

**U.S. POSTER 1**

"THE MOST UNPROTECTED AND VULNERABLE PERSON IN  
AMERICA IS A SOUTHERN PREGNANT BLACK WOMAN."

# AIN'T I A WOMAN

A FILM BY CAMILLE WOMACK



**DECEMBER 2023**

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# SYNOPSIS

*Ain't I a Woman?* unveils the reality of being a pregnant black woman in the South by focusing in on Alabama, as three hospitals have closed their labor and delivery wards, leaving urban and rural areas that are heavily populated with the black community, which houses pregnant black women. These hospital closings will impact these women's commutes to their appointments, extending some of them to over an hour for their appointments. This can cause women to opt out of the traditional path of giving birth and explore the options they have, such as getting a Douala or midwife to aid them with a home birth. Through the commentary of medical personnel and a midwife, the harsh reality of how these actions will and are affecting black women is unveiled.



## LOGLINE

The most unprotected and vulnerable person in America is a Southern pregnant black woman.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Camille Womack is a graduate student at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, AL, studying her way to becoming a documentary filmmaking professor. She focuses her projects on giving a platform to underrepresented groups and issues that are affecting them within society. *Ain't I a Woman* (2023) will be her fifth documentary. Her first documentary, *Black Women Speak* (2021), was featured as a selection in the Hilltop Film Festival of Diversity and Inclusion (2021). She has also received the accolades of the American Advertising Federation, District 7 Student of the Year, and Mosaic Scholarship Recipient (2021). She is projected to publish a documentary in collaboration with The Center for Public Television in early 2024 surrounding the topic of health disparities in rural areas.



# STILL IMAGES

These archival midwife images featured in the film serve as the inspiration for this project. Included are a couple of screengrabs from the documentary interviews.



## THE MIRACLE OF LIFE



Images Credit:

Collection of the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture, 1987 Robert Galbraith

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## JAMILAH CHANNEL

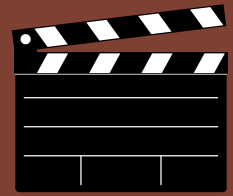
Doula/Midwife, Family  
Navigator with AL Life  
Research Institute

## DR. AUDRA WILLIAMS

UAB, OB/GYN - Research  
Area: Health Disparities  
among Black Women



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey were enslaved black women from Montgomery that were bought by Dr. J. Marion Sims, who performed experiments on these three women to learn more about the female reproductive system and anatomy without any anesthesia or pain medication. The pain that they had to endure wasn't acknowledged, as it was a belief that black women couldn't feel pain. This misinformation has spread through the medical field, which is the cause of the treatment black women still face today, especially in childbirth. As hospitals across Alabama are closing in areas that are heavily populated by black women, some of whom are pregnant, society continues to show that black women's holistic wellbeing isn't a priority regardless of education or socioeconomic status. To combat that attitude, this project was pursued in hopes of bringing awareness to the reality of pregnant black women in the South and how their history in the medical field can be rectified. Black women feel pain; they deserve to safely bring life into the world, especially when they have historically fought to protect the lives of those whose rights were being oppressed and nurse the offspring of their captors.

## CREDITS

### DIRECTOR

Camille Womack

### PRODUCER

Camille Womack

### CINEMATOGRAPHER

Camille Womack

### EDITOR

Camille Womack

