



# POSITION STATEMENT

## ETHNIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

It is the position of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) that every individual has the right to safe, satisfying health care with respect for human dignity as well as ethnic and cultural variations.

Midwifery care is focused on the needs of the individual and family for physical care, emotional and social support, and active involvement of significant others according to cultural values and personal preferences. The profession of midwifery assumes the responsibility for ensuring that certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) are provided with excellence in educational preparation which includes experiences that promote cultural competency and proficiency, and that they demonstrate professional standards of practice in keeping with these stated beliefs.

ACNM seeks to promote educational preparation for its membership, which will develop respect for ethnic and cultural variations. ACNM also recognizes the richness that ethnic and cultural diversity brings to its membership, and actively seeks to recruit and retain persons of ethnic and cultural minorities into educational programs and the general membership. Furthermore, ACNM seeks to encourage diverse representation at all levels within the organization.

---

\* Midwifery as used throughout this document refers to the education and practice of certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) who have been certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) or the American Midwifery Certification Board, Inc. (AMCB), formerly the American College of Nurse-Midwives Certification Council, Inc. (ACC).

Source: Midwives of Color Committee  
Approved by the ACNM Board of Directors: April 1992  
Revised: August 1997, June 1999 with Title Change