

Not Such NICE Guidelines

There is no rehearsal
For the senseless dispersal
Of vulnerable women posing no threat
Whom the UKBA readily forget.

Shoved into Initial Accommodation
Women are –
Without consultation -
Moved in, fearing deportation.

Treated as an enemy
Regardless of what they've fled;
Made to feel like criminals.
Some say they'd rather be dead.

Dispersed to somewhere miles away,
Time and again, they are given no say.
Midwives try to monitor
These chaotic lives.

With no choice but to obey
The instructions of the UKBA,
Women are sent to unfamiliar places
Far away from familiar faces.

Never mind if they've made a friend,
Someone on whom they can depend –
No-one cares about social links.
Nobody cares. Nobody thinks.

Told to pack with a moment's notice,
Whisked away without a say
In where they go,
Far away from all they know.

Stress. Depress. Can life get worse?
UKBA is hell-bent to disperse.
Her experience of maternity
Will last for an eternity.

Ill-advised and traumatised –
Rape and sexual assault are not her fault.
Asylum-seeking women question their worth
And consider suicide is preferable to birth.

The fragmentation of information,
Sparse detail on her new location,
High-risk pregnancies will ensue -
UKBA don't care about you.

They're still permitted to use restraint
Against pregnant women who could readily faint.
There's no special treatment for a woman 'with child'.
Treatment by UKBA is not mild.

Tests repeated as results left behind,
'Lost in transit' or undermined.
There's nothing in place for the transfer of care.
Women can end up anywhere.

They readily slip through the cracks
As UKBA turn their backs.
Each woman's tale testifies
The trauma faced, which horrifies.

'When Maternity Doesn't Matter',
The newly published report,
Makes clear recommendations
On how to make life less fraught.

It tells the women's stories
Of how they were dispersed –
From interviews with the women,
None of it rehearsed.

Midwives were interviewed too,
Explaining their complex situation.
They're a miraculous group
Who should be recognised by the nation.

It's hoped 'When Maternity Doesn't Matter'
Will facilitate useful chatter
Amongst policy makers who decide to disperse
And end up making women's lives worse.

Compassion is rationed by UKBA,
Vulnerable women are given no say.
So please let's all read the recommendations
And help women in these tough situations.

May change be impending
As women are depending
On policy shifting
So they are not drifting

From place to place
With no recognised face.
Dignity in Pregnancy
Is key.

sublime
Rhyme

Poetry for any purpose

Commissions ~ Workshops ~ Performance

Helen BB

www.SublimeRhyme.co.uk

Helen@SublimeRhyme.co.uk



Follow @SublimeRhyme



Find us on
Facebook