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Department:  
Justice and Constitutional Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION  
ISSUE PAPER 32 ON THE RIGHT TO KNOW ONE'S OWN BIOLOGICAL ORIGINS  
EXTENSION OF DEADLINE TO 15 DECEMBER 2017 TO SUBMIT COMMENTS**

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) has published Issue Paper 32 on the Right to Know One's Own Biological Origins. The object of this investigation is to ascertain whether a child should have a legal right to know his or her biological origins.

When infertile persons, single persons or same sex couples have children, questions arise as to how these children were conceived and their biological origins. By way of medically assisted reproduction children are conceived using donor gametes (eggs or sperm). In terms of South African law, gamete donors and surrogate mothers must be anonymous which means that donor-conceived children will never know the identity of one or both of their genetic parents. The investigation also involves surrogacy, adoption, registration of birth, disputed paternity, child abandonment and medical tourism.

The SALRC invites comments on Issue Paper 32 which will be considered in order to draft a discussion paper. The discussion paper will contain preliminary findings made by the SALRC and will be published in order to test public opinion on the preliminary findings. **The closing date for comments has been extended to 15 December 2017.** Inputs may be submitted to Private Bag X668, Pretoria, 0001 or to [VBhana@justice.gov.za](mailto:VBhana@justice.gov.za) or by fax to 086 216 7313.

Issue Paper 32 is available on the internet at <http://salawreform.justice.gov.za/ipapers.htm> and <http://salawreform.justice.gov.za/ipapers/ip32-prj140-BioOrigins-2017.pdf>. A hardcopy may be requested from Mr Jacob Kabini on telephone 012 662 6327/6352.

For enquiries, contact the researcher, Miss Veruksha Bhana on telephone 012 622 6332 or via email at [VBhana@justice.gov.za](mailto:VBhana@justice.gov.za).

**ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY: SALRC AT CENTURION ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2017**