European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation

European Master’s Programme in Human Rights and democratisation

The Burden of Infertility

Infertility Care and the Scope of the Human Right to Health.

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this thesis is to discuss whether infertility can be considered as a serious health need and what the subsequent implications might be on the protection one’s human right to health. Through an in-depth examination on what entails infertility and on the exact position of infertility care within the framework of the human right to health, an answer will be formulated on the question to what extent national health care policies should endeavour to provide infertility care under the scope of the human right to health. After a theoretic investigation on the link between infertility and the right to health in the international and European human rights discourse, the generated outcome will be tested against the practical cases of Belgium and Portugal. This research advocates for a broad understanding of the human right to health, encompassing a revitalised right to reproductive health that includes a certain right to infertility care. Suggestions are made on the desired regulation of infertility care.
Acknowledgements

I gratefully acknowledge the support of my supervisor Prof. Helena Pereira de Melo, Professor at the NOVA University of Lisbon, for her personal support, the motivation, the inspiring thoughts and ideas she gave me.

I am very thankful to Prof. Dr. J. Silva Carvalho, Porto, Portugal and Prof. Dr. W. Ombelet, Genk, Belgium to guide me through the labyrinth of regulations in their countries and to introduce me into the medical world of reproduction and patient counselling.

I’m very grateful to my parents for all their help and invaluable support, and for giving me all the chances to an open future. Many thanks go to my roommates and my EMA colleagues in Portugal for their endless encouragement and their friendship. To conclude, I would like to thank in special A. Alecci for encouraging me, inspiring me, and for realising progressively the highest attainable standard of my personal well-being.

Lisbon, July 2011.
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https://doi.org/20.500.11825/870

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