

London Evening Standard

standard.co.uk



Expectant: surrogate mothers at a clinic in Gujarat

SANJIT DAS/BARCLAY MEDIA

Surrogacy law is a global issue

WHEN the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act was revised last year it did not review the surrogacy laws which were set in 1990 (Surrogate baby every 48 hours, 20 May).

This is a significant missed opportunity, given the legal nightmares that have emerged from differences between our middle-way approach to the law (allowing surrogacy but not commercial surrogacy) and other countries', leaving surrogate children without any legal parents or citizenship of

any country when they are brought back to the UK.

There are ethical questions around whether commercial surrogacy can lead to exploitation, but we have to recognise that Britain is not in a vacuum, and with the boom in couples looking across the world for potential surrogate parents we must work out regulations that ensure children born to surrogates are properly protected.

Natalie Gamble, fertility lawyer,
gambleandghevaert.com.

DID the Morrison family pay their Gujarati surrogate twice the amount of money originally proposed because she had twins? International surrogacy risks becoming an entirely commodified process – soon there will be cut-throat competition, with rival promises to undercut the price and perhaps offers of customer loyalty discounts.

The exploitation inherent in the process is shocking. India, it seems, remains a colony.

Andrew Ford Lyons.