



**International
Confederation
of Midwives**

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

International Confederation of Midwives
Koninginnegracht 60
2514 AE The Hague
Netherlands
13 January 2022

Declaration of Consent

We, the International Confederation of Midwives, hereby give our free, prior and informed consent to the nomination of “Midwifery: knowledge, skills and practices” for the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The International Confederation of Midwives represents over a million midwives through its 143 Member Associations in 124 countries across the world. ICM was founded in 1922, and for the past 100 years has supported and promoted the role of midwives through leadership, education, standard setting, policies, position statements, advocacy, and collaboration with our Member Associations and other stakeholders and partners. We developed the [Professional Framework for Midwifery](#) which sets out the essential elements of midwifery to be in place in each country including the Midwifery Philosophy, Essential Competencies for Midwifery Practice, Midwifery Education, Midwifery Regulation, Midwives’ Associations, Midwife-Led Continuity of Care Model of Practice, Midwifery Leadership and Research Evidence. This framework represents midwifery as it exists today and outlines and safeguards the role and scope of practice of the midwife, allowing the transmission to future generations.

Autonomous midwives working across their full scope of practice in midwife-led and continuity of care models prevent complications, save lives, improve outcomes, and increase women’s satisfaction with care. They provide 87% of essential care for women and newborns and avert more than 50% of maternal deaths, stillbirths, and neonatal deaths. Throughout the world midwifery has been practised for centuries and has features that have evolved differently according to local or regional cultural and social traditions and knowledge. However, the philosophy of midwifery care is based on the ethical principles of justice, equity and respect for human dignity and recognises that that pregnancy and childbearing are usually normal physiological processes and profound life experiences carrying significant cultural meaning to women, families, and communities. Therefore, we strongly support midwives who safeguard their knowledge, skills and practices, and especially the nomination for the UNESCO Representative List.

Yours Sincerely

Sally Pairman
Chief Executive