



## Ancient Song Doula Services Launches #ListenToMeNow Campaign to Tell the Truth About Black Maternal Health

**New York, NY** - On April 21, 2020, Amber Rose Isaac died of pregnancy complications after expressing concerns that she had been mistreated and neglected by care providers. Her story is the first that has bubbled to the surface amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, but we know she is not alone. Black birthing parents continue to suffer disrespect, mistreatment, and neglect at the hands of health care providers, and because of COVID-19 they are now doing so all alone.

Efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in changes in how maternity care is offered, restricting who can attend prenatal appointments and births, and limiting birthing parents' contact with newborns if they are suspected of or have a confirmed coronavirus diagnosis. And still, Black maternal death precipitated by racism, discrimination, and differential treatment continues. Within this context, Ancient Song Doula Services is launching a campaign designed to tell the truth about what is happening in the healthcare system by collecting and amplifying the stories of patients, providers, and community: **#ListenToMeNow**.

"This campaign matters to me because I'm a mother of six children and I want to lay a foundation where they don't have to address the same concerns that we are facing right now. I want them to have equitable access to care, for them to be seen and heard, and know that someone genuinely cares about their wellbeing," **Chanel Porchia-Albert, founder and executive director of Ancient Song Doula Services**, says. "I'm tired of piece-meal changes. I want to see something that addresses the intersections of those who are providing services and those who are receiving them, understanding that our healthcare system has failed to meet needs of Black and Brown people since its inception. It takes a united front to collectively work together for that change to happen. Otherwise, we continue to work in bits and pieces."

The **#ListenToMeNow** campaign is designed to, first and foremost, provide a safe place for parents, providers, and family members to tell their stories, share their experiences, and amplify community voices. The campaign also offers solidarity and a sense of hope to those with lived experiences. Narratives submitted through the campaign survey will be publicly amplified so that the voices of those operating in and affected by maternity care systems are heard. Their narratives will also help inform thoughtful and courageous systems-level change during and beyond the pandemic.

Learn more about the campaign at [ListenToMeNow.online](https://www.listen tome now.online). Staff at Ancient Song Doula Services are available for comment.

### About Ancient Song Doula Services

Ancient Song Doula Services is an international doula certifying organization founded in 2008 in Brooklyn, New York. Our mission is to offer all pregnant and parenting individuals quality doula care regardless of their socioeconomic standing. We are committed to training a workforce of full-spectrum doulas to address health inequities, such as maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, within the communities they serve. We also provide resources for young mothers to make healthy choices in their lives and engage in local and national advocacy to address implicit bias and racism within healthcare systems. Learn more about their work at [ancientsongdoulaservices.com](https://www.ancientsongdoulaservices.com).