

**Statement: Philly Pregnancy Center Patient Maltreatment and Abuse
October 14, 2022**

The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) is appalled by [a recent video](#) showing the abuse and maltreatment of an expectant Black mother by a nurse practitioner at the [Philly Pregnancy Center](#). The incident reflects the unfortunate experiences shared by many Black birthing people, which have contributed to the growing maternal morbidity and mortality crisis.

The attitudes and behaviors of the health care workforce are entrenched in societal norms and bias, both implicitly and explicitly, and have been shown to cause unintended harm during patient interactions. These factors may lead to harmful consequences and place patients at greater risk of not receiving appropriate attention to address individual concerns or quality of care. This instance serves as a reminder that for some women, particularly Black women, access to quality, culturally proficient, and nonbiased care continues to be a challenge in some communities.

AWHONN recognizes the fundamental rights of women, newborns, and families and promotes equitable access to evidence-based care while acknowledging unique needs and preferences. We are committed to educating the health care workforce about the causes and consequences of discrimination and bias in maternal health care and challenging health care providers to change mindsets around racial disparity and to transform knowledge into actions that will establish equitable treatment for Black women.