



A message from the leadership of MAWS:

The Midwives' Association of Washington State joins the [National Association of Certified Professional Midwives \(NACPM\)](#) and the [American College of Nurse-Midwives](#) in publicly denouncing and condemning white supremacy, bigotry, and racial prejudice in all its forms.

We must all take this moment to examine ourselves, recognize our own places of privilege, and level the playing field wherever possible. What are our conscious and unconscious biases? How have most of us benefited from our white supremacist society, and how do we continue to uphold it? To our professional members, we urge you to evaluate your practice for openness and inclusivity. Do your practice handouts contain images of people of color? Do your informed consents use gender inclusive language? Birth Center members, do your facilities create a welcoming space for all people? Teachers and preceptors, are you raising the next generation of midwives to be more awake? Students, are you actively listening to your cohort of different backgrounds? Parents, how do you talk to your children about race? About gender?

Everything MAWS does is centered on the goal that ALL families, regardless of race, religion, income, sexual orientation, or gender identity, should have access to safe, effective, and quality care. We acknowledge that we have a long way to go, but we are constantly striving to be more aware, more welcoming, and actively inclusive. Please join us in declaring that bigotry, prejudice, and bias have no place in our hearts, our practices, and our communities.

To our members, colleagues, students, clients, and friends who are so directly harmed by the recent surges of hate, persistent institutional racism and unrecognized forms of discrimination, we care about you. Your lives matter. You are not a distraction. You are our family.

With love and solidarity,

The Midwives' Association of Washington State

September 1st, 2017