

## **HR#1 (substitute #3) – Human Rights –**

### **Endorse the Draft International Convention for the Abolition of Surrogacy**

Hugh Esco (Fulton County) offers the following by substitute:

*(changes reflect differences with substitute #1)*

Amend the Platform of the Georgia Green Party, in the chapter on Human Rights, by inserting a new paragraph to the introductory text, to read:

Global surrogacy, in spite of the impact of the COVID19 pandemic, had an estimated market value of \$4 billion in 2020, down from \$5.5 billion in 2019, and is estimated to grow at rates exceeding 30% over much of the coming decade, to nearly \$34 billion by 2027. Demand grows largely in the global West dependent on wealthy or desperate would-be parents. Surrogacy is offered as a technological solution to infertility, an issue growing in its reach due to environmental factors such as exposure to toxics in the workplace, in poorly-regulated consumer products and in the industrial discharges to the air we breathe and the water we drink. Fertility issues are exacerbated by economic factors (including student debt and declining wages) motivating personal choices to postpone reproduction. The global South is left to supply the wombs and bodies of impoverished women as a locus for production. A growing number of nations, acting on their commitments under the Convention for the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, have in recent years enacted laws to prohibit the exploitation by the international surrogacy market of women within their borders. This has served to shift this market in the bodies of women into unregulated jurisdictions, particularly South Asia, Eastern Europe and a couple of nations in Africa. The practice in the United States is largely unregulated or too often explicitly permitted (on a state-by-state basis) in this nation. Women used in surrogacy and their offspring are often exempt from the usual protections of the adoption process, under a patchwork of statutory and case law environments. A longitudinal study first circulated in 2012 for peer review, found that "surrogacy children showed higher levels of adjustment difficulties at age 7 than children conceived by gamete donation". This study concluded that the "absence of a gestational connection to the mother may be more problematic for children than the absence of a genetic link." Industry

narratives promoting so-called 'altruistic' surrogacy seem to expect young women to exhibit the altruism of selflessly giving over their bodies to assist couples facing fertility issues, but never seem to expect the same of the lawyers who broker surrogacy contracts or the banks which finance the costs of assistive reproductive technologies. Anecdotal evidence from jurisdictions which prohibit gestational surrogacy while making an exception for altruistic surrogacy indicate that the prohibition against monetary remuneration often provide cover for backdoor compensation plans which defeat the intention of the legal exception.

Amend the chapter on Human Rights, further, by inserting a new plank, to read:

#. Endorse the Draft International Convention for the Abolition of Surrogacy  
The Georgia Green Party finds that surrogate motherhood relies on the appropriation and trafficking of women's reproductive capacities and poses threats of serious physical endangerment and psychological anguish for the women contracted to carry surrogate children and psychological issues for their children. These adverse impacts are not mitigated by labeling the arrangement as *altruistic*. The practice infringes on, reinforces and perpetuates inequality between women and men. We endorse the "Draft International Convention for the Abolition of Surrogacy," crafted by the International Coalition for the Abolition of Surrogate Motherhood. We will work to protect women in Georgia and globally from the predatory domestic and global surrogacy market and its reliance on the trafficking of impoverished women's bodies. We urge would-be parents who might have considered surrogacy to consider instead the meaningful contributions they might make as foster or adoptive parents, provided that the conflicting interests of all parties to these family formation practices are ethically and legally protected. In the interest of addressing infertility, we urge reliance upon the precautionary principal and the recommendations elsewhere in this document related to economic and environmental policy and consumer and labor protections.