

**Subject:** Sub #122 Australian Inquiry into Surrogacy  
**Date:** 11 February 2016 3:47:45 AM

---

Dear Madam/Sir,

Homosexuelle Initiative (HOSI) Wien, based in Vienna, is Austria's oldest and largest national gay and lesbian organisation (founded in 1979). HOSI Wien is one of just about a dozen LGBT organisations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). More information about our association is available (unfortunately mostly in German only) at our website: [www.hosiwien.at](http://www.hosiwien.at)

HOSI Wien is opposing all forms of surrogacy. We have included wording on this issue for the first time in our official "programme of demands" in 2013, which the organisation's general assembly adopted unanimously in April 2013. This programme was again updated last September, and the phrasing regarding surrogacy was once again confirmed unanimously by the assembly. You can find the full programme online at: <http://www.hosiwien.at/forderungsprogramm/>  
The issue of surrogacy is dealt with under chapter III. Family law ("Familienrecht"), 2nd paragraph.

The relevant paragraph translates as follows: *"Regarding the issue of surrogacy, there is a conflict of interest between the wish of gay men to have children and the necessity of protecting women from exploitation. In view of the economic inequalities between the poor and the rich as well as between industrialised, threshold and developing countries, we are concerned that the economic situation of women will be exploited and that in some regions of the world, they may even be forced into surrogacy. Therefore, we are opposing surrogacy."* (German version below:)

*Bei der Frage der Leihmutterschaft stehen einander der Kinderwunsch von schwulen Männern und die Notwendigkeit des Schutzes von Frauen vor Ausbeutung gegenüber. Angesichts der wirtschaftlichen Ungleichheiten zwischen Arm und Reich sowie zwischen Industrie-, Schwellen- und Entwicklungsländern sehen wir die Gefahr, dass die wirtschaftliche Situation von Frauen ausgenutzt wird und sie in manchen Regionen der Welt sogar dazu gezwungen werden. Vor diesem Hintergrund lehnen wir Leihmutterschaft ab.*

In Austria, all forms of surrogacy are forbidden. We would like to urge the Australian Government not to legalise surrogacy.

Yours sincerely,

Kurt Krickler  
Secretary-General  
HOSI Wien  
Heumühlgasse 14/1, 1040 Vienna, Austria  
Phone: +43-664-5767466  
[www.hosiwien.at](http://www.hosiwien.at)