REGULATING SURROGACY IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES


Venue: hosted in the Danish Parliament by Karen Klint (MF), Christiansborg Castle, Copenhagen (Udvalgslokale 2-080)

October 22, 2012, 13.00 – 17.00

During the past few years the issue of surrogacy has emerged in a number of European countries as an issue of contention and debate. A number of cases, such as in Iceland and Norway, have prompted policy makers and legislators to reconsider the issues surrounding surrogacy in an attempt to solve legal dilemmas in which the status of children born through surrogacy have ended up in an uncertain legal standing as to guardianship and nationality. Countries, such as Iceland, are considering legalising surrogacy as a result. Surrogacy also raises a number of timely issues related to reproductive labour and tourism, which are difficult to regulate from a legal perspective since they are often transnational in nature. With the view to liberalized Icelandic legislation – what are the consequences for and the response of the other Nordic countries? The purpose of this joint workshop is to bring together key people in the Nordic countries where the issue of surrogacy is being re-visited from a legal perspective to identify common issues, differences, as well as ways in which countries can find a common approach in tackling the issues.

12.30 – 13.00 Registration and coffee

13.00 – 13.10 Opening and welcome: Aaro Tupasela (NCBio): Technology and the child – a tenuous hope for parents

Opening talks:

13.10 – 13.30 Riitta Burrell (dosent, University of Helsinki, Finland): Why surrogacy should not be allowed.

13.30 – 13.50 Catherine Waldby (professor, University of Sydney, Australia): Historical lineages of commercial surrogacy and the contemporary Indian gestational market.
14.00 – 15.00 Prepared Comments (10 min each):

- Kristrún Heimisdóttir (Chair of committee on legalizing surrogacy, Ministry of Welfare, Iceland)
- Salla Silvola (Ministry of Justice, Finland)
- Karen Klint (Member of Parliament and Nordic Council, Denmark)
- Jane Stoll (Uppsala University, Sweden)
- Trude Elisabeth Sveen (Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion, Norway)
- Charlotte Kroløkke (Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark)

15.00 – 15.20 Coffee

15.20 – 17.00 General discussion

Should states have a responsibility to recognize children born abroad through surrogacy? Should it be allowed within a country’s own national borders? Does legalising surrogacy in ones own country solve the problems? Would it be beneficial to have a common Nordic position on surrogacy, and if so, is it possible? What rights do children have concerning surrogacy and parents? What responsibilities do parents have?

Registration

To register for the meeting, send an e-mail to secretary@ncbio.org, no later than October 15. A limited number of seats are available.

Important information

Visitors to the Danish Parliament are subject to airport-style security checks. Please allow time to go through security and make your way to the venue. A representative of the Committee will direct you once you have made your way through security.

Please use the Visitors’ Entrance (Besøgsindgang) marked as 1 on the map below

Getting to Christiansborg Parliament

From the airport take the metro (tickets can be bought from the machines or ticket office in the arrivals hall close to the escalators). Get off at Kongens Nytorv Station. From there it is a short walk to Parliament.

https://maps.google.dk/maps?saddr=Kongens+Nytorv+st+(Metro),+K%C3%B8benhavn&daddr=Folketinget,+Folketinget,+Christiansborg,+1240+K%C3%B8benhavn+K&hl=da&ie=UTF8&sll=55.675895,12.58185&sspn=0.007671,0.026157&geocode=FdGYUQMdDAnAACnfkM6VF1NSRjHDY3soZvWnzW%3BFe-