IA & INTNATIONAL SURROGACY

INTRO

Thanks:

Grateful for chance to talk to broad-ranging group, having worked largely alone on IA for 30 yrs

Think Valuable bc:

- 1 -- Narrow group & debate; same lines
- 2 -- Silo problem
- 3-- Need for Allies
  - See Chart re Cliff
  - EB & powerless disorganized vs Mega Powers; not winning!
- 4 -- Need esp for Allies among You bc Politics of Issues
  - Left, progressive aligned vs IA
  - Self-Styled Child Human Rights aligned vs IA
    - UNICEF, Save the Children, UN Comm Rts of Child
    - Madonna adoptions – 85 Hum Rts orgs

Briefly how I entered:

- Through life: Personal story: Adoption plus; lesson I drew:
  - Wrong that driven to produce not adopt;
  - 30 yrs of work later think the same – more strongly
- Tell this not to silence but to liberate you – know where I’m coming from – I welcome diverse views and know trigger violent negatives

SUBSTANCE OF MY POSITION: INTRO

Cliff represents a Human Rights Tragedy, deliberate man-made, & unnecessary one, &thus EVIL

- Only because Children involved
  - EG: Russia shutdown of US and some 1000/yr (earlier 6000) as vs sterilization
But other side also claims the Human Rights Mantle

So briefly I will outline my position, other side, my answers – focusing on IA -- then end with word on Surrogacy

MY POSITION

1. Child has full Human Rights
2. One of most basic Rights is Rt to Parenting – necessary to other rights.
3. Many millions are not enjoying including some 8-12 million in institutions
4. IA one truly excellent way to meet needs – Why?
   a. Only partial solution
   b. But 45,000 not nothing, and could easily multiply by 10, 100
   c. Magically transforms life of group
   d. At no cost to government – indeed savings
   e. Limited available immediate or even near-term solutions

Central to my position idea of Child as Global Citizen not belonging to Parents, Nations, Relig Ethnic or Racial Groups

- Not property
- Not really born with inherent Heritage right to stay in Group of Origin

OTHER SIDE

Silly BIC arguments – Kids better off if kept in country

- First because Heritage matters so much: No, and even if matters some, reality is kids’ alternative likely:
  o Institutions
  o Paid Foster Care – UNICEF official position
- Second because IA Abuses – they exist but are Occasional not Systematic
  o Abuse by Adoptive Parents:
    ▪ Less than what most kids suffer
    ▪ As vs Systematic Abuse in Institutions
  o Baby Buying: again occasional
- Rule for Abuses elsewhere is Enforce Law; only here is shutdown & punish the kids
- Abuses not a Reason but an Excuse by other side

Only Serious Arguments: Larger Community: Kids as Hostages

- But does their argument work? Or is IA as likely/more to lead to justice?
- If don’t know then how can choose to deny the 40,000 or 400,000?

Colonialism spectre overhanging all – How ok for Rich to again Exploit the Poor? But not Colonialism

- Kids are not Oil
- Giving kids loving homes isn’t exploitation: isn’t harming them or their birth parents or their country of origin
- Keeping kids doesn’t enrich the poor country
- Taking doesn’t enrich the rich country which is why US Gov doesn’t fight for
- *Symbolic* Colonialist Battle
  - Kids seen by Poor countries as easy Demand can win
  - Kids seen by Rich countries as easy Give-Away

THE SURROGACY PIECE

Facts: As IA down, Surrogacy up – and unless we/others act pattern likely to continue

Often same countries shutting down/restricting IA are GreenLighting Surr: India, Russia, Ukraine, Guatemala, Nepal

Surrogacy involves much that is used to justify Elimination of IA – but worse and more actual Exploitation & Harm to Birth mothers & children

- Actual Baby Buying
- Taking of Child from poor country of birth to rich country
- IVF with its risks in health terms for women & children, since usually Int Surr is Gest Surr

Why? Especially in Policy Sense
- Why drive people who want to parent away from kids in need to create new ones?
- The Race piece of picture: Why drive white privileged prospective parents away from Blk & Brown kids in need, to create same-race, kids?
- Why not treat Adoption & Surrogacy more the same? Why baby buying EVIL in one world and ok in other?

THE FUTURE: OPEN?

MEPA lesson

CHIFF

Look forward to Panel, Audience/You,

Agreed want to limit panelists and my response so as to include You.