

8 MARCH 2023

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



WABA MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

WORKING WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT FOR BREASTFEEDING!

Breastfeeding is a human right. It is not only beneficial for the survival, health and wellbeing of the child but also for the mother. Women need adequate support from health systems, workplaces and their communities to breastfeed. As women form a large part of the workforce, sufficient paid maternity/parental leave to care for and breastfeed their children will also benefit the society as a whole.



All but one of the [185 countries](#) worldwide have adopted statutory provisions for maternity leave in their legislation. [ILO](#) standards mandate a minimum maternity leave period of 14 weeks and recommend increasing it to at least 18 weeks to ensure adequate rest and recovery time. To date only [43 countries](#) have ratified Maternity Protection Convention No. 183 and [national legislation and support](#) varies greatly. This leaves many women without the maternity protection they need.



This International Women's Day, the [World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action](#) calls upon governments, employers, [trade unions](#) and [civil society organisations](#) to demand for optimal paid maternity/parental leave and workplace support. Let's together improve conditions for working women to breastfeed.



World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organisations dedicated to the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide based on the Innocenti Declarations, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. 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). WABA coordinates the annual World Breastfeeding Week campaign.

www.waba.org.my