

GET PEOPLE TALKING
ABOUT DEMAND DIGNITY

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



STORIES OF MOTHERHOOD – AND OF MOTHERHOOD DENIED



Pregnant ethnic Sudanese Uduk women wait to receive antenatal care at a clinic in the Bonga Refugee camp on the Ethiopia/Sudan border, 2003.

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ACCESS TO GOOD MATERNAL HEALTH CARE DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU ARE RICH OR POOR

Ninety-five per cent of women who die during pregnancy and childbirth live in developing countries. Every woman has the right to maternal health.

ACTION

Humanize the issue of the right to maternal health by gathering stories and thoughts from both mothers and children about what motherhood means.

GETTING STARTED

As well as launching the project on your Amnesty International section's website, you could work with a local newspaper or radio station to get stories. They might also help you to film or record the stories. Or try approaching a community organization, such as a local nursery. You could also arrange an event where women and children can talk about their experiences.

IDEAS

- Contrast the experiences of mothers from different areas and communities to highlight how the right to maternal health is unequal across rich and poor women. You can show how our fundamental human needs are the same – but our experiences depend on where we come from.
- Contrast the different experiences of three generations of mothers to show how childbirth has changed over the years. Use the stories to highlight how childbirth has become safer for many women across the globe over the period of just three generations but how many poor women still face a real risk of dying during pregnancy and childbirth.
- You could widen this into an appeal to get mothers, daughters and granddaughters to sign up to Demand

Dignity through your website. Get them to post their messages of support or experiences as well. You might be able to persuade well-known women to add an experience or story about their mother or grandmother.

SHARE IT

See Action card 5 for how you can share your campaign action with other activists and supporters.

PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Make sure you get permission to use women's stories. They should know how you are going to use them. Some women might prefer to stay anonymous.
- Inform the media about what you are doing. Women's magazines or programmes might be particularly interested.