Prevention and elimination of disrespect and abuse during childbirth
WHO Statement - 2014

Across the world many women experience disrespectful, abusive, or neglectful treatment during childbirth in facilities. These practices can violate women's rights, deter women from seeking and using maternal health care services and can have implications for their health and well-being.

Every woman has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, including the right to dignified, respectful care during pregnancy and childbirth.

This statement has been endorsed by over 90 organizations

A
Active Motherhood Movement, Czech Republic
AMANI Birth
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Refugee Committee
Asia Africa Midwifery Research Center
Association des femmes médecins du Sénégal
Associazione Nazionale Il Melograno
Artemis Association
Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services
Association Nationale des Sages-femmes Libérales, France
Averting Maternal Death and Disability, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

B
Barts Health NHS Trust, United Kingdom
Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom
Birth House Association (Hungary)
Birth Rights Bar Association
BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

C
California Association of Midwives
CARE
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
Center for Reproductive Rights
Center for the Right to Health (CRH)
Collegio delle Ostetriche della Provincia di Cosenza, Italia
Collegio delle Ostetriche della Provincia di Trento, Italia
Collegio interprovinciale delle Ostetriche di Milano Lodi Monza e Brianza, Italia

The WHO Statement is also available in the following languages: Amharic, Bulgarian, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swahili.

www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/maternal_perinatal/statement-childbirth/en/
Commonsense Childbirth Inc
Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat)
Czech Doula Association, Czech Republic

D
DONA LLUM, Associació Catalana per un Part Respectat

E
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
El Parto Es Nuestro, Spain
ENCA European Network of Childbirth Associations

F
Family Care International
Fundacji Rodzic Po Ludzku (Childbirth with Dignity Foundation), Poland

G
GFA Health Project in Central Asia

H
Hadramout Health Organization, Yemen
Hospital Publico Materno Infantil, Provincia de Salta-Argentina
Human Rights in Childbirth
Human Rights Watch
Hungarian Alternatal Foundation
Hungarian Association of Independent Midwives
Hypnobabies Childbirth Hypnosis

I
Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania
Immpact, University of Aberdeen
ImprovingBirth.org
Initiativ Liewensufank, Luxembourg
International Confederation of Midwives
International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)
International Initiative on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights
International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research, Al Azhar University
International Medical Corps
International Motherbaby Childbirth Organization
International Society of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ISPOG)
IntraHealth International

J
Jhpiego-an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University

K
Karnataka Health Promotion Trust

L
Lamaze International
M
Makarere University College of Health Sciences, School of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and
Gynaecology
Marie Stopes International
Maternal and Child Survival Program
Maternal Adolescent Reproductive & Child Health (MARCH), London School of Hygiene & Tropical
Medicine
Maternal Health Task Force
Metropolitan University College, Denmark
Micronutrient Initiative
Midwives Alliance of North America

N
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Perinatal Task Force (NPTF)
NESEHNUTI (Independent Social Environmental Movement), Czech Republic

O
Ordem dos Enfermeiros (Portuguese Order of Nurses)
Organisation nationale syndicale des sages-femmes (ONSSF), France

P
Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
Pathfinder International
Perinatal Mental Health Project (PMHP), University of Cape Town, South Africa
Plan International
Population Council

R
Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe por la Humanización del Parto y del Nacimiento (Latin American and
Caribbean Network for the Humanization of Childbirth)
Regroupement Les Sages-femmes du Québec
Reproductive Health Matters
RODA Parents in Action, Croatia
Rodilnitza, Bulgaria
Royal College of Midwives

S
Safe Motherhood Program, Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health and Policy, Dept. of Obstetrics,
Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at UCSF
SafeHands for Mothers
SQUAT Birth Journal
Stork Birth House, Prague, Czech Republic
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

T
The Soapbox Collaborative
Thrive Center for Birth & Family Wellness
U
Umeå Centre for Global Health Research
UNIPA (Czech Midwifery Union), Czech Republic
Università degli Studi “Roma TRE”, Unità di Ricerca "Diritti Umani nella Maternità e Nascita"
University Research Co., LLC (URC)
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

W
White Cross Foundation
Wits Reproductive Health & HIV Institute, South Africa
The White Ribbon Alliance

Z
Ženské kruhy (Women's Circles), Slovakia