

# ICAMS 2023 Activity Report

## Achievements in 2023

**At international level:**

**A more intensive campaign to counter the work of the HCCH (Hague Conference on Private International Law) on "Parenthood in the context of surrogacy".**

* We have written twice to the member states of the HCCH. The irrelevance of the responses received shows that the 90 governments concerned are not interested in this issue, leaving the way open for lobbying on a subject that will help to normalise access to surrogacy.
* On the occasion of the first meeting of the new working group set up by the HCCH in 2023 to represent the position of states, we organised a rally in The Hague in which 10 of our member organisations took part. Their speeches, delivered in front of the HCCH headquarters, were passed on to the members of the working group.
* We met with the permanent team of the HCCH, which is totally subservient to the interests of the commissioning parents and impervious to any other considerations.
We reiterated our request for observer status at the HCCH, to no avail.

**UN: confrontation with the pro-surrogacy UN agencies**

We invited the 4 UN agencies to our event in New York in March 2023 to confront their pro-surrogacy positions (in vain, no one replied).

* ICAT https://icat.un.org/
* **UNODOC** https://www.unodc.org/ This agency in its 2020 report on trafficking does not **mention surrogacy at all and only considers "forced surrogacy" in its work.**
* UNFPA https://www.unfpa.org/resources/putting-end-human-trafficking . In its 2021 report it appears to be in favour of regulated surrogacy.
* **The Special Rapporteur on the sale and exploitation of children** https://www.ohchr.org/en/specialprocedures/sr-sale-of-children

**Contact with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women**

In an interview with Reem Alsalem, we asked her to consider surrogacy as a form of violence against women. At her request, we provided her with information and contacts. She is due to publish a document on the subject at the end of 2024.

**At European level: intense lobbying and a very busy parliamentarycalendar**

* Directive on Violence : We proposed a mapping of violence that also includes violence resulting from the reproductive exploitation of women.
* Revision of the 2011 European Directive on Trafficking in Human Beings . Again, we showed that surrogacy falls within the scope of human trafficking. Surrogacy is now included in this directive, but the wording is ambiguous. As feminists, we can show that all forms of surrogacy are human trafficking. But pro-surrogacy groups will argue that the directive only allows certain forms of surrogacy to be condemned, and all others to be considered acceptable.
* Draft regulation on a European certificate of parenthood. This project should be seen in the same light as the would create a European certificate of parentage. The parliamentary assistant to the rapporteur of this project, whom we met in the Parliament, did not see how this project directly affected the issue of surrogacy.
* Confrontation with Frances Fitgerald MEP for her participation in "The imperative of equal access to fertility treatment in Europe - White Paper", which demands that the European Union "*recognise the right to have a child as a universal right throughout the EU*".

**At national level**

**Ukraine**

Together with our member organisation, the Democracy and Development Centre, we called on the Ukrainian Ministers of Health and Internal Affairs to ban surrogacy rather than regulate it. Since then, the plan to regulate surrogacy appears to have fallen by the wayside.

**Georgia**

Letter to the President of Georgia about the proposed ban on commercial surrogacy.

## A strong presence for ICAMS

* **In the USA**, in New York, we organised two conferences for CSW67, and were invited to a third.
1. An in-person meeting with Maria Dmitrieva (Ukraine), Chiara Parolin (Italy), Clemence Trilling (Quebec), Taina Bienaimé (USA).
2. A digital meeting with Ana Luana Stoicea Deram, Marie Josèphe Devillers, Sheela Saravanan (India), Jihye Kuk (South Korea)
3. Ana Luana Stoicea-Deram took part as a speaker at the Conference on Ukraine, organised by the World Federation of Ukrainian Women
* **In Argentina**. At the 3rd World Human Rights Forum in Buenos Aires.

We co-organised a conference on surrogacy with Marie Josèphe Devillers (ICAMS), Katja Ekis Ekaman (Sweden), Maria Jose Binetti (Argentina) and Theresa Ulloa (CATW Mexico).

* **In the United Kingdom**, in Glasgow, Marie Josèphe Devillers joined the FILIA 2013 gathering, to take part in the march against surrogacy and to make contacts.
* **In Italy**. In March 2023, Ana Luana Stoicea Deram, invited by Finaargit, take part in conferences in Bergam and Rome; in November, she also spoke at the University of Cagliari.
* **In Spain**, In Spain, Berta O. García at the congress of the "Feministas al Congreso" party (June); at the feminist conference "Gender and reproductive exploitation" organised by Feministas Iruña (September); at the conference "Implications of reproductive exploitation", organised by Feministas Bercianas (November); at the 1st congress of Plataforma do Feminismo Radical Galicia (November) and at the autumn course at the University of La Rioja "Reproductive exploitation and the buying and selling of babies", with Eva Gutiérrez. It should be noted that their fees were paid directly to ICAMS. Our sincere thanks go to both of them. There were also several presentations of the ICAMS book "¿Gestación subrogada? Un enfoque feminista abolicionista de la explotación reproductiva".
* **In France**, presentation in Cluny and Nîmes of the book "Ventres à louer, une critique féministe de la GPA".

