

2nd September 2025

**His Excellency Ambassador Jürg Lauber**

President of the 19th Cycle UN Human Rights Council

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palais des Nations

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**Copy to:**

His Excellency Mr. António Guterres

Secretary-General of the United Nations

United Nations Headquarters

New York, NY 10017, USA

Ms. Volker Türk

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

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**RE: FORMAL COMPLAINT REGARDING MS. REEM ALSALEM, UN SPECIAL  
RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS - URGENT  
REQUEST FOR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of a coalition of European associations committed to protecting the rights and dignity of children born through surrogacy to formally complain about the conduct of Ms. Reem Alsalem in her role as UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls.

We respectfully request the immediate removal of Ms. Alsalem from her position and the withdrawal of her Report A/80/158 from the UN General Assembly agenda scheduled for 9th September 2025, based on documented evidence of systematic bias, procedural violations, and conduct incompatible with the neutrality and integrity required of UN Special Rapporteurs.

## **BACKGROUND**

Ms. Alsalem has prepared Report A/80/158 on surrogacy, scheduled for presentation to the UN General Assembly on 9th September 2025. Our investigation reveals that this report was prepared through a fundamentally flawed process characterised by systematic bias, procedural violations, and conduct that undermines the integrity of the UN Special Procedures system.

# **SERIOUS PROCEDURAL VIOLATIONS**

## **1. Mandate Overreach**

Ms. Alsalem's extensive policy recommendations on assisted reproductive technologies clearly go beyond her designated mandate regarding violence against women and girls, contravening established UN procedures for Special Rapporteur activities as outlined in Human Rights Council resolution 23/25.

## **2. Systematic Exclusion of Stakeholders**

Despite widespread outreach by established child welfare organisations and family associations formed through surrogacy, very few balanced perspectives were included in the consultation process. Most notably, the voices of adult children born via surrogacy—those most directly impacted—were systematically excluded.

## **3. Biased Information Gathering**

The preliminary questionnaire contained leading questions such as "describe the attacks on women who carry the child of rich sponsors," demonstrating predetermined conclusions rather than genuine enquiry, contrary to established UN research methodologies.

## **4. Misrepresentation of Academic Research**

Peer-reviewed academic research, especially studies by recognised experts in reproductive psychology and family formation, was selectively cited and misrepresented to support predetermined conclusions that contradicted the researchers' actual findings.

## **5. Breach of Neutrality Through Partisan Activities**

Ms. Alsalem has actively participated in conferences with clear anti-surrogacy agendas and publicly supported partisan activist messaging, fundamentally breaching the neutrality required of UN Special Rapporteurs under the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders.

She demonstrates significant bias in her social media activity, and clearly demonstrates a predetermined position on surrogacy in her alignment with organisations that actively campaign against surrogacy. By contrast, she does not follow any campaigners for ethical surrogacy. We present herein documented evidence of her systematic bias in our analysis of her social media activity.

## **Social Media Analysis**

A comprehensive analysis of Ms. Alsalem's social media activity uncovers systematic involvement with extremist and partisan organisations that fundamentally undermine her capacity to carry out impartial UN assessments.

An examination of the Rapporteur's social media engagement patterns of follows and reposts raises questions about systematic bias in the report's development. Analysis of the ten most

recent accounts, followed by the Rapporteur's verified official account on X, reveals the following concerning pattern:

- **Seven accounts** have publicly advocated positions opposing surrogacy practices
- **Two accounts** demonstrate a primary focus on anti-transgender advocacy

Notably, the documented timing of these “follows” on social media coincided with the report's preparation period, demonstrating deliberate engagement with advocacy groups and individuals holding predetermined positions opposing surrogacy.

This pattern of selective engagement with partisan voices during the research and drafting phase raises valid concerns about the objectivity and balance of the report's foundation, and warrants consideration when assessing the conclusions presented.

It is respectfully submitted that the Special Rapporteur is demonstrating a preconceived opposition to the subject matter of her report by her engagement with and reposting of material from organisations that not only oppose surrogacy but also demonstrate a strong pattern of commonality in that:

- They are organisations campaigning against transgender healthcare and legal recognition.
- They are linked to far-right ideology and extremist rhetoric
- They are groups focused on excluding transgender individuals from protected spaces explicitly categorised as “anti-trans” or “gender-critical” organisations.

