OBSTETRIC VIOLENCE

How does Obstetric Violence constitute Institutional Violence?

Obstetric Violence is an intersection between:

- Institutional Violence & Violence Against Women
  - during pregnancy
  - postpartum
  - childbirth

It occurs in BOTH:

- PUBLIC MEDICAL PRACTICE
- PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE

FOR TOO MANY WOMEN, PREGNANCY IS A PERIOD ASSOCIATED WITH SUFFERING, HUMILIATIONS, IL-HEALTH AND EVEN DEATH.

Obstetric violence can be manifested through:

- Denial of treatment during childbirth
- Verbal humiliations
- Physical violence
- Unnecessary use of medication
- Facial and coerced medical interventions
- Detention in facilities for failure to pay
- Dehumanizing or rude treatment

&/or

DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, ETHNIC, OR ECONOMIC BACKGROUND, AGE, HIV STATUS, GENDER NON-CONFORMITY, AMONG OTHERS.

Unfortunately, obstetric violence is an often overlooked and normalized type of Violence Against Women.

This complicates the design of public policies to prevent and eradicate it.

The extreme consequences of obstetric violence are degrading and inhumane childbirth, health complications, severe psychological damage to women, and in some cases death due to neglect.

Obstetric Violence is Institutional Violence

Every woman needs and has the right to access skilled and high-quality health care during childbirth. The state is responsible for institutional violence when women are denied basic rights, subjected to invasive medical procedures, or when denied the right to choose them.

Our Health, Our Rights, Our Lives

To learn more and take action visit: www.1382.org

Authors: Unicef, WHO, UNFPA, CRP

Source: Violence of Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (http://www.childinfo.org/girls-and-women-violence.html)