**Publishing**

Publication of the Spanish and German versions of the book on surrogacy These versions have been added to those already published in English, Italian and French
Many thanks to Berta O. Garcia (Spanish version) and Erwin Landrichter (German version) for translating the texts and adding previously unpublished contributions to each version.

**Extension of the ICAMS website**

**Surrogacy Observatory**. Country-by-country reports about surrogacy are now regularly published (10 currently, 3 pending publication). <http://abolition-ms.org/en/observatory/>

**Thematic files.** These are arguments that target and develop the issue of surrogacy from specific poj+ints of view (children, consent, etc.) <http://abolition-ms.org/en/category/ressources-en/facts-sheets/>.

## A year full of communication initiatives

The year 2023 was marked by 62 communication actions (details attached),

Press article 12

Press release 3

Digital and face-to-face conference 30

Interview 13

Petition 1

Rally 2
Facebook live 1

ICAMS social networks growing in popularity

Good progress on Twitter thanks to Berta O. Garcia (3349followers) and Instagram thanks to our communication interns (1179 followers), Facebook (1464 subscribers) and Linkedin (1574 subscribers), which we launched in 2023.

## How it works

**Collaboration**

We are involved with

* **Brussels Call:** 120 organisations to take action at European level against the prostitution system. We are also raising the issue of surrogacy, supported by EnOMW.
* **CLEF** in France
* **CNFF** in France

**Human resources**

**Working groups**. A working group was set up to define a common glossary. The group met once and discussed the issue in English, German, Spanish and French. Its work Has not yet been completed.

**Interns**. We relied on 3 interns in 2023, one of whom interrupted her internship after 3 months, to resume it in 2024.

# Outlook for 2024-2025:

## International institutions

**United Nations:** Participation in CSW 68 and collaboration in the project launched by the Swedish Women's Lobby to strengthen the feminist presence at CSW

**ECOSOC status:** we hope to be awarded the ECOSOC label in 2024.

**CEDAW**: It is crucial to convince the CEDAW Committee to include surrogacy as a form of violence against women. <http://abolition-ms.org/en/news/call-on-cedaw-to-recognise-surrogacy-as-a-violence-against-women/>

**European Parliament**: It is vital to work with the EWL and national feminist coordinating bodies to urge candidates for the European Parliament to include surrogacy as a form of violence against women. The European elections are an excellent opportunity to communicate on surrogacy.

## At national level

ICAMS supports national campaigns against the opening up of surrogacy. In 2024, the following actions are already underway.

* Belgium with the Université des femmes and Women Against Surrogacy Belgium
* Germany with Emma magazine
* Taiwan with the Awakening Foundation
* Greece with ;Initiative of Feminist Organisations Against Surrogacy / Fotini Sianou
* France with the 21 French members of the ICAMS (according to the Board meeting held on 27 April, this project must be given priority. The pressure to open up France to surrogacy ishuge (media; members of the French Socialist Party are individually in favour of opening up France to surrogacy), the situation is very serious and sends out the wrong signal for Europe to fight against.

## Members

* We also plan to organise a training course on surrogacy (funding requested from the City of Paris - subject to approval).
* We would like to organise monthly webinars based on the experiences and actions of our members. Some of them have already proposed topics.

## How it works

## Given the development of ICAMS and the amount of work to be done, it is imperative that we strengthen our team.

## In 2025, the Board of Directors will be renewed and we must prepare for this important step.

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| **ICAMS Forecast 2024** |  |  |  |
| **EXPENDITURE** |  | **REVENUE** |  |
| Allowance for 4 trainees | 14500 | Membership fees (estimate) | 4000 |
| External services (website and div.) | 2000 | Call for donations | 8000 |
| Publications (ICAMS supports) | 1000 | Subsidy from the City of Paris (subject to conditions) | 5000 |
| other expenses | 2000 | Consumption subsidies 2023 | 2500 |
| Travel  | 3000 | Transfer to reserves 2023 | 3000 |
| **Total expenditure** | **22500** | **Total revenue** | **22500** |



