

# Addressing obstetric violence to ensure patient safety & high quality health care during pregnancy and childbirth

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*Chair:* Jennifer Infanti, NTNU

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# “Unfinished agendas”

- ▶ MDG 5.A. Reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015.
  - ▶ Not achieved
- ▶ Access to care is necessary but not sufficient

# “New era”

- ▶ SDG 5. Improve maternal health.
  - ▶ quality, safety, satisfaction

# Obstetric violence

- ▶ Mistreatment, abuse and violence that women can experience during pregnancy and childbirth at the hands of care providers



# Defining obstetric violence

- ▶ Physical procedures with no evidence-base or medical justification.
- ▶ Non-consented care.
- ▶ Sexual harassment and abuse.
- ▶ Verbal abuse. Threats. Discrimination. Humiliation.
- ▶ Lack of privacy. Lack of information. Forced labour positions. Neglect. Refusal of pain medication. Denial of care. Abandonment.

# Culpability

- ▶ Where do we point the finger of blame?
- ▶ “There are multiple points of suffering and complexity here” (Kathleen Hill, JHPIEGO)

# FREDA principles

Fairness

Respect

Equality

Dignity

Autonomy

- ▶ Towards “health for all”
- ▶ Transforming maternity care
- ▶ Humanising childbirth