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The Alliance for Maternal Health Equality calls on MEPs to support the Declaration on Universal Access to Maternal Healthcare

The time to act for mothers of our future generations in Europe is now; the Alliance for Maternal Health Equality (AMHE) calls on MEPs to support the Declaration on universal access to maternal healthcare tabled in the European Parliament on 24th February 2016.

In a Europe of ageing populations and decreasing birth rates, too many women still die during pregnancy and childbirth. The lack of clear and comparable measurement indicators hides the extent of the issue in Europe. Spearheaded by MEP Filiz Hysmenova (BG, ALDE), the Declaration on universal access to maternal healthcare (<http://maternalhealthalliance.eu/declaration/>) encompasses the critical need for a statistical basis upon which to build future effective policies. The Declaration needs the support of MEPs to ensure that its adoption can lead to a Resolution on the issue.

The Alliance for Maternal Health Equality (AMHE) fully supports MEP Hysmenova in believing that a change in the status quo is urgently needed. In a Europe of changing demographics, increasingly diverse populations and active cross-border mobility, action needs to be taken now to upgrade access to maternal healthcare. Ensuring that as many MEPs as possible sign the Declaration is a priority of crucial importance for improving the lives and well-being of all present and future mothers in Europe.

Jacqueline Bowman- Busato, Policy Lead for AMHE is calling on MEPs to sign the Declaration, *“It’s time for MEPs to play their part in helping to improve the situation for equitable access to maternal healthcare in Europe. Signing the Declaration is the first step in supporting women, providing them with better knowledge and information, equitable access to healthcare and the ability to enjoy a safe and healthy motherhood, before, during and after pregnancy.”* AMHE is dedicated to ensuring that policies exist and are implemented to deliver equity of access to quality maternal health at all levels.

Equity in maternal health is often treated as a side issue. It is not taken seriously in Europe, despite the fact that mothers tend to be the first to face difficulties in gaining equitable access to healthcare.

- In an EU of 28 Member States (MS), healthcare continues to be a national competence with varying legislation across borders. The result is dramatically different levels of access, conditions and care for mothers before, during and after pregnancy.

- The success and failure of the healthcare systems in Europe are difficult to measure in terms of resilience and sustainability. Maternal health is not included as an indicator.
- Maternal Equity is interconnected with several policy areas and needs to be proactively integrated in EU discourse on issues such as maternity leave, migration and healthcare alike.

The time is now for MEPs to sign the Declaration on universal access to maternal health care to help improve the lives and well-being of all present and future mothers in Europe.

ABOUT

www.maternalhealthalliance.eu

Learn more about the Declaration on universal access to maternal healthcare: <http://maternalhealthalliance.eu/declaration/>

MEP Filiz Hyusmenova http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/34249/FILIZ_HYUSMENOVA_home.html

AMHE Infographic on Maternal Mortality in Europe: http://maternalhealthalliance.eu/policy_action

AMHE Manifesto Objectives:

1. ensure access to high quality maternal healthcare for all by tackling both health policy as well as any other policies this issue touches upon
2. facilitate a more favourable social environment that empowers women to make an informed decision on motherhood
3. focus on real-life evidence and clear statistics on maternal health



ALLIANCE FOR
MATERNAL
HEALTH
EQUALITY



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