

By Invitation Only

ANNOUNCEMENT

State of the Art of Mother Support Summit The Breastfeeding Mother – *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*

July 18 and 19, 2007 at the Hilton Chicago, Chicago Illinois USA

Organised by World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) and La Leche League International (LLLI)

Support Mothers Worldwide! All sectors of society, be it public, private or legislative, need to play a role in strengthening the foundation upon which breastfeeding cultures are built globally. There is a clear need to validate, value, and recognize the role of mothers as providers of knowledge and agents of change, rather than merely as passive recipients.

Given this underlying premise, WABA and LLLI are organising The Mother Support Summit with the following objectives:

- To strengthen the global development of and networking among groups and organisations as we work towards the improvement of Mother Support worldwide
- To give Mother Support the recognition it deserves by showcasing successful Mother Support initiatives and also to highlight valuable lessons learned
- To increase the visibility and value of Mother Support and call for greater commitment of increased resources towards its activities worldwide
- To reinvigorate the Global Initiative for Mother Support (GIMS) by mobilizing the international community towards a single action of solidarity

Support for breastfeeding is a necessary element for any woman, irrespective of her circumstance, to succeed in her breastfeeding experience. Whether she is living in normal conditions or faced with a challenging environment - including emergencies and/or gender unequal situations- this support is necessary and vital for every mother to adequately care for and nurture her children.

Programme Development – E-dialogue

As part of the process in developing the programme for the Summit, there will be an e-dialogue from 1 May – 30 June 2007. The e-dialogue will be facilitated by Paulina Smith, Coordinator of WABA's Mother Support Task Force. All those who are interested are welcome to participate in this dialogue, irrespective of participation at the Summit in July 2007 in Chicago, USA. To be included in the e-dialogue, please write to Paulina Smith smithpc@att.net.mx.

Summit Registration

If you are interested in participating, or if your organization is interested in sending a representative to this event, please email your name/s and contact information **by 27 April 2007** to: WABA, waba@streamyx.com to request an invitation. There will be a registration fee of

USD\$50.00 to cover lunch and refreshments for the two days. WABA and LLLI reserve the right to finalize the list of invitees for attending the Summit.

The Mother Support Summit will be held prior to the LLLI Conference at the same venue. We recommend that you review the LLLI Conference Program at www.llli.org and consider registering for this unique and informative conference.

If you have any questions on the Summit, please write to Julianna Lim Abdullah, Coordinator, WABA Mother Support Programme at waba@streamyx.com