As we embark on this journey to transform healthcare as a community of women's health nurse practitioners and other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) caring for the women's health and gender-related population, it is crucial that we listen, validate, and act in the best interest of the patients we serve. In recent social media communications, we learned of the experience of a person from the brown and black birthing community in Philadelphia. It is essential to shedding light on the significance of this occurrence. This is one of many untold stories that deserve our attention and commitment to change the narrative of the experiences and health outcomes of black and brown birthing people. Through awareness, education, advocacy, and action, we as a community can shift the atmosphere so that all birthing people, regardless of their race and ethnicity, are treated with dignity and respect and receive optimal care.

**Awareness**
We must understand and act on the importance of being self-aware of our own biases and make a continuous effort to mitigate them. Awareness is one of the first steps to addressing inequities in the health of the patients we care for.

**Education**
We must continuously engage in professional development to ensure we understand how to engage and care for a diverse population of people respectfully.

**Advocacy**
We must advocate for black and brown birthing people to ensure they experience the best in healthcare, expanding from the community to system levels.
Action
We must take action to address healthcare inequities, including racism and bias. We each play an essential role in contributing to the changes needed to ensure equity in healthcare experiences and outcomes.

NPWH actively engages in addressing inequities in healthcare. We have written and published the following two Position Statements: Structural Racism and Implicit Bias in Women’s Healthcare and Eliminating Preventable Maternal Deaths to advocate for critical issues impacting patient populations served by our members. We ensure membership has access to continuing education on disparities and inequities. Most recently, our annual conference provided two sessions (Points of Pivot: Disparities in Gynecologic Cancers and Where We Go from Here presented by Nalo Hamilton, PhD, MSN, WHNP/ANP-BC and A Public Health Issue: Health Inequities of Uterine Fibroids in Diverse Populations of Women presented by me) that focused specifically on the care of black and brown individuals from the women's health and gender-related populations. These are two of many more educational offerings that will occur in the near future to ensure we are contributing to changing the narrative around the experiences of diverse populations of people we serve. We will offer these online sessions complimentary in the coming months to allow all our members to obtain this vital education.

As your Chair, I encourage you to listen a little closer to the patients you engage with regularly using a lens of equity. I ask you to validate what your patients are experiencing using a lens of equity. Finally, I challenge you to act on providing the best experience and care using a lens of equity. We have the power to change the narrative of what patients from diverse communities experience in healthcare. Listening, validating, and acting could be the difference between life and death for the patients we serve. Let us each actively play a crucial role in transforming inequities in healthcare to contribute to positive experiences and health outcomes.

Respectfully,

Shawana S. Moore, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC
Chair, Board of Director
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH)
www.npwh.org