Description

Making Midwifery Meaningful with Querèn-Hapuque Delquila

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Introduction

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At All4Maternity we want to see midwives around the world acknowledged, supported and celebrated by publishing practice-focused midwifery learning, sharing and caring resources and journals. Across our content, we derive meaning from supporting you, our valued readers and members. We recognise the vital contributions you make across midwifery practice, maternity and perinatal care services. You matter: each and every one of you.

This year, across our flagship publication The Practising Midwife journal we will by centring real midwives from around the world. Shining a light on them and learning about what makes their midwifery work meaningful. This month we centre Querèn-Hapuque Delquila, midwife from São Paulo, Brazil.

Midwifery practice is formed around connection – relationships between midwives and the people they serve, between art and science, between love and suffering, and between those who lead and those who follow in their footsteps. At the heart of midwifery is the practice of ‘being with’ all childbearing women, people, newborns and families. Yet our work reaches out across the whole of humanity. Read about my experience meeting Querèn and hear about her meaningful moments from across her career and the ways she managed to *‘practice with purpose*‘ everyday as a birth centre midwife in Brazil.

Midwife of the Moment



I landed in São Paulo, Brazil in a rush, stretched as I am, between tending to the needs of my family and the priorities of All4Maternity. My lack of preparation did nothing to stem the brilliant impact of the bustling heart of the sprawling city, energy of the birth activism and generosity of the people I encountered. One great highlight of the visit was connecting with midwife Querèn-Hapuque Delaquila who shared a slice of her life with me, working as a birth centre midwife at Casa Angela one of the only midwifery-led birth centres São Paulo, Brazil.

In May, the international month of the midwife, I honour Querèn as our The Practising Midwife Midwife of the Moment, her story, like many midwives', began in childhood, shaped by a deep instinctual desire to support the beginning of life.

"Ever since I was a child, I wanted to help babies be born. But with my limited knowledge at the time, I thought the only profession that did that was medicine. So, I wanted to become a doctor."

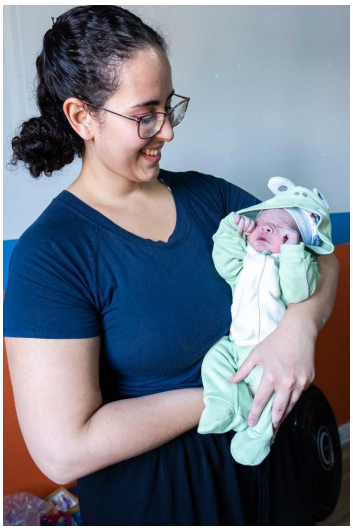
Instead, Querèn's path led her through nursing, where she discovered a love that demanded her **body and soul**. By 2014, she was accepted into the nursing programme at the prestigious Federal University of Rio de Janeiro—ranking second. Midwifery was already her purpose.

"I fell in love with the profession, gave myself to it body and soul, and discovered that what I had truly always wanted was to become a nurse."

In our May issue, *The Practising Midwife* explored the theme **Practice with Purpose**—a concept that radiates through Querèn's words, presence, and practice. Her journey has taken her from the pressure of public hospitals, where she fought for resources and against obstetric violence, to her current role at the revered **Casa Angela**—one of the only midwifery-led birth centres in Brazil.

"Casa Angela is a safe haven and gives me the strength to keep fighting for a better world."

In a country where obstetric violence remains a daily reality, Casa Angela offers not just sanctuary—but resistance. It is an **oasis** for midwives like Querèn who hold space for transformation. It is a place where **autonomy**, **dignity**, and **respect** are not just words but ways of working.



On this month's cover, we are proud to feature Querèn surrounded by the **symbols of her sacred practice**. Some are tangible:

- The **rebozo**, gently rocking a baby into position.
- The **bathtub**, where water cradles pain and possibility.
- The **measuring tape** and **stethoscope**, tools of science shaped by care.
- The scent of **lavender** in the air; a bottle of **herbal tea** steeping by her side.

Others are unseen, yet deeply felt:

- **Protection. Strength. Transformation. Empowerment. Roots.**

These immaterial forces flow through her as she steps into what she calls the *birth scene*—her sanctuary.

"I feel as if the birthing scene is a sanctuary, a place where I honor the Sacred."

Each birth Querèn attends is a ritual of **presence**, where she is both witness and guide. To her, **midwifery is not just a job—it is the mission God gave her on Earth.**

"Being able to touch a newly arrived life with my hands is a miracle, and when I stop to think that I'm living the greatest dream of my life, I get emotional."

This is **practice with purpose.**

This issue brings you stories that echo with the same truth: **when midwives are trusted, when care is centred on the human experience, when systems protect rather than control—birth is not only safe, it is sacred.**



From Brazil to the UK, from continuity models to birth centres, we share insights and evidence that challenge systems, restore dignity, and call us back to our collective purpose.

In honouring Querèn's voice, we honour all midwives who continue to fight for the world they believe in, even when it hurts. Who transform their wounds into wisdom. Who bring love, strength, and sacred intention into every room they enter.

"What I want is for women to be able to give birth with dignity and respect, no matter where they are. That they may have access to quality prenatal care and supported breastfeeding. That I may fulfill my mission wherever I go."

Queren-Hapuque Delaquila, we see you. We celebrate you. And through your story, we are all reminded of what it truly means to practise midwifery with purpose.

— *The Practising Midwife Team*

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Continued call for papers and content

Many midwives and childbearing women, people and their families face ongoing burdens and challenges. Global conflicts, crises and constraints threaten safe, quality midwifery and maternity care. This year we continue in our call for papers that share insights into these global concerns and ways we can respond. You can engage with the Global Conflict and Crises Series content across our journals and All4Maternity platforms. Look out for feature content with this symbol. Read more at All4Maternity.com.

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1. global midwifery

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