

The Reporter

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FAKE NEWS IS NOT JUST ABOUT WAR





Today, through a WhatsApp group of French parents, we received a rumour that an expectant mother is looking for her parents, because Gestlife has abandoned her.

This information is totally uncertain since Gestlife has located all the surrogate mothers, and is taking care of them as it has always done.

Moreover, the information is totally incoherent, given that both the mother and the fathers have signed a contract before a notary, and know the personal details of the parties involved (address, telephone etc.).

It is shameful that some heartless (to call them in some mild way) take advantage of the noise of a war, to fill the world with fake news, like the one that was seen on the internet yesterday in which President Zelensky asked his troops to surrender. It was obviously a manipulated video.

In our sector there are some very unprofessional agencies (two or three people with a little shop) who find no other way to make a name for themselves in the sector than by spewing their frustrations and unprofessionalism on Gestlife. The thief believes that everyone is like him.

Certainly there are agencies that have “disappeared from the map”, and there are parents without communication with their surrogate mothers (because they do not even know who they are or what they are called because the “agency” did not make them sign a contract with the pregnant woman) but this is not the case of Gestlife.

We invite the shameless and irresponsible person who has published such nonsense, to identify himself, to prove what he says (which he cannot) and so we can take the necessary legal action to stop this type of people who take advantage of the fact that the river is troubled, to get their profits.

Gestlife has located all its surrogate mothers, and is taking care of them. Despite the situation in Ukraine, most of our staff are still operational there (to whom we will be eternally grateful), and people do not appreciate it, when these people are exposing their lives, so that future parents can become parents. Let us be serious. And let's not play with things that cannot be played with. juguemos con cosas que no se puede jugar.



OUR STAFF IN UKRAINE REMAINS OPERATIONAL

Despite the difficult circumstances they have had to live through, 68% of our staff is operational in Ukraine, and others continue to work from other countries where they have taken refuge, including Spain (one of our employees is already living in Barcelona and is still operational).

Several of them in Kiev, despite the harsh circumstances plaguing the city.

These people are risking their lives to continue to help the company and the parents it represents.

Yesterday, in Mariupol, while they were queuing to buy bread, the Russian army machine-gunned the queue, and 10 poor people who were just queuing to buy bread were killed. That is the state of affairs.

We must ask, we say more, we must demand the greatest respect and admiration for these people who have not abandoned their jobs, despite often having to run away to hide in a bomb shelter.

That is why we must ask the parents not to put any more pressure on our employees in Ukraine. All communications should be with the company through the assistance coordinators that have been set up, or their assistance managers in other countries if they have been assigned to them.

Please stop calling the managers directly, as this only slows down the process, reduces the window of communication with the company, drains your mobile phone batteries (often difficult to recharge), to the detriment of a satisfactory resolution. We understand the anguish of our parents, especially those who have a newborn or soon to be born child.

But Gestlife takes care of everything necessary. Interfering only gets in the way. We are sure you will understand, and together we will achieve our goal. Unfortunately, this is not our first war or catastrophe in which we have been involved. And in all of them, children have been born and arrived happily with their parents despite the difficulties. And this time will be no different



HOPES THAT PEACE WILL COME SOON.



The two sides are sitting down to negotiate, and there is already a 15-point road map. The main stumbling block, that UKRAINE should not join NATO, has already been accepted by President Zelensky. Major stumbling blocks such as territorial integrity remain to be resolved, but sadly, every war ends with a signed agreement. It is only a matter of time.

Obviously there will be a before and an after for all Ukrainians. But life will return to normal, and we with it. Our facilities remain intact, and will be operational again when there is a final ceasefire.

We have waited long years to become parents, with many inconveniences, obstacles, and disappointments along the way. We must not allow a temporary crisis to affect our goal of parenthood. We must not lose sight of the star we follow, despite the climbing problems, as Antoine de Saint Exupéry said.



OUR CLINIC INTERECO (FORMERLY INTERFIV) IS STILL OPERATIONAL.

Our INTERECO clinic is still intact and fully operational. The clinic has a power link to two power stations (in case of failure) and a temporary generator.

Our embryologists visit the clinic twice a day to check the integrity of all genetic material. The clinic is located in an upscale neighbourhood, unaffected by the bombing.

