

has the right to decide how best to feed her infant, and if she decides to breastfeed, then ‘the whole village’ – in our case, the global village—needs to support her in raising and nourishing her child.

Some of the key global outreach efforts worthy of mention have been at:

- The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 1994;
- The Beijing 4th World Conference, and its regional preparatory meeting in the Philippines in 1993;
- Several sessions of the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York and their regional preparatory meetings;
- The International Women’s Health Meeting (IWHM), Dominican Republic, October 2005; and the 11th IWHM in Belgium, September 2011.
- Association for Women in Development (AWID) conferences in 2005 and 2008.
- Women Deliver Conferences (2010, 2013 and 2016), and
- Many more specific or small national or local women’s events, including in North Carolina via the Breastfeeding and Feminism conferences of CGBI.

It is not possible here to describe all the varied advocacy efforts within the many women’s advocacy events, yet a few are highlighted to remember and recognise WABA’s creativity, uniqueness, courage and success in making a presence, and bringing its messages across.

*Beijing Platform for Women, 1995* – WABA’s presence in this event was the earliest and one of the most memorable as several joint activities were organised with IBFAN, LLLI, Wellstart, ILCA, the Institute of Reproductive Health, ARUGAAN (community support group in the Philippines), GIFA and the Women and Work Task Force all under the WABA umbrella. At a time when the internet and social media were not prominent, WABA produced numerous publicity materials targeting over 70 international and national women’s groups and the media. The Women, Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO) was among the most supportive women’s networks and publicised WABA’s WBW 1995 theme on Empowering Women in their 180 Days/180 Ways Campaign! At the national level, WABA advocates lobbied their national delegates attending the World Conference. Even at these early years, WABA’s creativity shone through especially when the Brazilian Mime Theatre was brought to Beijing. It was the most colourful and dynamic artistic presentation that transcended the language barrier, and attracted many participants to the joint breastfeeding workshops.

