



*Protecting human rights
in childbirth*

Registered address:
Birthrights
Union House
111 New Union Street
Coventry CV1 2NT
0300 400 30 400

1st April 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

The But Not Maternity Alliance is writing to you, on behalf of all pregnant women and birthing people and their partners, to urge you to set out a roadmap for easing visiting restrictions in maternity services.

Although progress has been made since NHS England issued guidance on the 14th December, there is still a significant postcode lottery across Trusts in England. Our data shows that only 38% of maternity services across the UK allow fathers/partners to attend non standard scans where there are concerns about the baby, partners are only able to attend antenatal appointments in 25% of services, and there is huge variation in whether partners are allowed to visit their partner and baby on the postnatal ward.

We have heard throughout the pandemic of the huge toll that these restrictions have had on families expecting a baby. But the continued uncertainty is doing even more damage. We cannot return to a situation where people are able to go to the shops, the pub and the hairdresser, to attend a wedding or a funeral but not go through maternity care together.

We need to see a timetable for ending the separation of families during maternity care, just as you have created a roadmap for ending isolation in other areas of life. All health and social care staff have been offered a vaccination and testing is widely available. These restrictions can no longer be justified.

We look forward to your most urgent response.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Booker, Birthrights
Nadia Higson, AIMS
Joeli Brearley, Pregnant then Screwed

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Abbi Leibert and Holly Avis, But Not Maternity Petition
Zelle Baggaley, Birth Trauma Association,
Katherine Jones, The Fatherhood Institute
Evelien Docherty, Make Birth Better
Scott Mair, Paternal Mental Health
AJ Silver, Queer Birth Club
Kate Ewert, Doula UK