This pattern shows alignment with ideological positions that directly oppose the UN's commitment to human rights for everyone, regardless of gender identity or reproductive choices.

## **VIOLATION OF UN STANDARDS AND VALUES**

### **Compromise of Institutional Integrity**

Ms. Alsalem's documented bias and procedural violations constitute a serious breach of the standards expected of UN officials. Her involvement with organisations that deny basic human rights to transgender individuals directly conflicts with the UN's commitment to universal human rights.

### **Exclusion of Affected Voices**

Most troublingly, this biased process has systematically excluded the voices of children and adults born through surrogacy arrangements. These individuals have been denied the chance to contribute to a report that directly impacts their rights and dignity, while Ms. Alsalem has amplified voices that see these children merely as evidence of an exploitative system.

### **Ignoring Ethical Frameworks**

The report systematically overlooks comprehensive ethical and legal frameworks that effectively safeguard all parties involved in surrogacy arrangements, such as Ireland's Assisted Human Reproduction Act 2024, which illustrates how legislation can protect

intended parents, surrogates, and children through non-commercial, solidarity-based approaches.

## FORMAL COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS

Based on this documented evidence, we formally request:

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS REQUIRED:

**1. Removal of Report A/80/158 from the UN General Assembly Agenda** Report A/80/158 must be immediately withdrawn from the agenda of the UN General Assembly on 9th September 2025. Allowing this fundamentally flawed and biased report to proceed would legitimise compromised processes and cause irreparable damage to the UN's reputation for objective human rights work.

**2. Removal of Ms. Alsalem from Office.** Given the documented evidence of systematic bias and procedural violations, Ms. Alsalem should be immediately removed from her position as Special Rapporteur. Her continued tenure would irreparably damage the credibility of the UN Special Procedures system.

**3. Formal Investigation** We request a formal enquiry into Ms. Alsalem's conduct under established UN disciplinary procedures, including review of her consultation processes, methodology, and adherence to the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders.

### SYSTEMIC REFORMS REQUIRED:

**4. Implementation of enhanced vetting procedures** to identify ideological bias in Special Rapporteur candidates, including review of public statements and social media activity.

**5. Mandatory Balanced Consultation Requirements:** Establish clear obligations for inclusive stakeholder consultation, with particular emphasis on incorporating the voices of those most directly impacted by the issues under review.

**6. Clear Consequences for Violations:** Enforce transparent penalties for mandate overreach and procedural breaches to maintain the integrity of the Special Procedures system.

## URGENCY OF ACTION

Since Report A/80/158 is set for presentation on 9th September 2025, immediate action is crucial. Every day of delay risks legitimising flawed processes and causing lasting damage to the UN's credibility in human rights work.

Children born through surrogacy deserve protection, dignity, and recognition of their rights — not to be dismissed by ideologically biased processes that see them merely as evidence in predetermined arguments.

# CONCLUSION

Ms. Alsalem's systematic bias, procedural violations, and alignment with extremist organisations have severely undermined her capacity to serve the UN with integrity. The documented evidence permits no alternative but her immediate removal from office and withdrawal of her report to uphold the credibility of the UN human rights system.

We respectfully submit this complaint in the hope of swift and decisive action to uphold the integrity of the United Nations and its commitment to objective, evidence-based human rights work.

We remain available for any clarifications or further information if needed, and look forward to your prompt response.

Yours respectfully,

Olatz Mendiola, SON NUESTROS HIJOS association (Spain)

## Co-signatories:

- Association C.L.A.R.A. (France)
- Les Cigognes de l'Espoir (France)
- APGL association des parents et futur parents gays et lesbiens (France)
- DARE (Denmark)
- Gure umeen ametsak (Spain)
- Homoparentalites (Belgium)
- Meer dan Gewenst (Netherlands)
- Stichting Zwanger voor een Ander (Netherlands)
- Associazione Luca Coscioni (Italy)
- Commission on Reproductive Health of the 19th. German Parliament (2024)
- FDP (Liberal Democratic Party) (Germany)
- LSVD (LGBTIQ representation) (Germany)
- VfLLD Networks for families through egg donation and surrogacy (Germany)
- Irish families through surrogacy (Ireland)
- Mary Seery Kearney, Former Senator, Irish Parliament  
Barrister, Legal Counsel
- NELFA Network of European LGBTIQ\* Families Associations

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