



## Every reason

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*Michelle Quashie tells us why women, midwives and everyone has reason to be concerned*

For the past few weeks I've had this grey cloud hanging over my head. It stops me from returning to sleep when I wake in the night to feed my baby. When I do eventually get to sleep I wake up hoping that it was just a nightmare but then the realisation returns....

My mind is haunted with the knowledge that some pregnant women have had their chosen midwife taken away from them, a midwife who they know and trust. I hear from women that they are experiencing feelings of fear, vulnerability, helplessness, solitude, all adding to their feelings of anxiety. Feelings I can relate to. I worry for these women and the impact these feelings are having on the future of their growing babies....

It has only been a matter of weeks since I had experienced a form of care that I had never experienced at any of my previous three births. It was a form of care that met my needs physically, emotionally, fully respected my choices and ensured I was safe whilst I birthed my baby. This new-found care was provided to me by independent midwife Kay Hardie. It was a revelation, a gold standard form of care that has my full support and approval. The type of care that I would only ever expect and seek for my daughter, my nieces, my loved ones, my friends and for all women....

I am pleased to see that many are finding the actions of the NMC concerning. If you have a daughter, a niece, a wife or care about women and society as a whole, then you too should be concerned about the NMC's latest decisions. One day a woman who is close to you may find themselves pregnant with limited choices regarding her maternity care and birth, possibly limited or no midwifery support, during a monumental time of her life.

This is a time when a woman leaves her footprint on the world and time when a mother is born. Birth has the ability to shape a woman for life and will effect who she is as a mother and a member of society as a whole.

*Michelle Quashie*