



**DEMETER PRESS  
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS  
The Mother Mortality Project  
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Popular misconceptions surrounding mortality rates during childbirth have hidden the continued mistreatment and unconscious biases faced by many vulnerable women in North America. Despite modern medicine's ability to significantly decrease the risk of fatalities, early detection and prevention of complications is key to this. Yet studies are increasingly revealing that women, particularly those from underrepresented populations, experience biases from doctors that prevent treatment of complications. This ultimately can lead, at best, to traumatic and difficult labours and, at worst, to death of the mother and/or child. Women, tired of having their worries ignored or silence, are starting to come forward with their stories of labour trauma.

Historical, mythical, and fictional narratives have relegated mothers to the roles of monster or quiet idol. These narrow identity barriers are exacerbated when other labels - woman of colour, indigenous, trans, queer, low income, for example - are added. These multiple oppressions ultimately lead to biased, unethical, and incomplete medical treatment as women's understandings of their own bodies are dismissed. Medical feminism has sought to correct these shortcomings in the medical field, within both research and women's lived experiences.

Similarly, the Mother Mortality Project (working title) seeks to reshape and ultimately collapse these prejudices by providing space for women to tell their stories of childbirth and pregnancy. This project seeks to highlight the black mortality crisis and medical mistreatment of all women in North America. We affirm black lives matter because what happens to black bodies is representative of negative actions that seep into the larger populace to hurt all underrepresented women. We define underrepresented women as women of colour, indigenous women, trans women, LGBTQ+, obese women, young mothers, mothers with a history of 'geriatric' pregnancies, and working class or low income women. We're inviting women from all walks of life, identities, and experiences to share their experiences to show the need for change in the medical community.

**Please send story submissions to [mortalityproject@gmail.com](mailto:mortalityproject@gmail.com) by February 28, 2020. Stories longer than 10 pages will not be considered. We reserve the right to revise all accepted stories for clarity. However, we strive to maintain each woman's individual voice and style.**