

Object upholds the rights of women to have equality before the law and equal opportunities. Specifically, not to be objectified.

Object aims to inform and educate in order to hold our government accountable for their lack of action on key CEDAW principles in five areas of inequality for women, namely prostitution, pornography, surrogacy, sex entertainment venues and erosion of sex-based rights.

Prostitution

In March 2014 the UK Government All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) published the results of its enquiry into prostitution laws in the UK. They recommended fully decriminalising the selling of sex, criminalise paying for sex and ensuring support provision for people exiting prostitution. The Northern Ireland assembly adopted the Sex Buyer Law in 2015, also adopted in Canada, France, Iceland, Lithuania Norway, Sweden, the USA.

In 2016 The Commission on the [Sex Buyer Law](#), formed by invitation of the APPG on Prostitution, published a guide 'How to Implement the Sex Buyer Law in the UK'

Following lobbying by the Sex Industry more research was carried out and published by the Conservative Human Rights Committee. Further justification for the implementation of [the Nordic Model](#) was provided in the resulting report 'The Limits of Consent'

Protection of Sex Based Rights

Powerful proponents of the Gender Identity movement requested a change in the EA (10) that the protected characteristic of gender reassignment be amended to 'gender Identity'. In January 2016, the UK Parliament's transgender equality report recommended that the protected characteristic of 'gender reassignment' should be amended to that of 'gender identity'. The UK Government did not agree to such a change, but committed to keep this under review.

Meanwhile, with no legal basis the EHRC (Equality and Human Rights Commission) revised the definition of gender reassignment viz: 'Involving a person expressing their gender in a way that differs from or is inconsistent with the physical sex they were born with. For school pupils, it may simply include choosing to dress in a different way as part of the personal process of change'.

This patent stereotyping of the sexes, contravening article 10(c) of [CEDAW](#) which calls for the elimination of any concept of stereotyping of women and men, which leads to the erosion of sex-based rights under the Equality Act (2010). In May 2021 the EHRC and 40 other public bodies removed their organisations from being part of a scheme which misinterprets EA (10) by encouraging the prioritisation of 'gender Identity' over sex-based rights.

In evidence recently submitted to the Women and Equalities Committee the group. '[Keep Prisons Single Sex](#)' reported incidents including sexually threatening behaviour, sexual exhibitionism, assault and sexual assault by men claiming a 'gender identity'. Vulnerable women being left frightened because they had no choice in sharing their spaces with male prisoners.

Surrogacy

A recent Law Commission proposal that the commissioning parent(s) of a child born to a surrogate mother becomes the parent(s) at birth erases the mother from the child's history. In what OBJECT found to be a [flawed consultation](#), the Law Commission did not take account of the medical complications of surrogacy or the rights of the child and advocated the removal of birth mother from the birth certificate and replacement with the commissioning parents.

Surrogacy is banned in many countries including comparable European countries like France, Germany and Spain in recognition of scandals known all over the world. Cases such as [Baby Gammy](#), where solicitors abandoned one of two baby twins because he was born with Down's Syndrome; a Japanese billionaire who [ordered 16 children](#) à la carte; and the "[baby farms](#)" in Asia. and recently the [institutionalised babies of surrogacy](#) in the Ukraine, unable to be collected by their commissioners because of the pandemic and now the war, surrogacy being illegal in surrounding countries.

In India concern about profiteering by middlemen and commercial agencies, exploitation of surrogate mothers, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy, rackets like organ trade and embryo import led to [banning of International surrogacy](#) .[Britons](#), who were the largest market, will look to other countries.

Multiple embryos are commonly transferred and the risk of premature delivery is many times higher for multiples than for singletons. Multiple-gestation pregnancies are associated with a [significantly higher risk](#) of hyperemesis, gestational hypertension, gestational diabetes, anaemia, preterm labour, haemorrhage, caesarean delivery, and caesarean hysterectomy than singleton pregnancies. Yet this multi- \$bn industry can preferentially lobby the government to legalise this practice. Even in 'altruistic' surrogacy where mothers do not profit, the commercial interests of fertility clinics, lawyers and agencies benefit financially.

Egg collection particularly requires expensive drugs and risks [Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome \(OHSS\)](#). In a study of 339 women 14.5% needed hospital admission and 7.5% needed intravenous fluids. 1% of such cases will be severe and bring 11 different risks, 3 of them long term and potentially fatal. Many egg providers have experienced rare cancer, ovarian cysts, endometriosis, and other negative health effects as a result of high-dose hormone injections and other procedures involved in harvesting their eggs.

Sir James Munby, the president of the family division, describes the removal of a baby at birth as a drastic decision. He advocates transparency of decisions about removal of a baby at birth so that the child can find out about [the circumstances surrounding their birth](#). Even if the child of a surrogate mother finds out about their origins, they will find that the foundation of their existence is a contract involving money.

Recommendations

1. Object recommends tightening the regulation of Internet pornography, which, as is well documented, contributes to Violence against Women and Girls.
2. Object recommends that the UK Government should follow the conclusions of three reports and a consultation, to legislate for Implementation of the Nordic Model of prostitution.
3. We recommend that the original guidance in line with the Equality Act (2010) to protect sex- based rights is restored
Exceptions under the Equality Act 2010 relevant to single sex services should be applied. EA (2010) Schedule 3, Paragraphs 26 and 27 allow service providers to provide separate services for men and women, or to provide services to only men or only women in certain circumstances. The government must support sex-based services and facilities under the Equality Act for Single

Sex toilets, women's refuges, Prisons - CEDAW Article 2 (g),
Single sex hospital wards and single sex sports.

4. Surrogacy should be stopped because it is an abuse of women's and children's human rights.
The practice of commercial surrogacy is indistinguishable from buying and selling of children.