

Dear

I am writing to ask if you will lend your support to our Reclaiming Birth Campaign.

The campaign is backed by Albany Mums, the NCT, AIMS (the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services), IM UK (Independent Midwives UK) & ARM (the Association of Radical Midwives) and its aim is to improve maternity services for women and their families in the UK.

Below is an overview of our campaign position:

- Many women and their partners are left alone in labour and get little support from overstretched midwives. Parents-to-be often don't have access to the services and support they need for the birth of their baby to be a safe, positive and life affirming event.
- This will only change when there are more midwives, more women being able to birth in free-standing midwifery units (Birth Centres) or at home and more midwives carrying their own caseloads and looking after parents-to-be from conception to birth and postnatally. Few parents-to-be currently have any of these options.

We are therefore asking for your support for the following:

1. More midwives so that every woman is fully supported and no woman is left alone;
2. Setting up at least one stand-alone birth centre (often called a midwife-led unit) in every local area;
3. Good information on and the option to choose home birth, birth in a stand-alone birth centre or birth in an obstetric unit in every area;
4. Setting up at least one caseloading midwifery group free at the point of use (like the Albany Midwifery Practice) in every area in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales;
5. Supporting Independent Midwives UK in its vision of being commissioned to provide a caseloading midwifery service free at the point of use by every PCT in England (see www.independentmidwives.org.uk);
6. An inquiry into how the decision to terminate the Albany's contract with King's College Hospital Foundation Trust, London, was taken and to make the findings publicly available (see www.savethealbany.org.uk)

I would like to request that the MSLC approach the local Trust/Health Board and ask:

- What is the Trust/Health Board doing to employ more midwives?
- What steps are being taken to set up at least one stand-alone Birth Centre in your area?
- What steps are being taken to provide a caseloading midwifery group free at the point of use (like the Albany) or to work with the IM UK to provide a midwifery service in your area?