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

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:*

**EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO**

**1. Be free from harm and ill treatment**

No one can physically abuse you

**2. 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. Privacy and confidentiality**

No one can expose you or your personal information

**4. Be treated with dignity and respect**

No one can humiliate or verbally abuse you

**5. Equality, freedom from discrimination, and equitable care**

No one can discriminate because of something they do not like about you

**6. Healthcare and to the highest attainable level of health**

No one can prevent you from getting the maternity care you need

**7. 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.

For more information visit: www.whiteribbonalliance.org/respectfulcare