

Safe Motherhood is more than the prevention of death and disability...It is respect for every woman's humanity, feelings, choices, and preferences.

RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE: THE UNIVERSAL RIGHTS OF CHILDBEARING WOMEN



In seeking and receiving maternity care before, during and after childbirth:

1 ARTICLE I EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
BE FREE FROM HARM AND ILL TREATMENT
NO ONE CAN PHYSICALLY ABUSE YOU

2 ARTICLE II EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
INFORMATION, **INFORMED CONSENT AND REFUSAL,**
AND **RESPECT** FOR HER
CHOICES AND PREFERENCES, INCLUDING
COMPANIONSHIP DURING MATERNITY CARE
NO ONE CAN FORCE YOU OR DO THINGS TO YOU WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT

3 ARTICLE III EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY
NO ONE CAN EXPOSE YOU OR YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

4 ARTICLE IV EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
BE TREATED WITH **DIGNITY AND RESPECT**
NO ONE CAN HUMILIATE OR VERBALLY ABUSE YOU

5 ARTICLE V EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
EQUALITY, FREEDOM
FROM DISCRIMINATION, AND **EQUITABLE CARE**
NO ONE CAN DISCRIMINATE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THEY DO NOT LIKE ABOUT YOU

6 ARTICLE VI EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
HEALTHCARE AND TO THE **HIGHEST ATTAINABLE LEVEL OF HEALTH**
NO ONE CAN PREVENT YOU FROM GETTING THE MATERNITY CARE YOU NEED

7 ARTICLE VII EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO
LIBERTY, AUTONOMY, SELF-DETERMINATION,
AND **FREEDOM FROM COERCION**
NO ONE CAN DETAIN YOU OR YOUR BABY WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY

All rights are grounded in established international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the Declaration of the Elimination of Violence Against Women; the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights; and the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing. National instruments are also referenced if they make specific mention of childbearing women.

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The information provided in this document is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Disrespect and abuse during maternity care are a violation of women's basic human rights.



For more information visit:
whiteribbonalliance.org/respectfulcare