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New IVF amendments do not secure healthy babies

Government's proposal to introduce embryo selection in the IVF procedure is nothing short of eugenics, as such methods do not deliver a "healthy baby" but provide a tool to enable the selection of which baby will live and which baby will be frozen in perpetuity.

Every embryo created through an IVF cycle is a distinct human being. Under the proposed procedure every embryo will be tested for possible monogenic disorders. After the diagnosis, only an embryo that does not test positive to the disorder is transferred into his or her mother's womb. The embryos that carry the unwanted mutation are frozen indefinitely.

Government seeks to mask this reality by implying that discarded embryos still have the chance to be adopted. In the last two years the stockpile of frozen embryos has risen from 180 to over 300 this year, no mention of any having been adopted.

One wonders how embryos discarded by their own parents would be considered for adoption by others.

There are serious consequences when we breach the fundamental human principle that no person should determine who is to live and who is to die. PGT selection is a breach at the heart of this principle and introduces eugenics where the value of a person is dependent on his or her health rather than the intrinsic value of every human being, irrespective of the stage of that human's development, age, race, orientation, health or abilities.

Equality cannot be selective, equality is universal

The new IVF amendments are fundamentally discriminatory as they imply that the lives of people presently living with such genetic conditions are valueless. Human embryos with the same genetic conditions do not deserve to be intentionally frozen.

It accentuates a mentality that discriminates against people living with disabilities. Today there are people living with genetic conditions!

We cannot celebrate Special Olympics in one month and propose laws that prevent children with genetic conditions from being born in the next month.

We urge the Government to consider the ethical and moral implications that this eugenic legislation will be introducing and to open this process to appropriate consultation.

Il-bidliet proposti għal-Liġi tal-IVF ma jiżgurawx trabi b'saħħithom...

Il-bidliet proposti mill-Gvern biex idaħħal l-għażla tal-embrijun fil-proċedura tal-IVF mhi xejn inqas minn ewġenika, għax dawn it-tipi ta' metodi ma jwelledux "tarbija b'saħħitha" imma jipprovdu għodda li tippermetti l-għażla ta' liema tarbija tgħix u liema tarbija tiġi ffrizata għal dejjem.

Kull embrijun krejat permezz ta' ċ-ċiklu IVF huwa persuna umana distinta. Skont il-proċedura proposta, kull embrijun se jkun ittestjat għall-possibiltà ta' *monogenic disorders*. Wara d-dijanjsi, dak l-embrijun biss li ma joħroġx pożittiv għal din il-kundizzjoni jiġi trasferit għall-guf tal-omm. L-embrijuni li jinstabu b'xi varjazzjoni mhux mixtieqa jiġu ffrizati għal dejjem.

Il-Gvern qed jipprova jaħbi din ir-realtà billi jimplika li embrijuni skartati xorta għandhom iċ-ċans li jiġu adottati. F'dawn l-aħħar sentejn, il-ħażna ta' embrijuni ffrizati żdiedet minn 180 għal aktar minn 300 din is-sena u ma ssemma' xejn li xi wieħed minnhom ġie adottat.

Wieħed ma jistax jifhem kif embrijun li ġie mwarrab mill-ġenituri tiegħu jista' jkun ikkunsidrat għall-adozzjoni minn ħaddieħor.

Hemm konsegwenzi serji meta niksru l-prinċipju fundamentali tal-bniedem li ħadd ma jista' jiddetermina min għandu jgħix u min għandu jmut. Il-PGT selection imur kontra l-baži ta' dan il-prinċipju u jintroduċi ewġenika fejn il-valur tal-bniedem jiddependi fuq is-saħħa tiegħu jew tagħha minflok il-valur intrinsiku tal-bniedem, irrispettivament mill-istadju tal-iżvilupp ta' dik il-persuna, l-età, r-razza, l-orjentament, is-saħħa jew l-abiltajiet.

L-ugwaljanzi ma tagħzilx, l-ugwaljanza hi universali

L-emendi proposti għal-liġi tal-IVF huma fundamentalment diskriminatorji għax iqisu bla valur ta' xejn il-ħajja ta' persuni li fil-preżent għandhom dawn il-kundizzjonijiet ġenetiċi. L-embrijuni ta' bnedmin b'halhom u ma jits'hoqqilhomx li intenzjonalment jiġu ffrizati.

Il-liġi proposta tippromwovi mentalità li tiddiskrimina kontra l-persuni b'dizabilità jew kundizzjoni ġenetika. Illum hawn nies li qed jgħixu b'kundizzjonijiet ġenetiċi.

Ma nistgħux f'xahar wieħed niċcelebraw l-Olimpijadi Speċjali u f'xahar ieħor nipproponu liġijiet li jċaħħdu t-twelid lil trabi b'kundizzjonijiet ġenetiċi.

Inħeġġu lill-Gvern biex jikkonsidra l-implikazzjonijiet etiċi u morali li din il-leġislazzjoni ewġenika se tkun qed tintroduċi u jniedi konsultazzjoni xierqa dwar dan il-proċess.

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