Email to Australian Law Reform Commission 11/7/25

Subject: The Unspoken Harms of Surrogacy: A Plea for the Protection of Women and Children

Dear ALRC,

I write to you today out of deep concern for the increasing normalization and commercialization of surrogacy—a practice that raises profound ethical, legal, and humanitarian issues. While often framed as a generous act or a reproductive "option," surrogacy carries horrific consequences that we, as a society, must confront honestly and courageously.

First and foremost, it is crucial to recognize that having a child is not a right. It is a privilege—one that comes with immense responsibility. When we begin treating children as entitlements or accessories to fulfill adult desires, we cross a dangerous moral line. Children are not products to be designed, bought, or sold. They are human beings with their own rights, dignity, and needs, and their welfare must always come first.

Disturbingly, surrogacy has created a global industry that commodifies both women's bodies and the children they bear. The exploitation of vulnerable women, often from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, is a well-documented reality. Recent reports from Crete have revealed chilling cases where women were trafficked and enslaved for the sole purpose of bearing children for profit. Such abuses are not isolated incidents but part of a broader pattern that exposes the structural risks inherent in surrogacy.

Beyond the exploitation of women, we must also consider the psychological and developmental impact on children born through these arrangements. Decades of data indicate that children do best—emotionally, psychologically, and socially—when raised by their biological parents. Surrogacy deliberately severs this natural bond. To intentionally expose children to such instability, especially in situations where no medical necessity justifies it, is both reckless and unethical.

More alarmingly, the lack of rigorous oversight in surrogacy arrangements has opened doors to potential abuse. In Australia, known paedophiles have reportedly gained access to children through surrogacy, bypassing the rigorous vetting processes that exist in traditional adoption frameworks. Such cases underscore a terrifying truth: without stringent protections and ethical boundaries, surrogacy can and has been exploited by those who pose serious risks to children.

We must ask ourselves: when did adult desires begin to outweigh the inherent rights of a child? The best interests of the child must always be the guiding principle in any decision involving their creation and upbringing. No adult's longing to become a parent should supersede a child's right to safety, stability, and identity.

It is time we reevaluate and, where necessary, prohibit practices that commodify life, exploit the vulnerable, and endanger children. Surrogacy, in its current form, fails this moral test. Let us stand for a future where no child is a product, no woman is a vessel, and where human dignity is never for sale.

Sincerely,