

The Hague, 1 September 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,

The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), represents over 130 midwives' associations globally, and set the Global Standards for Education, Regulation, and Competencies for the midwifery profession. Our membership includes 29 of 30 countries of the European Union and European Economic Area.

We are writing to you because our member association, UNIPA, has informed us that the Government of the Czech Republic is developing a *Strategy for the Development of Respectful Care for Mothers and Children During Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Postpartum Period*. We recognise the significance of this initiative and its potential to improve the quality of midwifery services in the Czech Republic. ICM champions governments to create policies and strategies based on the best available evidence and consistent with the ICM Philosophy of Midwifery Care and key ICM Position Statements – including the Bill of Rights for Women and Midwives and Midwives, Women and Human Rights.

Placing respectful, woman-centred midwifery models of care at the core is a vital step forward. Equally important is alignment with global frameworks such as the WHO Global Position Statement on Transitioning to Midwifery Models of Care and the joint ICM, UNFPA and WHO Midwifery Accelerator.

ICM hopes that the Czech authorities will consider these global documents in the preparation of the above-mentioned Strategy, and plan policy changes and adequate financial and other resources to ensure that the Strategy's implementation is a success, benefiting women, newborns, families and communities.

ICM looks forward to continued collaboration with our member association, UNIPA, and encourages the Czech authorities to continue engaging with them in the process of developing the Strategy and other key policies in sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health.

Warm regards,



Anna af Ugglas
Chief Executive