

August 28, 2025

To: Prof. MUDr. Vlastimil Válek, CSc., MBA, EBIR

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health

Ministry of Health, Palackého náměstí 375/4, Praha 2 - Nové Město, 12800

To: Scientific Council of the Ministry of Health

Ministry of Health, Palackého náměstí 375/4, Praha 2 - Nové Město, 12800

To: Mgr. Klára Šimáčková Laurenčíková

Government Commissioner for Human Rights

Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, nábřeží Edvarda Beneše 4, Praha 1, 11801

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Draft Strategy for the Development of Respectful Care for Mothers and Children in Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Postpartum Period in the Czech Republic.

As a senior clinical obstetrician dedicated to advancing safe, respectful, and evidence-based maternity care, I welcome this initiative as a crucial step towards aligning national policy with international principles of woman-centered, human-rights-based, and family-oriented care.

The vision presented in the Strategy resonates strongly with global efforts to harmonize the best aspects of midwifery and obstetric models—ensuring safety and clinical quality while also respecting the dignity, autonomy, and individual needs of women and their families.

In my own practice as Head of the Delivery Room at Laniado Medical Center in Israel, I have seen how respectful, evidence-based care can be successfully implemented in daily clinical work. At our hospital we maintain an overall cesarean section rate of only 12.5%, while supporting vaginal breech births and vaginal births after one or even two previous cesarean sections (VBACs). Importantly, these practices are achieved without any increase in neonatal morbidity—in fact, outcomes have improved. This demonstrates that safe, family-centered, and respectful care is not only possible but also beneficial for mothers and babies alike.

While I am not in a position to endorse every detail of the document, I fully support its guiding principles and the direction it represents. In particular, I wish to highlight my endorsement of its emphasis on respectful, trauma-informed care, the reduction of unnecessary interventions, and the strengthening of collaboration across professional groups to meet the needs of mothers, babies, and families.

I commend the important work undertaken by the Government Office and the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic and strongly encourage the adoption of this Strategy as a vital step towards improving maternity care and outcomes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matan Elami, MD

Senior Obstetrician and Head of Delivery Room,

Laniado Medical Center, Netanya, Israel

Chair, Israeli Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology

