

Respectful childbirth for all women and newborns

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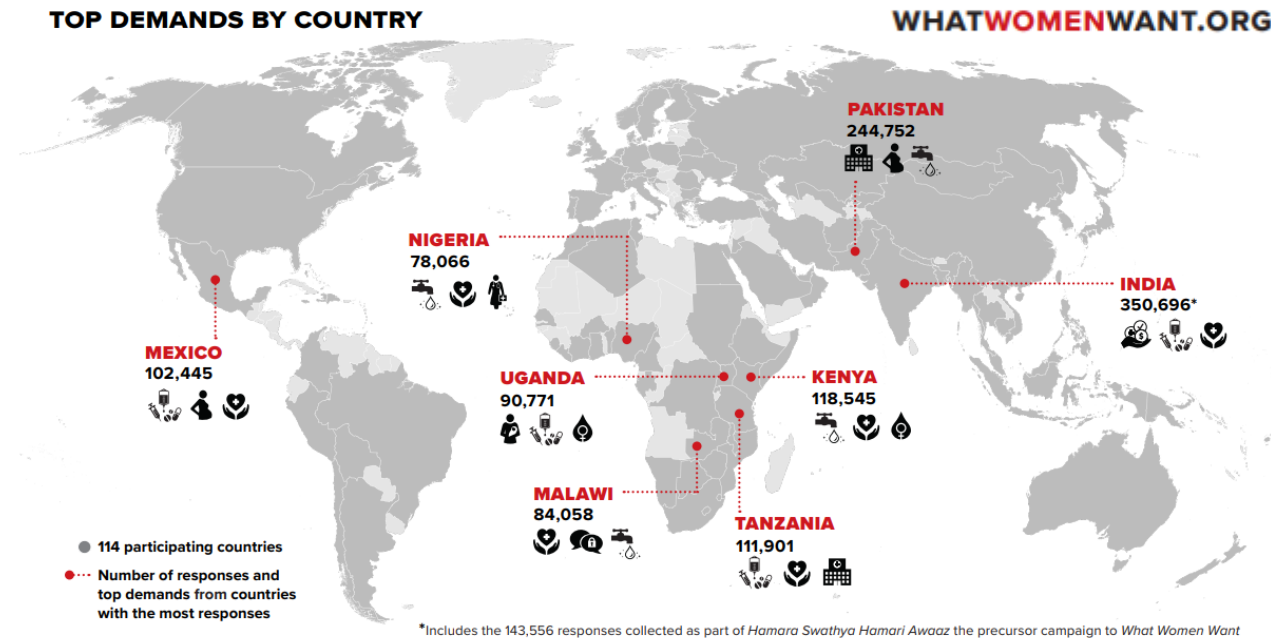


17 September 2021

Women everywhere want respectful care

Number 1 demand globally:

Respectful and dignified care



TOP DEMANDS			
Respectful and dignified care	Medicines and supplies	Access to entitlements	Antenatal care
Water, sanitation and hygiene	Increased, competent and better supported midwives and nurses	Menstrual health	Female providers
	Increased, full-functioning and close health facilities	Confidentiality and privacy	Labor and delivery care

114 COUNTRIES

359 PARTNERS

1,197,006 DEMANDS



[What Women Want: Global findings. White Ribbon Alliance. June 2019](#)

Mistreatment during childbirth is common



For more information DOI:
10.1016/S0140-6736(19)31992-0



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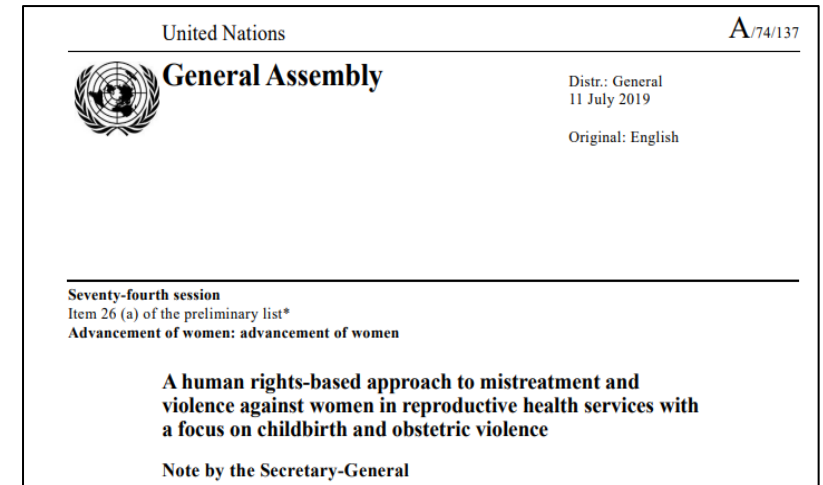
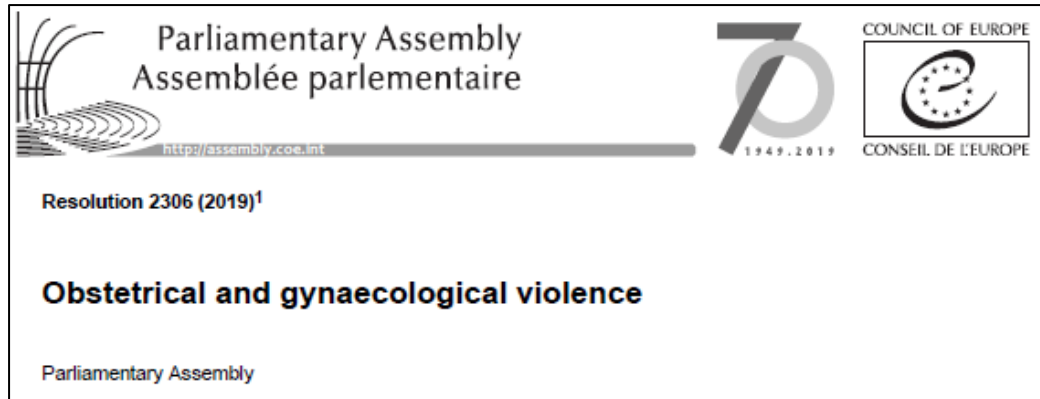


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Bohren MA, Mehtash H, Fawole B et al. *How women are treated during facility-based childbirth in four countries: a cross-sectional study with labour observations and community-based surveys.* Lancet. 2019

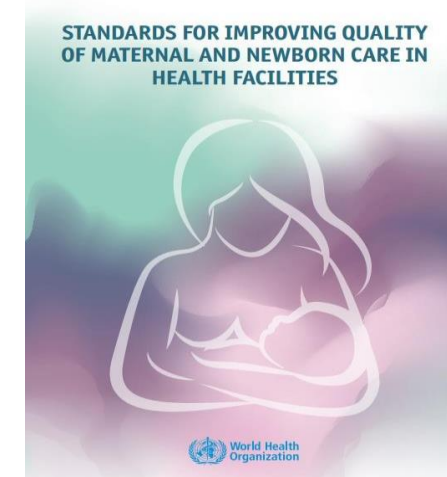
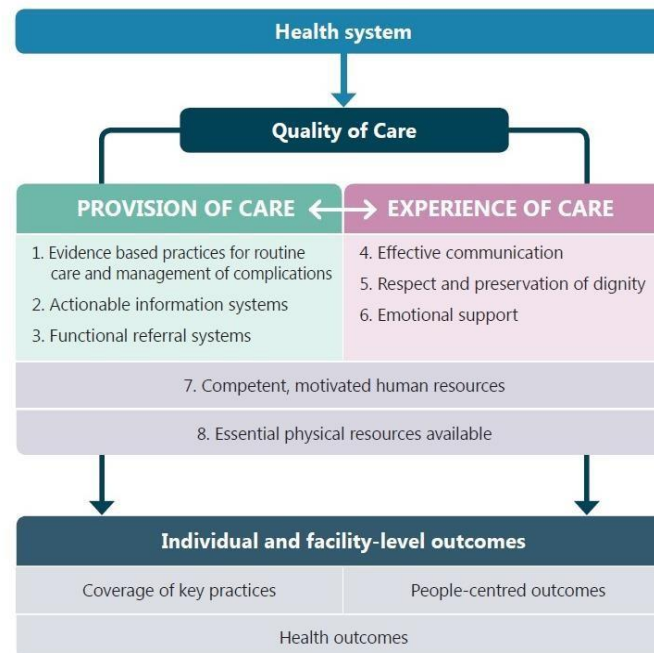
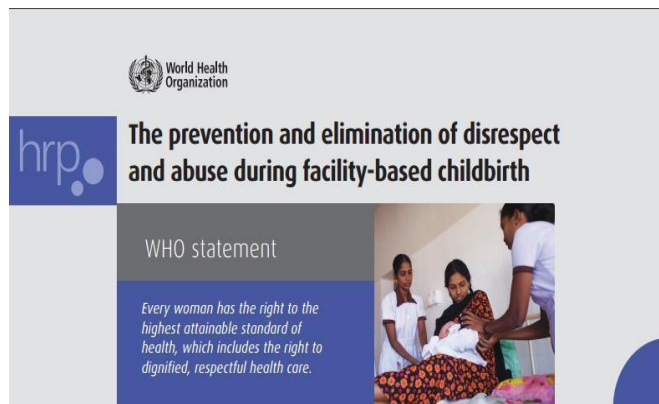
Respectful care is a human right



