



Confederation of the Nordic Midwives Associations

STATEMENT

The world community looks to midwives in the Nordic countries to innovate, show best practice and put women and babies at the center of care.

We call on each of the Nordic governments to deliver on the following initiatives to strengthen midwifery, enabling midwives to provide quality care for women and their families within sexual and reproductive services.

1. Every woman should have access to a midwife throughout her life cycle, including:

- Sexual counselling
- Pre-conceptually
- Throughout pregnancy
- During labor and birth
- After birth according to her needs
- Woman's health counselling

Access should be provided regardless of citizenship/residency status.

2. Midwifery care should promote normal labour and birth, based on evidence (quantitative and qualitative studies as well as best practice) and women's individual choices and needs.

3. Every pregnant woman should have access to continuity of midwife care and midwife carer. This includes a policy of access to a midwife for the woman and her partner/family in the local community. This is a key strategy in a) putting the woman at the center of her care, b) promoting better maternity outcomes and c) addressing workforce issues.

4. Midwifery education and regulation should be based on a Direct Entry 5-year Master's program. Strengthening Nordic midwifery education will enable midwives to fulfill the potential of midwifery in the Nordic countries and internationally.

5. A funding model for individualized maternity care should be used. The current funding model promotes medicalized, and/or centralized maternity care including birth care which adversely impact the health and wellbeing of mothers and babies.