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Challenges in Midwifery Care

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FOREWORD

This book emerged from the experiences of midwives as they met together at regional meetings of the Association of Radical Midwives. It is clear that in that supportive environment they thought, felt, listened, reflected and learned more about the practice of midwifery. The ideas were sometimes new, sometimes different, and often about unusual experiences.

In this text are ideas, rich sources of information, references and those 'tricks of the trade' that are often difficult or impossible to locate in standard textbooks.

For midwives who are passionate about their practice and intent on improving the childbirth experience for women, this book is a gem. It will be invaluable for midwives seeking advice and sometimes inspiration on giving care to special people in special circumstances. I commend this book to midwives everywhere.

Caroline Flint
London, 1996

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The editors would like to thank the sterling efforts made by the contributors in bringing the chapters in this book to publication. In addition, we would like to thank Kerry Lawrence for believing in the ideas, and Carrie Walker for her patience, guidance and perseverance.

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Karen Connolly RGN, RM, DPSM is a maternity ward team leader at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester. Her interest in supporting the parents of babies with a congenital abnormality, and her awareness of the crucial role of communication skills, were inspired by the birth of her daughter in 1987.

Jean Davies RN RM MSc is a Regional Officer with the Royal College of Midwives. She initiated the Newcastle Community Midwifery Care Project for which she received a *Nursing Times* 3M award and a Brenda Mee memorial prize. She worked as a midwife in an inner city for ten years, then as a research midwife for the Northern Region Home Birth study before joining the RCM.

Joanna Hindley BA, RM is a staff midwife at the Birmingham Women's Hospital and an independent midwife practising in the Birmingham area. Her interest in female genital mutilation stems from research she undertook for her first degree and her previous employment with the Quakers at the United Nations in Geneva where she promoted awareness of FGM as a human rights issue.

Sheila C. Hunt MSc Econ, MBA, RGN, RM, PGCE is Professor of Midwifery for the Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust and the Head of the School of Women's Health Studies at the University of Central England in Birmingham. She is the author, with Anthea Symonds, of *The Social Meaning of Midwifery* and *The Midwife and Society*.

Ishbel Kargar SRN, SCM came back to midwifery on her return to the UK in 1981 after living in Iran for 25 years. Joining the Association of Radical Midwives gave her much appreciated support at this time and she has been Administrative Secretary since 1983. Ishbel retired from clinical midwifery practice in 1992 and has spent two years as a *Nursing Times* Arena columnist.

Jennifer Kelsall MSc, RGN, RM, MTD is Core Midwife (Delivery Suite) at South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust. In 1992 Jennifer won a *Nursing Times* 3M Award for her Maternity Care for the Deaf project. She is an RCM Representative on the Maternity Alliance Disability Working Group.

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Pippa MacKeith RN, RM, BSc is a specialist midwife with a community team for homeless people, Nottingham Community Health (NHS) Trust. Pippa has over 17 years experience of practical midwifery, five of which were spent at 45 Cope Street, Nottingham running groups for young mothers.

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Catherine Siney SRN, RM is a specialist midwife (drug liaison) at Liverpool Women's Hospital. Catherine was involved in the setting up of maternity and gynaecology services and advice for women who were drug users, are alcoholics or who are HIV or hepatitis positive.

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*This book is dedicated to those special women and their families
from whom we have learned so much and who need from
midwives that extra special care in childbirth.*