



Mothers with Anal Sphincter Injuries in Childbirth

*Supporting mothers, making the public aware, educating the profession*

Registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales no. 1169632

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The MASIC Foundation offers a ray of light and hope for injured women, when there is so much that seems negative about maternity care and generates anger from the interim report by Donna Ockenden into care at Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Maternity Services.

This report shows in stark reality why we need to listen to women and their families and ensure there is learning from poor care which informs clinical practice and provides appropriate models of care.

MASIC is the only UK charity to SUPPORT women who have been injured during childbirth which can leave women with life-long loss of control of their bowels as well as other physical and mental health problems.

We know from **women's stories** that this impacts on every part of their lives: the relationship with their baby, with their partner, family and friends and their emotional health with increased fears over having more children.

We can help by allowing those women who have suffered, to talk/communicate with others who have come to terms with their birth experience and are willing to provide peer to peer support, as well as "sign posting" women to other sources of help. We offer a LISTENING SERVICE.

Affected women, who are the voice of the MASIC charity, are unanimously behind a new approach to allow safer birthing which is being rolled out for careful assessment. The results have shown that there is a way forward to reduce injury known as [The OASI CARE BUNDLE](#), which has been constantly refined by women who have been injured. This bundle warns pregnant women that there are risks and in so doing allows them to make choices following the Montgomery ruling. The study showed that it is possible to significantly reduce injury and by better detection offer an immediate repair/successful treatment right away. If women continue to have problems, there is help.

So, there is light amongst the darkness of the Ockenden report.

Women's voices are finally being heard and are promoting the importance of maternal choice.

Jeremy Hunt's current enquiry into **maternal safety** needs to hear from women who have STORIES THAT NEED TO BE LISTENED TO, within the context of organisations like ours that also offers help. We have requested that their voices are heard.

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