- **Engaging women and accounting for their experiences** in health systems is the first order of respect in a human rights approach to maternal and newborn care
- Women are **active and informed** individuals with unique expectations and need
- **Enabling environment** for women to speak up and for **listening**

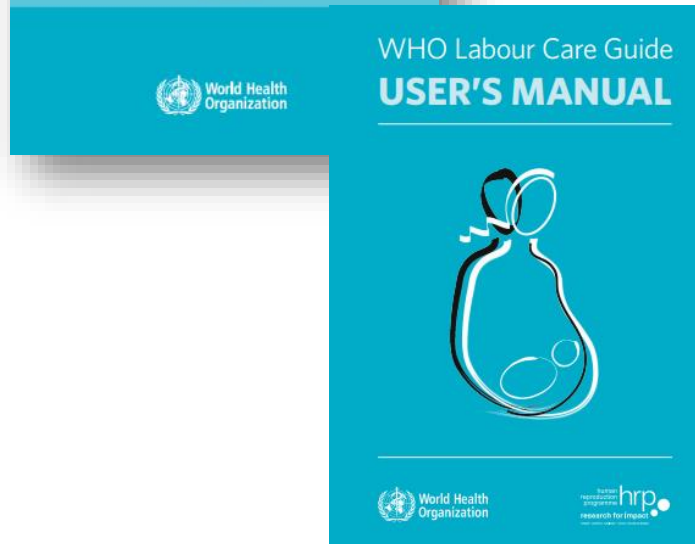
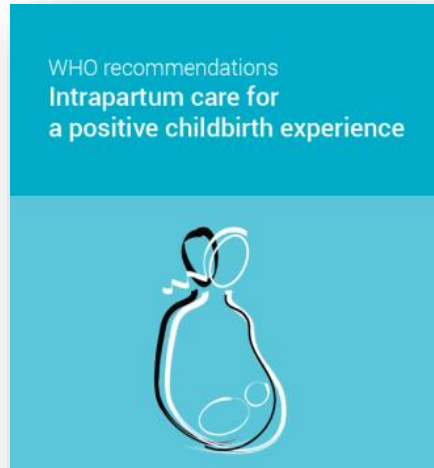
Good quality care is safe AND respectful care

*“Respectful maternal and newborn care refers to care that maintains dignity, privacy, confidentiality, ensures freedom from harm and mistreatment, and enables informed choice and continuous support during labour, childbirth and the immediate postnatal period”**



A new era for safe and respectful childbirth

Six WHO recommendations for respectful care:



Effective communication

Companionship during labour and birth

Oral fluid and food intake

Continuity of care

Maternal mobility and upright position

Pain management (pharmacological and non-pharmacological)



Safe and respectful childbirth beyond service delivery: systems and societies



- ❖ Challenge harmful gender stereotypes
- ❖ Eliminate intersectional discrimination
- ❖ Disrupt power dynamics
- ❖ Address health system conditions & constraints

Strategies to reduce mistreatment and promote respectful care must account for **gender, racial and power dynamics**, and should include **participatory partnerships** with communities.

Thank you!



 All women have the right to a safe and positive childbirth experience, whether or not they have a confirmed **COVID-19** infection.

-  Respect and dignity
-  A companion of choice
-  Clear communication by maternity staff
-  Pain relief strategies
-  Mobility in labour where possible and birth position of choice

 World Health Organization #COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS

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Website: <https://www.who.int/teams/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-research>