

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

EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO

**1** **ARTICLE I**  
**BE FREE FROM  
HARM AND ILL  
TREATMENT**

**NO ONE CAN PHYSICALLY  
ABUSE YOU**

EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO

**2** **ARTICLE II**  
**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**

EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO

**3** **ARTICLE III**  
**PRIVACY AND  
CONFIDENTIALITY**

**NO ONE CAN EXPOSE YOU OR  
YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION**

EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO

**4** **ARTICLE IV**  
**BE TREATED WITH  
DIGNITY AND  
RESPECT**

**NO ONE CAN HUMILIATE  
OR VERBALLY ABUSE YOU**

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.

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**



EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO

**5** **ARTICLE V**  
**EQUALITY,  
FREEDOM  
FROM DISCRIMINATION,  
AND EQUITABLE CARE**

**NO ONE CAN DISCRIMINATE  
BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THEY  
DO NOT LIKE ABOUT YOU**

EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO

**6** **ARTICLE VI**  
**HEALTHCARE  
AND TO THE HIGHEST  
ATTAINABLE LEVEL  
OF HEALTH**

**NO ONE CAN PREVENT  
YOU FROM GETTING THE  
MATERNITY CARE YOU NEED**

EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO

**7** **ARTICLE VII**  
**LIBERTY, AUTONOMY,  
SELF-DETERMINATION,  
AND FREEDOM  
FROM COERCION**

**NO ONE CAN DETAIN YOU OR YOUR  
BABY WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY**

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



For more information visit:  
[www.whiteribbonalliance.org/respectfulcare](http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org/respectfulcare)