for the abolition of surrogacy in September 2020.

2. An International press conference for the publication of the convention with the support of the Swedish Women's Lobby. ([Available here](https://youtu.be/aoDLG6EjYbQ))

3. Sending this draft convention to the Experts at the Hague Conference to show them that there **is** a possible and credible alternative to their legalising approach.

4 An International appeal launched in September 2020 in opposition to the approach of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and in favour of the draft international convention for the abolition of surrogacy, signed to date by 3,300 people and 300 organisations in 65 countries.

## France: Bioethics law action

ICASM has written to various stakeholders playing an important role in the bioethics law.

1. Letter to the Minister of Justice

2. Letter to the Minister for Gender Equality, Isabelle Moreno

3. Letter to the Minister of Solidarity and Health, Olivier Veran

## European Parliament :

ICASM has lobbyed directly or through its members (in Italy and Austria for example) of MEPs, parliamentary groups and committee leaders to support amendments introducing surrogacy as violence against women.

* Report of the FEMM Commission on the post-crisis gender perspective Covid-19 <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2020-0229_FR.html>
* Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World and the EU's policy on the matter - Annual Report 2019 <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0014_FR.html>
* Report on the implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating - trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (2020/2029(INI)) <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegistreWeb/search/simpleSearchHome.htm;jsessionid=?searchLanguages=EN&relations=NUPE%23%23658.995&sortAndOrder=DATE_DOCU_DESC>
* MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION on the EU strategy for equality between men and women (2019/2169(INI)) https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2020-0234\_FR.html. It is this last report that carries the only amendment condemning GPA. It was tabled by Italian women MEPs.

Article 32 [The European Parliament] urges the Commission to present the long-awaited EU strategy on the eradication of trafficking in human beings and stresses the need to clearly recognise the gendered nature of trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation, as women and girls are the most affected; recognises that sexual exploitation for the purposes of surrogacy and reproduction or for purposes such as forced marriages, prostitution and pornography is unacceptable and constitutes a violation of human dignity and human rights Calls, therefore, for the strategy to pay particular attention to the situation of women in prostitution, with special emphasis on the link between prostitution and trafficking in women and minors, both in the EU and worldwide, and on the emerging use of the Internet for exploitation Stresses the important role and work of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and urges the Commission to appoint the new Coordinator without further delay, in order to closely monitor the implementation of the Directive on the prevention of trafficking in human beings by the Member States; stresses the importance of including measures and strategies to reduce demand;

CIAMS has also wrote to. Ursula Von Der Leyen, President of the European Commission and Helena Dalli, Vice-President of the European Commission, raising the issue that surrogacy is a form of violence against women.

## THE UN

ICASM requested a meeting with the two UN Special Rapporteurs, but no action was taken: (see attached letters)

* Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia), Special Rapporteur on violence against women.
* Mama Fatima Singhateh (Gambia), Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children.

# lobbying politicians

A Meeting in 2020 with women MPs, senators and elected representatives who support ICASM, to share ideas on the strategies aiming to abolish surrogacy.

# Publication / Communication

Launch of the call for contributions for the book on GPA: 33 texts received in English, Spanish, French, German.

50/50 Tribune - "It is possible to put an end to surrogate motherhood "(Available [HERE](https://www.50-50magazine.fr/2020/06/26/en-finir-avec-le-recours-a-la-maternite-de-substitution-gpa-oui-cest-possible/) )**.**

**October the 7th** - Publication of an opinion piece in Marianne magazine. “**Surrogacy: legalising practice violating human rights weakens those rights**" <https://www.marianne.net/agora/tribunes-libres/gpa-reglementer-une-pratique-qui-porte-atteinte-aux-droits-humains-aboutit-a-affaiblir-ces-droits> (Available [HERE](https://www.marianne.net/agora/tribunes-libres/gpa-reglementer-une-pratique-qui-porte-atteinte-aux-droits-humains-aboutit-a-affaiblir-ces-droits))

The Newsletter is now published in three languages (French, Spanish, English).

ICASM and the Mouvement du Nid have jointly published (end of December-beginning of January), in the magazine "Prostitution et société", a special report on surrogacy and prostitution.(Available [Here](https://mouvementdunid.org/prostitution-societe/dossiers/la-gpa-un-marche-aux-femmes/)) (Accessible HERE

# Joining new networks

**South America**

Alerted by the attempts to open up GPA in South America, we contacted organisations in South America thanks to Berta O. Garcia. With a weekly meeting over 3 months, a group was formed and decided to issue a Latin American manifesto, supported by ICASM and a hundred South American organisations. Since then, the group is still meeting re to discuss strategy and organise actions such as a series of abolitionist webinars on surrogacy and prostitution.

## Europe CLEF and EWL

**1. CLEF (french Women’s Lobby):** Reminder, as we are not yet able to join the EWL directly, we are mobilising within CLEF. Noura Radd De EnoMW (European Network for Migrant Women) is the ICASM representative on the CLEF Board. Our involvement in CLEF allows surrogacy to be covered amongst its 70 French organisations

**2. EWL (European Women’s Loby):** The Swedish Women's Lobby is very active on the issue of surrogacy at EWL level. At the lastest Annual General Meeting, they presented a motion on surrogacy which passed unanimously. Following this vote, a common project between the EWL, ICASM and the Swedish Women's Lobby is starting in 2021.

## Europe - The CNFF (National Council of French Women)

The CNFF is an affiliated member of the ICW - ICW, founded in 1888, with ECOSOC status bringing together 65 National Organisations. At the ICW GA, which is held every 3 years, resolutions for actions are voted on by members. the ICW calls on its affiliated councils to lobby their respective governments.

Marie Claude Bertrand, President of the CNFF, suggested that we join the CNFF with the aim of proposing a resolution in favour of the Universal Abolition of Surrogacy at the next ICF- ICW, annual General Meeting.

# Operation

To strengthen it teams, ICASM is hiring interns. The first one, whom we thank here, has been a great help. She strengthens our ability in publishing on social networks.