

For Immediate Release

FREEDOM FOR BIRTH – MISSISSIPPI PART
OF THE GLOBAL FILM LAUNCH

[Ocean Springs – September 17, 2012] A new documentary that reframes childbirth as the most pressing global Human Rights issue today is launching with over a thousand premieres all over the world on the same day, Thursday 20th September 2012, including 7 Mississippi locations.

Freedom For Birth is a 60 minute documentary featuring a Who's Who of leading birth experts and international Human Rights lawyers all calling for radical change to the world's maternity systems.

Bianca Wooden, President of Mississippi Friends of Midwives says, "This film is very important for Mississippi. We have some of the worst infant mortality, maternal mortality, premature birth and low birth weight rates in the country. Like elsewhere in the country, more and more women are looking for an alternative to the standard maternity care system and choosing home birth with a midwife. Because Mississippi does not license direct entry midwives, what could be a resource in improving Mississippi, is lost. Although we do have midwives in our state who have obtained the nationally recognized Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) credential, we also have midwives who have no verifiable training who have had their license revoked in another state, working in Mississippi. Additionally, without licensing, there is no method for filing or reviewing complaints against midwives.

Hermine Hayes-Klein, US lawyer and organizer of the recent Human Rights in Childbirth Conference at the Hague, the Netherlands says, "the way that childbirth is being managed in many countries around the world is deeply problematic. Millions of pregnant women are pushed into hospitals, pushed onto their back and cut open. They are subject to unnecessary pharmaceutical and surgical interventions that their care providers openly admit to imposing on them for reasons of finance and convenience. Women around the world are waking up to the fact that childbirth doesn't have to be like this and it shouldn't. Disrespect and abuse are not the necessary price of safety".

Toni Harman, one of the filmmakers says, "the Ternovsky vs Hungary ruling at the European Court of Human Rights in 2010 means that now in Europe, every birthing woman has the legal right to decide where and how she gives birth. And across the world, it means that if a woman feels like her Human Rights are being violated because her birth choices are not being fully supported, she could use the power of the law to protect those rights.

Cathy Warwick, Chief Executive of the Royal College of Midwives (RCM), says: "A safe childbirth should be a fundamental human right for women. Sadly, for many, many millions of women and their babies across the world this is not the case. The world is desperately short of the people who can help to ensure and deliver this human right; midwives.

Ms. Hayes-Klein concludes, "Freedom For Birth" holds the answer to changing the system. Birth will change when women realize they have a right to meaningful support for childbirth and claim that right. Birth will change when women stand up against the abuses that are currently suffered in such high numbers and say, No More."

A local screening of ***Freedom For Birth*** will take place at the following locations organized by Mississippi Friends of Midwives:

Biloxi
Hancock Bank
888 Howard Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

Jackson
Unitarian Universalist Church of Jackson
466 N. State Street
Jackson, MS 39206

McComb
McComb Public Library
1022 Virginia Avenue
McComb, MS 39648

Meridian
Church of Mazarene
5121 29th Avenue
Meridian, MS 39305

Oxford
Unitarian Universalist Church of Oxford
31 Buford Chapel Road
Oxford, MS 38655

Starkville
Mississippi State University
Mitchell Memorial Library's Auditorium
395 Hardy Street
Starkville, MS 39759

Tupelo
Link Centre
1800 West Main Street
Tupelo, MS 38801

Additional Notes

Additional information about ***Freedom For Birth*** can be found on the website:
<http://freedomforbirth.com>

The filmmakers are aiming for 1,000 screenings happening all across the world on Thursday 20th September, 2012. The countries with confirmed screenings include the UK, Germany, France, Denmark, Spain, Greece, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Belgium, Hungary, USA, Canada, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

The film has been selected for screening in the Cambridge Film Festival on 20th September. <http://www.cambridgefilmfestival.org.uk/>

Contact Information:

Toni Harman, Producer/Director, ***Freedom For Birth***
info@altofilms.com +44 (0) 1273 747837 Website: <http://freedomforbirth.com>
High resolution still images available on request.

Bianca Wooden, Mississippi Friends of Midwives
info@msfriendsofmidwives.org 228-233-0686
www.msfriendsofmidwives.org