Therefore, we have to be calm, waiting for the resolution of the conflict. In the event that, for whatever reason, the war escalates and affects our clinic, we have a protocol (all clinics) to deposit the material in another clinic that is not affected (just as we can take material from another clinic if necessary).

Even when a clinic closes definitively, it must have, from the first day of its opening or inauguration, as a prerequisite, the signed agreement of another clinic to take its material). Therefore, we should not be concerned about the material deposited.

IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN HELP

Now the whole world is turning to the Ukrainian population. It could not be otherwise, and it is a credit to the civilian population. At this moment we must think about what we can do for Ukraine, from our homes.

There are already many people and organisations taking care of taking in displaced people, gathering food and clothes, sending them to the border etc., but there are still many people in Ukraine who do not receive this help because they have stayed there, and one group that everyone always forgets about are the orphaned children. Orphanages are and will be the biggest losers in this conflict.

Because the number of orphans will unfortunately grow. And when a country is in the midst of reconstruction, orphanages always take second place. GESTLIFE, has created the plan **“WE ARE ALL CHILDREN”** in which the company donates 5% of its income for direct aid to orphanages. But we are just a grain of sand. You can help too.

With some money, which is what makes it possible to buy the necessary things there. It makes no sense to send them from here, with the transport costs and the logistical difficulties. Many little goes a long way

If you would like to collaborate with the plan **“WE ARE ALL CHILDREN”**, please let us know at weareallchildren@gestlifesurrogacy.com . Together we can change the lives of many children who, unfortunately, are not adopted.





GEORGIA AND ITS ADVANTAGES

GEORGIA has emerged as the great alternative to Ukraine for parents who wish to continue or start their surrogacy programmes.

The costs are practically identical to those of Ukraine, with similar legislation, and with the same guarantees as GestLife has office and staff in that country, with the same services as in the other countries where we work. For those parents fearful of possible warlike actions, there is the possibility of making the process in ALBANIA, or GREECE, countries belonging to the NATO.

Consult your family advisor. It is never a perfect time to start a process. In the 10 years of Gestlife's life, we have gone through the 2014 war in Ukraine, the crash of the Malaysian Airlines plane, SARS20, Avian flu, the Covid pandemic, which was to last 15 days. 13 legislative changes on surrogacy, the closure

of 5 countries due to law changes, but always always, we have brought the children, and we have continued to do our work.

It is never a perfect time. Now the war, an economic crisis that threatens, it is never the best time. But our experience tells us that the parents who stopped their processes for fear of the moment, and waiting for something to change, have seen the time pass, and they are still not parents.

And the years go by. Parents who, despite the negative circumstances of the moment, took the plunge, are now parents of precious offspring. More children were born in Spain during the pandemic than in the two previous years. Life makes its way, and it does not understand crises.

THIS IS NOT A PIPE

The famous painter RENÉ MAGRITTE painted the famous painting, “THIS IS NOT A PIPA”. In it, he paints a smoking pipe. It shows the opposition between an image and its legend. What it seems to be, but is not. Because it is a reproduction of a pipe, but not a pipe itself, so it is not really a pipe.

The same thing happens in surrogacy. MEXICO, COLOMBIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, next to the photo of the programmes advertised by these countries, we could put the caption: “THIS IS NOT SURROGATE GIFTING”.

Because in these countries there is no law to protect it, and the gestational mother is today, tomorrow and always the gestational mother. All the countries where there was no law, and some parents dared to make processes, ended up closing abruptly. (Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, or Mexico itself in January 2016).

For some time now, new “agencies” (only a few months old) have been appearing on the surrogacy scene, offering bizarre destinations, at lower prices (sometimes similar or even higher) than the classic programmes in Europe, as a magical alternative to them.

Programmes without any guarantee, in countries where they have hardly any experience in surrogacy, and where success rates are less than 20%, compared to an average of 68% in European clinics.

From time to time we see some parents succumb to these siren songs, who inevitably, months later, come crying because they hit the rocks. The temptation is great. They look like interesting surrogacy programmes, like Magritte’s pipe looks like a pipe. But they are not. Countries where incubator costs are not included and are very high, without the agencies’ own structures that are mere intermediaries for



clinics that have seen a niche for their business. The merit is not in making a child, but that it is legal and no one has been exploited in the process. The saying “all that glitters is not gold” takes on more meaning than ever in these cases.

