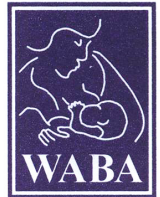


8th March 2014

Breastfeeding- Natural, Healthy and Just



**World Alliance for
Breastfeeding Action**

PO Box 1200
10850 Penang, Malaysia
Tel: (604) 658 4816
Fax: (604) 657 2655
Email: waba@waba.org.my
www.waba.org.my

The theme of International Women's Day 2014 is "Equality for women is progress for all". It is a timely reminder of the links between equality and progress.

Women's inequality is most sharply felt when a woman in work becomes a mother.

Society is organized in a way that increasingly values paid work over working for love, care, families and communities.

Breastfeeding is a natural, healthy and just way that puts the mother and infant at the centre of our common space that needs to be protected, promoted and supported.

WABA calls upon individuals and communities to recognise the value of breastfeeding. We encourage governments, employers and health care organisations:

- to establish work structures and policies that enable breastfeeding mothers to have adequate maternity leave and breastfeeding breaks as per [ILO Convention 2000 \(C183\)](#)
- to enable mothers to be near or with their infants while at work
- to prevent discrimination against women who have to make choices to become mother and /or to breastfeed and
- by educating the general public on the importance of parenting by both mothers and fathers and also the value of women's paid labour to the overall economy.

Such practices will not only support breastfeeding mothers, but will also support all mothers and fathers who want to provide nurture, care, and resources to their families.

Equality for breastfeeding mothers would contribute towards progress for all of humanity and make a healthier, just and sustainable future.

*This Statement is prepared by **Paige Hall Smith**, Co-Coordinator of the Gender Working Group and reviewed by **Juliana Lim**, **Naweed Harooi**, **Dato Anwar Fazal** & **Jay Sharma** from WABA secretariat.*