

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Geraldine Cahill
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Cork
Ireland

12th February, 2015

Dear WABA

I would like to apply for a role on the WABA steering committee. I have been interested in this position since I attended part of the meetings last year when I was the Fellow for ILCA/WABA 2014. Being part of an organization that looks to ensure that breastfeeding becomes the norm in society and that mothers and babies are protected would be an honour.

I feel I would be a suitable candidate to sit on the WABA steering committee as I have experience of being in a governance and oversight role within Cuidiú (www.cuidiu.ie). I was President of the National Council from 2010 to 2014 and Chairperson from 1998 to 2001 and helped to steer it during a time of change and growth. Being both gave me insights into the working of a large organization with many volunteers and several governance panels. Working with this organisation provided me with the opportunity to network, provide leadership and to also capacity build in areas of Ireland with particularly low rates of breastfeeding.

I have a broad range of knowledge around breastfeeding and the issues involved, particularly in the area of Mother to Mother support and education through my work as a Private Practice Lactation Consultant, my tutoring role within Cuidiú and my role as representative on National committees for Breastfeeding Strategy in Ireland. I am also a member the ILCA Education committee and the Membership committee giving me insight into issues related to breastfeeding and those working in the field internationally.

Because of my work with ILCA, I have contacts in many parts of the world. Being a WABA fellow has enhanced this and I now have contacts in many more places than I did before I was awarded the fellowship. I was one of the European representatives at the Inaugural ILCA Summit on Equity last year in Phoenix and I networked with many people at that Summit, and during the ILCA conference, from various geographical regions.

I am also a strong networker on social media both internationally and nationally and I communicate regularly on issues that affect people trying to change the culture that exist around infant feeding issues in the world.

I have strong communication skills and can communicate effectively with people on many levels, from Mums on the ground to government agencies.

I am Self Employed as a Private practice Lactation Consultant and as a Tutor, and this allows me flexibility in my working life which would enable me to be able to attend meetings.

Being a part of WABA and helping to steer it into the future would be a privilege and I have a lot of knowledge and capability to offer. I am not an academic but I have a lot of practical, organizational skills that I can bring to the table and I hope that you will consider this application.

Yours faithfully

Geraldine Cahill