You have the choice between a racket set up by 4 intermediaries, each with different interests (because they are not from the same company), without their own clinic, without their own structure in the country (more than a correspondent of another agency that they do not control), or a company with a real presence in all countries, with more than 150 employees, with their own clinic, and all the professionals necessary for the process to be successful in 100% of the cases. Be very careful with these “offers”. They are not surrogacy, they are something else.

WHY GESTLIFE'S PROGRAMMES COST A BIT MORE MONEY

Gestlife programmes cost a little more money than most surrogacy “agency” programmes. However, our fees are not higher. So where does the difference lie:

Our surrogates are paid US\$24,000 in compensation, compared to much lower figures from the agencies. We don't want to exploit the surrogates, and we want to have the best candidates, don't we? So avoiding exploitation and having the best candidates is at odds with low compensation.

The mothers we reject, go to the agencies, where they are paid less because they are not suitable candidates, and nobody else accepts them, in order to offer an apparently cheaper programme.

Gestlife offers guarantees and services that no one else offers. You cannot compare a basic programme with a programme that covers all guarantees and risks. Never confuse value with price:

- We cover compensation to the surrogate mother in the event of abortion.
- We cover compensation for the family of the surrogate mother in the event of her death.
- We cover compensation to the surrogate mother in the event of organ loss.
- We cover compensation to the egg donor in the event of her death.
- We cover compensation to the egg donor in case of organ loss.
- We cover the amounts given to a surrogate mother, if for any reason she has to be changed (they do not return the amounts received, and therefore there is no money left for the new surrogate mother).
- If the baby dies of any cause or reason during the first two years of life, a free programme identical to the existing one is restarted.
- A paediatrician visits the baby 4 times a week during the stay in the country.
- A baby sitter assists you 8 hours a day for the care of the baby.
- We give you a parenting training course by a renowned paediatrician.
- We give you all the products you need for baby care.
- We take care of the physical health of the surrogate mother for up to one year after the birth.
- We take care of the psychological health of the surrogate mother for up to two years after the birth.
- We implant 5 day old embryos, with PGD (and sex selection if desired).
- Our managers and escorts speak your language.
- We provide all services from our own offices. With our own employees, not with external collaborators.
- We have our own clinic, exclusive to the group.
- We offer psychological support to parents by our in-house psychologist (5 different nationalities).

Do the “agencies” offer you all these services and security guarantees in their programmes? That's why our programmes cost a little more . Cheap often ends up being expensive.

GESTLIFE STRENGTHENS ITS OFFICES IN ALBANIA, GEORGIA AND GREECE

Due to the temporary crisis in Ukraine, GESTLIFE is reinforcing the structures of its offices in Georgia, Greece and Albania, increasing the staff by a total of 27 people. In the case of Albania, this involves a change of office, as we have outgrown our existing office.

In this way we can continue to provide a good service to our parents in these difficult times.

GREECE THE BEST DESTINATION FOR SPANIARDS

In these turbulent times, Greece has proven to be the most attractive and safest country for Spanish nationals. There are several reasons for this:

- a) Greek clinics are first-rate like Spanish clinics
- b) There is a court ruling accepted by the Spanish Government that allows the child to be registered in the name of the parents from minute one.
- c) Proximity.
- d) There is no need to go through the process of filiation and subsequent adoption as in other countries, due to the requirements of the Spanish government.
- e) It is a member of the EU and NATO, which provides certain guarantees in turbulent times.
- f) Paternity and maternity leave can be taken from minute one.
- g) Once in Spain, there are no further formalities to be carried out. The child is of Spanish nationality before leaving Greece.

If you are thinking about a country, Greece may be the solution. Also if you want to change programmes. As there are Gestlife offices in all the countries where we operate, you can switch from one country to another at any time, assuming the difference in programme costs.

NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES WHERE TO DO THE PROCESS

Some parents fear that Russia's warlike actions could spread to neighbouring non-NATO countries. In this case, both ALBANIA and GREECE are NATO countries, and surrogacy programmes are being carried out in these countries with absolute normality.

We are convinced that normality, as far as the continuity of the programmes in Ukraine is concerned, will return, but for those parents who do not wish to wait, the other countries that GESTLIFE offers allow them to start the process and not lose any more time, especially after the time lost due to the pandemic.





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Call us if you want more information about our services.

 **Gestlife**®

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