**From:** Gavin Boneham
**To:** Surrogacy
**Subject:** Submission
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I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the current proposals to expand or further legitimise surrogacy arrangements. At its core, surrogacy raises profound ethical concerns because it treats human life as something that can be bought, contracted, and traded. No person should ever be for sale. A child is a human being with inherent dignity, not a product or commodity to be obtained through financial transactions or contractual agreements.

Surrogacy, whether commercial or so-called "altruistic," fundamentally involves the commissioning of another person's body and reproductive capacity, creating an environment where vulnerable women may feel pressured—financially or emotionally—to carry a child for others. This practice risks exploiting women and reduces the child's beginnings to the terms of a legal contract.

It is particularly concerning that the legal and screening requirements for surrogate parents are often stricter and more burdensome than those faced by adoptive parents. Adoption, which exists to find families for children who need them, involves rigorous assessment, yet surrogacy, which creates a child to satisfy adult desires, is sometimes treated as a mere private arrangement with far fewer safeguards for the child's welfare. This inconsistency suggests that the focus has shifted from what is best for children to what is desired by adults.

Instead of expanding surrogacy, our society should prioritise the protection of women from exploitation and the welfare of children. Laws should reflect the principle that human life cannot be manufactured or purchased. Children have a right to be born free, not as the fulfilment of another person's contract.

I urge the review to recommend maintaining strict prohibitions against surrogacy and to focus instead on supporting ethical, child-centred alternatives such as adoption reform.

Sincerely,

Gavin Boneham

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