



### **SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMENDMENTS TO THE EMBRYO PROTECTION ACT**

#### *Press Release*

The Maltese Paediatric Association appeals to the members of the House of Representatives to safeguard the human rights of every embryo in the amendments to the Embryo Protection Act.

The General Meeting of the Association of the 20th April 2018 noted with satisfaction that the problem of higher order pregnancies, with the associated medical risks to the child, has been practically resolved through the application of the current Embryo Protection Act.

Furthermore the General Meeting approved a resolution underlining three fundamental rights of every embryo, namely that:

1. None of the embryos are denied the **right to live** or have their right to live suspended or endangered as would occur with embryo freezing.
2. All embryos should have an equal **right to be brought up by their natural parents**.
3. Individuals born through IVF should have the **right to know the identity of their biological parents** in order to prevent them having children from potentially biological relatives as this would drastically increase the risk of genetic defects in their children, with all the associated human suffering this brings.

The Association welcomes every improvement in the legal framework and practice of IVF that are consistent with the rights of the embryo and the children that are born through it.

Dr Paul Soler  
President  
20th April 2018

Dr Mark Buttigieg  
Secretary  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2018