

# NATIONAL SUMMIT TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND HUMANITY *of* PREGNANT AND BIRTHING WOMEN



HILTON AIRPORT ATLANTA / ATLANTA, GEORGIA / THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 – SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2007

While politics and media like to divide the world into neat bundles of opposites — pro-abortion vs. pro-life, pro-choice vs. anti-choice — the reality of women's lives often do not fit these simplistic and divisive labels. We can disagree on many things, but we believe it is time to recognize common threats and celebrate common threads that will ensure the humanity, dignity and well-being of pregnant and birthing women and their families.

Who should attend the Summit? Doulas, midwives and other reproductive health care providers, birthing rights activists, reproductive justice activists and all who are committed to the health and humanity of pregnant women, their families and communities.

To register for this cutting-edge event, please visit [www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org](http://www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org) or go directly to [www.regonline.com/NAPWSummit2007](http://www.regonline.com/NAPWSummit2007). Don't have access to email or internet? Call us with a request for paper registration at 347-427-9255.

THE SUMMIT IS CO-SPONSORED BY: (The list is growing, so check [www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org](http://www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org) for updates)

- Our Bodies Ourselves
- International Center for Traditional Childbearing
- Citizens For Midwifery, Inc.
- Mothers United For Midwifery
- Realbirth Education Center
- SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective
- Planned Parenthood Federation of America
- Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
- Gynuity Health Projects
- Vanderbilt University Women's & Gender Studies Program
- Justice Now
- Feminist Women's Health Center-Cedar River Clinics-WA State
- ProKanDo
- Abortion Access Project, Inc.
- Civil Liberties & Public Policy Program and Population & Development Program, Hampshire College
- Reproductive Health Technologies Project
- Catholics for a Free Choice
- Choice USA
- Harm Reduction Coalition
- Brooklyn Childcare Collective
- Exhale
- Ipas, USA
- Pro-Choice Public Education Project
- Center for Reproductive Rights
- Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Real Cost of Prisons Project
- Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents
- National Organization for Women, Inc.
- Tatia Oden French Memorial Foundation
- Causes in Common
- ACLU, Foundation

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2007 NATIONAL ADVOCATES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN *Please join us!*

## THE NATIONAL SUMMIT TO ENSURE THE HEALTH & HUMANITY OF PREGNANT & BIRTHING WOMEN

Today's highly politicized and polarizing abortion debate creates the false and destructive illusion that there are two kinds of women — women who have abortions and women who have babies. The reality is that they are all the same women:

- By age 25, approximately half of all women in the United States have experienced at least one birth.
- By age 44, this figure is approximately 85%.
- Sixty-one percent of women having abortions already are mothers, raising one or more children.
- A majority of those having abortions, but not yet raising children will someday become mothers and spend much of their lives raising and caring for their children and other loved ones.

Today, all women are facing increasing limitations on access to care as a result of conflicts with professional organizations, imposition of religious directives in health care institutions, anti-abortion/fetal rights laws and rhetoric that also affect women continuing to term, and issues concerning health care financing.

The Summit's goal is to bring people together who are committed to ensuring the health and humanity of all pregnant women — regardless of what their decisions may be — and recognizing that there are strong and diverse opinions about both abortion and about how best to birth a child.

This Summit recognizes that while much attention is paid to efforts to control women who are seeking to end unwanted pregnancies, women with wanted pregnancies are facing a wide array of civil and human rights violations. Examples of these violations include pregnant women who have been shamed or forced into having unnecessary c-sections and the application of punitive criminal and civil child welfare laws to women who are continuing to term.

This Summit will address barriers to care for all pregnant and birthing women as well as strategies for change. It will also address the fact that regardless of their views on the abortion controversy, pregnant women are increasingly confronting discriminating employment, environmental, health insurance and drug policies, among others, which threaten their health and well-being as well as their children's and families'.

Summit speakers will address the fact that pregnant women across party lines and of diverse experiences, faiths and backgrounds continue to face domestic violence and discrimination based on race, class, age, language, ability and identity. And, the presenters will address the fact that, once parents, women face a host of policies that undermine their ability to provide for their loved ones.

This ground-breaking event will honor differences of opinion but at the same time recognize common threats and CELEBRATE common threads that will ensure the humanity, dignity and well-being of pregnant and birthing women and their families.

### PRE-SUMMIT COALITION TRAINING, THURSDAY JANUARY 18, 2007

All summit participants are invited to a one-day pre-summit coalition training facilitated by Be Present Inc. This training will provide an opportunity for participants to spend time getting to know one another, to understand how they came to do the work they do, and to learn more about the personal and political work it will take to build effective advocacy efforts to ensure the health, humanity and dignity of pregnant women. Please join us for this day of extraordinary inspiration and insight.

### THE SUMMIT PROGRAM: FRIDAY JANUARY 19 – SUNDAY JANUARY 21, 2007

The Summit planning committee is soliciting suggestions for plenaries, workshops and events. Suggestions for presentations are due Sept 15, 2006: Information about submitting a proposal is available as an RFP (Request for Presentations) on our web site.

### AMONG THE TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- ▶ Getting on the Same Page: What the millions of women who become pregnant each year in the US each have in common.
- ▶ Barriers to Care and Control: From VBAC bans to TRAP laws, do women have a say in pregnancy and childbirth?
- ▶ How May You Be Prosecuted? Let Me Count the Ways: Criminalizing women's reproductive health choices.
- ▶ Who Controls our Health Care?
- ▶ How Health Disparities Impact Women's Reproductive Health and Family Lives.
- ▶ Strategies That Work: Establishing affirmative grassroots and legislative strategies to ensure the rights of pregnant, birthing, breast-feeding and parenting women.

The summit will have a special emphasis on *lived* experiences and all presentations will include those directly affected by current policies and practices. A few of the committed participants and presenters include:

- Linda L. Layne, *Motherhood Lost: A Feminist Account of Pregnancy Loss in America*
- Carole Joffe, *Doctors of Conscience: The Struggle to Provide Abortion Before and after Roe v. Wade and The Regulation of Sexuality: Experiences of Family Planning Workers*
- Ann Crittenden, *The Price of Motherhood: Why the Most Important Job in the World is Still the Least Valued*
- Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* and *Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare*
- Robbie Davis Floyd, *Birth as an American Rite of Passage*
- Debra Pascali-Bonaro, International MotherBaby Friendly Initiative, IMBFI Co-Chair; DONA International Doula trainer, Passion for Birth – Lamaze Teacher, President – MotherLove, Inc.
- Loretta Ross, *Undivided Rights, Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice*