

Surrogate motherhood report rejected by the Council of Europe



PRESS RELEASE

The ONE OF US Federation welcomes the rejection by the Council of Europe of a report legalizing surrogate motherhood as a clear step toward the stop of women and children trafficking

Brussels, March 16 2016.

The ONE OF US Federation applauds the rejection of the “de Sutter” report on Human Rights and ethical issues related to surrogacy by the Council of Europe (CoE) Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development Committee. The report intended to add a legal framework to, thus authorizing and encouraging the practice of, surrogate motherhood despite the clear breach of women and children human dignity it induces.

3 days before the meeting of the CoE Committee gathering in Paris, the One of Us Federation gathered **over 1200 persons in the French capital for the 1st ONE OF US Forum**. Together with major European leaders, including 4 ministers in exercise or retired, **ONE OF US called for the complete ban of gestational surrogacy** and a clear stance by all western authorities, home of the “buyers” to stop this traffic which involves poor women and children, most of them from developing nations.

During the Forum, **Prof. Gian-Luigi Gigli**, Italian MP and Preseident of the Movimento per la Vita, declared: “Our society authorizes a certain form of neocolonialism through gestational surrogacy”. The event was followed by the **first One of Us Award** that was given to PATARAMON CHAMBUA, a Thai woman who was once the famous victim of this practice, by giving birth and deciding to keep with her “baby Gammy” despite all odds and pressure.

Reminder:

The European Parliament entirely approved paragraph 114, condemning “the practice of surrogacy, which undermines the human dignity of the woman since her body and its reproductive functions are used as a commodity”. The European Parliament also “considers that the practice of gestational surrogacy which involves reproductive exploitation and use of the human body for financial or other gain, in particular in the case of vulnerable women in developing countries, shall be prohibited and treated as a matter of urgency in human rights instruments”. This is a big victory for Human Dignity.