

Influencing the *Guidelines on Gender Sensitive Disaster Management* prepared by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) group – WABA enhanced links with APWLD when it highlighted the lack of coherency of breastfeeding and IYCF in emergencies in the latter's *Guidelines on Gender Sensitive Disaster Management*. APWLD accepted the offer by WABA and partnered with us to review and integrate relevant changes in the document. This effort also resulted in the work of two other partners, the IFE and the International Code Documentation Centre (ICDC-IBFAN), to be included as key references in the document. This was the second significant connection with APWLD; the first being in the early 1990s when WABA started promoting Article 24 on the "right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health..." of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which was adopted in 1989.

Breastfeeding as a Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Issue

2011 presented a new opportunity for the breastfeeding movement to present breastfeeding as a sexual and reproductive health and rights issue to the UN agencies, particularly via the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) mechanism. That year was the first time the CESCR Committee would review breastfeeding as a reproductive right, a considerable achievement at the level of international human rights. No other international instrument had "categorised" breastfeeding as women's reproductive right as yet, hence this was a ground-breaking venture. WABA and IBFAN-Gifa produced a joint paper on "Breastfeeding as a Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights issue" for the CESCR process, situating breastfeeding clearly as a woman's reproductive

right, and describing how this right can be supported. This was important as it would be the first time that breastfeeding would be globally and legally recognised as a woman's reproductive right, if accepted in the Convention. (See: <http://waba.org.my/pdf/cescr-paper.pdf>)

Jill Sheffield who founded Women Deliver in 2007.



The Women Deliver Conferences – 2010, 2013 and 2016

These Conferences have been another series of very significant advocacy platforms for WABA, as they are some of the largest global gatherings of policymakers, advocates and researchers focused exclusively on women's health and empowerment to date. The Women Deliver (WD) Conferences have been a challenge as they have largely ignored breastfeeding and the continuum of care