

Quito, October 1, 2025

**The Health Commission of the Asamblea Nacional of Ecuador recognizes the practice of surrogacy as violence against women.**

On 25 September 2025, the Commission on the Right to Health of the Asamblea Nacional approved the report for the first debate of the bill “Ley de Reproducción Humana Asistida”. This bill was initially proposed to allow surrogacy. With the joint work of **Dignidad y derecho and the Casablanca Declaration, the Commission has resolved to eliminate all references to surrogacy by proposing an express prohibition of this practice in our country.**

This process included the visit to Ecuador of **Dr. Bernard García Larraín, Executive Director of Casablanca Declaration**, whose agenda in Quito and Guayaquil was relevant in making visible the risks of this practice and reinforcing the urgency of its prohibition. Among the most relevant activities we highlight:

- **Forum in the Asamblea Nacional** (Quito, September 16), where the report of the UN Special Rapporteur, Reem Alsalem, was officially presented.
- Conference at the **Universidad Hemisferios** (Quito, September 17) together with our Vice-President, Victor Manuel Valle, where the impacts of the surrogacy was discussed from an academic perspective.
- Appearance at the Health Commission of the Asamblea Nacional (Quito, September 17), a key space where the legal and social effects were disseminated to the commissioners.
- Debate at the **Universidad San Francisco de Quito** (Quito, September 19), with a wide audience of young people and opinion leaders.
- Strategic meetings in Guayaquil where Dr. García held meetings with social actors, academics and the media, expanding the scope of the debate in the Coastal Region.

Those activities helped reinforce the public debate and **to provide technical foundations for the legislative decision to prohibit surrogacy in Ecuador.** The First Debate Report marks a milestone in the legislative process in the framework of the “Ley de Reproducción Humana Asistida” presented by the Defensoría del Pueblo. Dignidad y derecho continues to work for national legislation to comply with international standards on the defence of human dignity, women 's protection and bioethical principles.