MANIFESTO Doulas support Midwives

As doulas, we stand united acknowledging, supporting, and embracing midwives, nurses and the ICM <u>PUSH</u> campaign. We recognize midwives as highly skilled primary care professionals who provide essential sexual and reproductive healthcare throughout the lives of women, infants, girls, and gender-diverse individuals, playing a vital role in woman-centered care.

Midwives bring expert knowledge, experience, and clinical skills to provide safe, respectful, and compassionate care during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. We honor their dedication to empowering women to make informed choices and exercise their autonomy.

This manifesto outlines our commitment to:

- Recognising the essential competencies of midwives as the primary care professionals for women's sexual and reproductive health.
- Ensuring holistic care for women through collaboration, mutual respect, and support.
- Supporting midwives by addressing non-clinical needs, offering continuity of care, and contributing to a harmonious and positive perinatal experience.

Doulas do not intervene in clinical or medical decisions and fully respect that midwives have vital clinical responsibilities and obligations. As community care providers, doulas provide emotional, practical, and informational support to women. They complement and support midwives' work, always operating within an established scope of practice.

Doulas bring calm and connection, enhancing communication and trust between the woman, healthcare professionals, and family. Their companionship ensures continuity of care and offers personal reassurance, especially during changes of staff, location, or when the woman is alone.

Ultimately, we envision midwives and doulas forming a mutually respectful, collaborative alliance that ensures holistic, woman-centered care fostering safe, respectful, and empowering perinatal experiences for women and their families.

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If you have experienced working alongside doulas, please share your feedback.