### Approaches to Promote the Right to Respectful Maternity Care

**1. Promote the right to respectful maternity care**

Around the world, White Ribbon Alliance (WRA) led the development of the UNIVERSAL RIGHTS OF CHILDBEARING WOMEN, KNOWN AS THE RMC CHARTER that establishes women’s right to timely, high-quality, and respectful care in pregnancy, birth, and afterward.

**2. Mobilize communities to demand respectful maternity care**

In Nigeria, WRA facilitated the launch of a NEW HOTLINE FOR CITIZENS in Kwara State to report incidents of disrespect and abuse at local health facilities.

**3. Integrate the RMC Charter into training and standards for healthcare providers**

In Nepal and Nigeria, WRA is working with ministries of health to include respectful maternity care in the training curriculum for maternity healthcare providers.

**4. Support healthcare providers to deliver respectful maternity care**

In Kenya, the Population Council is conducting VALUES CLARIFICATION, ATTITUDE TRANSFORMATION TRAINING, AND COUNSELING sessions with healthcare providers to help them reflect on how they work and cope with working in under-resourced facilities.

**5. Incorporate respectful maternity care in national legislation and healthcare policy**

WRA advocacy led to the inclusion of respectful maternity care language in NEPAL’S SAFE MOTHERHOOD BILL. WRA also worked with the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria to adopt the RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE CHARTER as a standard of practice.

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ALL WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE
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 in health facilities; and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. National instruments are also referenced if they make specific mention of childbearing women.

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