

Currently, there are international documents (conventions, conferences and international recommendations) that serve as a reference point for rewriting of regulations, rules, and public policy on properly regulated birth care by professional midwives in Mexico. As a result, mothers who use midwifery services would be ensured that the midwives who offer these services have adequate professional training to confront the challenges of women's health in Mexico, practicing their occupation without the risk of having it happen in a legal vacuum.

We need to consider the fact that in Mexico, 70% of the states already recognize midwives as professionals. In the state of Guanajuato, where midwifery is not recognized as a profession, an agreement was reached in 1997 to create the first school of professional midwifery in Mexico, which provides technical training. Subsequently, in Tlapa de Comonfort, where midwifery is registered as a profession, a specific judicial framework was created and used to establish a second school in 2012. Following the established models in Guanajuato and Tlapa de Comonfort, a curriculum for technical midwives and a degree in professional midwifery could be standardized in each Mexican state. This could be stipulated at the federal level so that regulation would cease to be a problem and more midwifery schools could be opened at both technical and professional levels. For example, in Morelos, a state where the midwifery profession is registered, there are schools which are teaching a similar curriculum, yet neither the professional nor technical degree exists. If more states were able to offer an official degree, the number of professional midwives across the country would increase, giving women of reproductive age in Mexico more options to exercise their human right to care during their pregnancies, childbirth and postpartum.

It has been shown that there are regulations that govern technical midwifery, but it is still necessary to regulate facilities that are not part of a hospital, such as birth centers, at both rural and urban level, (but not under the model of Casas Maternas).⁵³ This would open care options for pregnant women and in turn uphold that which is stipulated in Articles 1, 4 and 5, as previously mentioned, of the Mexican constitution.

Likewise, the development and publication of work competency standards on birth care provided by midwives is a yet unresolved legislative matter. Such standards would provide Mexican women with another option that guarantees respect for their sexual and reproductive rights.

We have stressed the importance of the judicial framework that already exists and urge that these regulations and standards be implemented in daily life to benefit pregnant women, newborns and professional midwives to allow human rights, in their broadest sense, to be respected since these are rights that everyone in Mexico should enjoy.

⁵³ Rogelia Cruz, et al., *La casa materna de comitán, chiapas: los antecedentes y aportes en la atención del embarazo y riesgo obstétrico*, in: IMAGEN INSTANTÁNEA DE LA PARTERÍA 239-255 (Georgina Sánchez, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Asociación Mexicana de Partería, 2015).