

Submission  
No 75

## INQUIRY INTO FERTILITY SUPPORT AND ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TREATMENT

**Organisation:** Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated

**Date Received:** 30 September 2025

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## Feminist Legal Clinic Inc.

Select Committee on Fertility Support and Assisted Reproductive Treatment

Submitted online

30 September 2025

### **Submission to Select Committee on Fertility Support and Assisted Reproductive Treatment**

Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. is a community legal service focused on advancing the human rights of women and girls.

Firstly, we are disappointed that the terms of reference do not require this committee to inquire into the causes of the rising infertility in our community and globally. This causes us to be concerned that this inquiry is the initiative of those motivated by commercial interests vested in the ART and surrogacy industries rather than by genuine public interest.

We endorse the report on surrogacy by Ms Reem Alsalem, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls dated 14 July 2025. We agree with her conclusion that *“the practice of surrogacy is characterized by exploitation and violence against women and children, including girls. It reinforces patriarchal norms by commodifying and objectifying women’s bodies and exposing surrogate mothers and children to serious human rights violations.”*

Accordingly, we support her recommendations that states should *“take steps towards eradicating surrogacy in all its forms.”* In our view this includes banning assisted reproductive technologies (such as egg harvesting) which are designed to facilitate surrogacy arrangements or which are otherwise harmful and exploitative of women and children. Specifically, we are deeply opposed to any use of assisted reproductive technology to facilitate the formation of motherless families, arrangements which expose children to heightened risk of sexual abuse.

Yours faithfully

Anna Kerr  
Principal Solicitor  
Feminist Legal Clinic Inc.  
*Organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council  
(ECOSOC) since 2023.*