

Official Statement of Movimiento de Parteras de Chiapas Nich Ixim (Midwives Movement of Chiapas Nich Ixim)  
May 5th, 2020, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.



Movimiento de Parteras de Chiapas Nich Ixim (Midwives Movement) declares its commitment to life, women and communities, to give care during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum, also to transfer women in obstetric emergency situations.

On this May 5th International Day of Midwives, We celebrate by making a reminder of the situation we are experiencing with the pandemic. We continue to work without adequate material to attend births, some authorities do not allow free transit for us. We have no response from the state health authorities to the demands presented during the Covid-19 pandemic. As caregivers of the lives of pregnant women, we are very concerned, because we know they are at risk.

Movimiento de Parteras de Chiapas Nich Ixim (Midwives Movement) gathers more than 800 midwives, we have representatives and spokespersons from 30 Municipalities of the State. We have given testimonies of the great disinformation that exists in the communities, which does not allow the development of community plans for Covid -19.

As midwives we know the risks for us of this disease, we are taking the necessary preventive measures to protect ourselves, protect the women and families we serve.

We live in uncertainty, in Mexico the third phase was declared due to the covid-19 pandemic, the situation will become more difficult. Indigenous women and women from rural areas will not travel to hospitals, not only because of the fear of becoming infected, but also because the hospitals will be saturated. It's in this circumstance that traditional and professional midwifery is strategic for the care of low-risk births, providing adequate quality care and contributing to the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality in the communities.

That is why since April we have been urgently requesting the state and municipal authorities, the Ministry of Health (SSA) and the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS) the following demands:

- Recognition of our work as midwives. Establish coordination and collaboration actions between us and medical staff at different levels of care.
- That the midwives be provided with prevention supplies (masks, alcohol gel, soap, gloves, etc.) as well as material for childbirth care.

- That the right of women to decide with whom and where to give birth is respected, and the right of midwives to continue providing care and attention.
- That the state guarantees the right to obtain the birth certificate for the newborn attended by midwives.
- That in the event of an obstetric emergency the municipal authorities, as well as the health authorities, guarantee that during the transfer and care of the emergency, women will not be infected with Covid-19 and will receive respectful and dignified treatment.
- We demand that to avoid infections, hospitals have an exclusive space to attend pregnant women with complications.
- That if the woman has Covid-19, the right to remain with her newborn is respected, that breastfeeding is not prohibited, that care is provided according to current scientific evidence.
- Clarity on who to contact in case of a referral for an obstetric emergency.

The response from the health authorities has not come, we will continue with the same demands to the Mexican State, which is the one that must guarantee the health of pregnant women.

"For the life and recognition of midwifery: Nich Ixim Midwives Movement of Chiapas and Midwives of the world will continue working"

Parteras del Movimiento de Parteras Nich Ixim and Partner Organizations, Formación y Capacitación A.C. (FOCA), Alianza Pediátrica Global (APG, Global Pediatric Alliance), Centro de Capacitación en Ecología y Salud para Campesinos A.C. (CCESC), CAMATI Mujeres Construyendo desde Abajo A.C. (Women Building from Below)

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