

Kit “Understanding International Policy on HIV and Breastfeeding: a comprehensive resource, (See www.hivbreastfeeding.org). Being such a controversial topic, it may have been unrealistic to expect the path to be smooth. I resigned in 2009, rejoined the team in 2011, and the Kit was finally published in 2012.

In 2009 I was able to use the background to the HIV Kit to make representations to the British House of Lords who in turn briefed the government. My review went forward to inform the deliberations of the British HIV Association and the Children’s HIV Association as they worked on a 2010 revised HIV and infant feeding policy, designed to serve HIV-positive mothers in the United Kingdom, three-quarters of whom came from sub-Saharan Africa. Thus the United Kingdom became the first industrialised country to issue a revised policy which also includes support for breastfeeding, with the pre-conditions that an HIV-positive mother is fully adherent to her prescribed antiretroviral therapy, has an undetectable viral load and exclusively breastfeeds for the first six months of her babies’ life – all criteria also recommended by the World Health Organization. In 2013 the American Academy of Paediatrics issued a very similar policy.

Without WABA’s support of this work, it is unlikely that we would have been able to protect, promote and support breastfeeding in the context of HIV in the way that we have. It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated and inspirational group of people.

– Pamela Morrison, former WABA HIV and Breastfeeding Task Force Coordinator

WABA Global Forum II (2002)

The WABA Global Forum II (also known as Forum II) with the theme: “Nurturing the Future, Challenges to Breastfeeding in the 21st Century” was held immediately after the WABA-UNICEF Colloquium on HIV and Infant Feeding in Arusha, Tanzania, six years after the first WABA Global Forum. Forum II provided yet another opportunity for rallying worldwide participation in the movement to protect, promote and support breastfeeding, maternal and child health. Over 300 participants from 70 countries participated in Forum II. The five-day programme covered 18 major themes and ran over 60 workshops which enabled participants to share their experiences, discuss, debate, clarify a range of issues on IYCF and formulate strategies for future action.

