

CALL TO ACTION ON BREASTFEEDING AND INFANT & YOUNG CHILD FEEDING

4TH NOVEMBER 2015
PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA



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BIB and participants coming from diverse groups including civil society organizations, health professionals, academicians, breastfeeding organizations, peoples organizations and movements, international agencies, and individuals have come together during the “11th One Asia Breastfeeding Partners Forum followed by the 2nd. Asia Pacific Conference : Global Mother Support Initiative” workshop to discuss three thematic issues under the bigger theme of “*Maternity Protection for all Women at Work*”. Objectives of the workshop were follows :

1. Mother support from every aspect of society - To implement a major programme for mother support and childcare facilities for infants and young children which support and facilitate early and continue breastfeeding. Including the application of the policy of maternity entitlements with the ILO Maternity Protection Convention 2000 (C191). These should include paid maternity leave, a 2 half hour breastfeeding breaks, flexible work arrangements, childcare at the workplace, facilities for expressing and storing breastmilk.

2. Mothers’ right to supportive birthing practices and maternity care – issues surrounding a mother’s experience of pregnancy and birthing may greatly enhance or totally destroy her breastfeeding effort. Are we meeting a mother’s need for information, support and freedom of choice of this crucial arrival time.

3. Moving the Code : Malaysian Breastfeeding Charter – reviewing the Code of Ethics for Marketing of Infant Food and Related Products. Particularly in relation to the massive promotion of formulas for older babies. To upgrade the Code into a Legal Act with adequate monitoring and enforcement including clear violating reporting systems, accessible to the public.

We take note of the gaps as well as achievements but also concerned and recognize that protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding and optimal infant and young child feeding is a human rights issue and should be entrenched in the public policy and programmes as a necessary condition needing resources.

We call upon Government of Malaysia to take the following actions:

1. On Maternity Protection

I. With reference to maternity and paternity leave

That the maternity leave should be for a minimum of six (6) months (180 days).

That adequate medical leave should be given in cases of miscarriages. That adequate finances be made available for mothers on maternity leave of which part of it may be paid by social insurance scheme. That paternity leave be extended to two (2) weeks.

II. With reference to breastfeeding:

- a. Breastfeeding working women should be entitled to daily break(s) to breastfeed a child in the workplace or childcare center which should be counted as paid working hours.
- b. The frequency and length of these breaks must be adapted according to the needs of the child / maintain milk production.
- c. Employers should provide a hygienic place for breastfeeding and expression of milk at the workplace.

III. With reference to breastfeeding at workplace, employers are encouraged to:

- a. Provide childcare facilities for employees within easy access to working area
- b. Employ certified child caregiver
Fulfill every woman's entitlement to subsidy to use childcare facilities
- c. Elicit professional help from NGO/government body in terms of training and structure of this child center in accordance to existing National Act or the revised regulations according to the current needs

IV. With reference to anti-discrimination

That maternity leave should not be dependent on the number of births and that no woman should be dismissed during her pregnancy, whilst on maternity leave or after she comes back to work unless it is for a reason unrelated to maternity.

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2. On Gentle Birthing

I. The mother and her companion should be educated in all aspects of labor as has been practiced in Malaysia via the push-push programs implemented since 2001

II. That all hospitals government or public and all birthing centers to follow the The First Consensus Initiative of the Coalition for Improving Maternity Services , July 1996 in support of statement 5 above by:

a. Providing mother-friendly services and facilities

b. Allowing light food and drinks in the labor room

c. Allowing mother to free mobility during labor

d. Minimizing medical intervention

e. Flexibility in the usage of non-medicated pain relief

f. Providing continuous breastfeeding education to healthcare staff and mother

3. On voluntary Code vs Law

I. To follow civil society groups from the IBFAN Asia region who advise, as a long-term solution for Malaysia, the adoption of a binding law to regulate the marketing of foods for infants and young children;

II. This law must include specific provisions to regulate marketing of milks for infants and young children (growing up milks or toddler milks).

III. To recognize that WHA58.32 urges “to ensure that financial support and other incentives for programmes and health professionals working in infant and young child health do not create conflicts of interest”.

IV. That such legislation protects health workers’, parents’ and carers’ rights to truly independent information and support, without commercial pressures.

V. To regulate industry sponsorship in order to protect the independence of professional bodies and their members.

All participants commit themselves to the Call to Action on Breastfeeding and Infant & Young Child Feeding:

Participants:

NO	NAME	ORGANISATION
1	Asvini A/P Vasthavan	Ministry of Health
2	Noor Afizah Ibrahim	Ministry of Health
3	Shareena Delaila Bt Mohd Samin	Ministry of Health
4	Wan Siti Zulaicha Binti Shahrudin	Ministry of Health
5	Nurulzaiza Zainuddin	Ministry of Health
6	Azimah Binti Rabu	Ministry of Health
7	Norhaizan Bt Mustapha	Ministry of Health
8	Mah Su Feng	Ministry of Health
9	Zulkifli Bin Jamil	Ministry of Health
10	Shirly Chai Sook Yi	Ministry of Health

11	Eng Zei Pei	Ministry of Health
12	Mohamad Soffian Bin Mohamad Rasid	Ministry of Health
13	Salihah Brahim	Ministry of Health
14	Nasrifah Bt Sukarni	Ministry of Health
15	Azlinda Binti Hamid	Ministry of Health
16	Aiman Dalila Binti Mahmood	Ministry of Health
17	Tan Shu Wen	Ministry of Health
18	Norhanisah Binti Abu Shamsi	Ministry of Health
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20	Nasrifah Bt Sukarni	Malaysian Trades Union Congress
21	Vinodhini Cha Chu	Ministry of Health
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23	Rita Rahayu	Mother support
24	Dr Nadrah Ariffin	Mother support
25	Fitri Nurdiana	Petaling District Health Centre
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27	Mac Donna Matheus	Sandakan Community Health Clinic
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29	Satnam Kaur	WABA Malaysia
30	Dr Zaharah Sulaiman	WABA Malaysia
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33	Leny Zuriati binti Ramly	Perwanis
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