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**Study question:** It's a preliminary report to clarify if the sexual orientation and marital status of intended parents are relevant for intended surrogates and might affect or influence their decision as for bearing a child.

**Summary answer:** Absolute majority of intended surrogates – 64,5% - consider that every intended parent regardless of sexual orientation or marital status has the right to parent a child and are willing to help.

**What is known already:** The general belief was that intended surrogates support most of all "traditional" families and oppose so called "new" families.

**Study design, size, duration:** The study has been conducted for 18 months from August 2012 to January 2014. Only gestational surrogacy was studied as traditional surrogacy, when own oocytes of a surrogate are used, is out of law in Russia since Jan. 01, 2012.

**Participants/materials, setting, methods:** 150 e-mail questionnaires were sent out to women who applied to European Surrogacy Center in Moscow to become a gestational surrogate in 2012. 124 participants completed the 30 question form by e-mail or in person.

**Main results and the role of chance:** The mean age of the entire group was 28,5 years. 51% were married, 16% divorced, 10% had a partner. All participants had children. 91% declared to be Orthodox Christians, 5,5% were Muslims, 2% did not indicate their religion, 1,5% were atheists. 64,5% declared that sexual orientation or marital status of intended parents was of no relevance for them. 11% wished to bear a child for a married heterosexual couple only. 2% could bear a child for any intended parents, though as they put it was desirable for them to deal with a married heterosexual couple. 2% could bear a child for a lesbian woman or for a lesbian couple, but not for a gay man or a gay men couple. 2% have nothing against single gay men but wouldn't bear a child for a gay couple. 18,5% would not consider gay men and gay couples as intended parents, though cohabiting heterosexual couples and single men and women being nevertheless eligible.

**Limitations, reasons for caution:**

A thorough psychological study of intended surrogates should be conducted before accepting them for a program for so called "new" families. Motives of non-acceptance of "new" families by intended surrogates and its implications should be thoroughly studied. Assignment of a "wrong" surrogate for a "wrong" program could lead to conflicts. Further studies of surrogates, their motivations and psychology should be conducted.

**Wider implications of the findings:** The main motive for the surrogates' refusal to accept single men or gays as intended parents was not hatred towards gays, but a concern about the future of the child to be born. A psychologist consultation should be recommended for any surrogate starting the program, especially with gay parents. To avoid any conflicts during the implementation of the program or after the birth only surrogates who share the belief that everyone has the right to parent a child can be assigned for "non-traditional" families.

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