

# WABA supports International Women's Day

## March 8, 2005

World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) sends its greetings in solidarity and celebration of International Women's Day. As breastfeeding advocates, we recognise that women can only meet the needs of their infants and children when they themselves enjoy gender equity.

We share with you a desire to:

- end gender inequality;
- challenge corporate power, including the unethical marketing of commercial infant foods and pharmaceuticals;
- strengthen maternity protection legislation in the formal and informal sectors;
- recognise the important economic contribution women make to the nation through breastfeeding; and
- increase women's access to health care and adequate nutrition.

WABA recognises the challenges faced by HIV positive women, marginalised women, survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and women in other emergency situations such as the recent tsunami. Our programmes to promote, support and protect breastfeeding are particularly concerned with addressing the needs of these women and their children.

Women should not have to choose between fulfilling their own needs and the needs of their children. Children's right to survival, growth and development is the joint responsibility with the father, the community and the state; and the mother should be supported in her special role. On this important day, WABA therefore reaffirms its support for the Beijing Platform of Action and pledges its continuing effort to meet the goals of gender equality.



The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide based on the Innocenti Declaration, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. Its core partners are International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), La Leche League International (LLL), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), Wellstart International, Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) and LINKAGES.

**WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).**