

THE UNIVERSAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN & NEWBORNS

I Everyone has the right to **freedom** from harm & ill-treatment

No one is allowed to physically hurt you or your newborn. You should both be taken care of in a gentle and compassionate way and receive assistance when experiencing pain or discomfort.

II Everyone has the right to **information**, informed **consent**, & respect for their choices & preferences, including companion of choice during maternity care & refusal of medical procedures

No one is allowed to force you or do things to you or your newborn without your knowledge or consent. Every woman has the right to autonomy, to receive information, and provide informed consent or refusal for care. Every parent or guardian has the right to receive information and provide informed consent or refusal for their newborn's care, in the newborn's best interests, unless otherwise provided by law.

III Everyone has the right to **privacy & confidentiality**

No one is allowed to share your or your newborn's personal or medical information, including all records and images, without your consent. Yours and your newborn's privacy must be protected, except as necessary for healthcare providers to convey information for continuity of care.

IV Everyone is their own person from the moment of birth & has the right to be treated with **dignity & respect**

No one is allowed to humiliate, verbally abuse, speak about or touch you or your newborn in a degrading or disrespectful manner. You and your newborn baby must be cared for with respect and compassion.

V Everyone has the right to **equality, freedom from discrimination & equitable care**

No one is allowed to discriminate against you or your newborn because of something they think or do not like about either one of you. Equality requires that pregnant women have the same protections under the law as they would when they are not pregnant, including the right to make decisions about what happens to their body.

VI Everyone has the right to **healthcare** & to the highest attainable level of health

No one may prevent you or your newborn from getting the healthcare needed or deny or withhold care from either one of you. You and your newborn are entitled to the highest quality care, provided in a timely manner, in a clean and safe environment, by providers who are trained in current best practices.

VII Everyone has the right to **liberty, autonomy, self-determination & freedom from arbitrary detention**

No one is allowed to detain you or your newborn in a healthcare facility, even if you cannot pay for services received.

VIII Every child has the right to be **with their parents** or guardians

No one is allowed to separate you from your newborn without your consent. You and your newborn have the right to remain together at all times, even if your newborn is born small, premature or with medical conditions that require extra care.

IX Every child has the right to an **identity & nationality** from birth

No one is allowed to deny your newborn birth registration, even if they die shortly after birth, or deny the nationality your newborn is legally entitled to.

X Everyone has the right to adequate **nutrition & clean water**

No one is allowed to prevent you and your newborn from having adequate nutrition, clean water or a healthy environment. You have the right to information and support on child nutrition and the advantages of breastfeeding.



Find out more at whiteribbonalliance.org/rmcresources