



International Baby Food Action Network - IBFAN
Red internacional de grupos pro alimentación infantil
Réseau international des groupes d'action pour
l'alimentation infantile

Geneva Infant Feeding Association - GIFA

1998 Recipient of the Right Livelihood Award



IBFAN-GIFA Recommendations to CEDAW regarding Maternal Health and Work-related issues,

Ukraine

Session 45, January 2010

Members of the CEDAW Committee

Geneva, 11 January 2010

Dear Members of the CEDAW Committee,

For the very first time we would like to send your Committee a very brief report concerning information related to CEDAW articles 11 and 12 in **Ukraine**.

1) Data (from UNICEF Breastfeeding indicators, State of the World Children, 2008)

Exclusive breastfeeding:	Before 6 months:	22% (2000)
Artificial feeding:	0 month:	14.7%
Timely complementary feeding:	6-9 months:	no data
Continued breastfeeding rate	20-23 months:	no data

The exclusive breastfeeding rate is very low and the artificial intake high, indicating a clear need to improve information and advocacy to parents, including in the form of legislation (there is no marketing code in Ukraine). They seem to indicate the lack of access of parents - mothers in particular - to information concerning optimal infant and young child feeding and the risks of not breastfeeding, including for their own health and child spacing. Protection in the form of legislation, as well as support to mothers, is also lacking.

2) Data on Maternal mortality rate (from UNICEF Breastfeeding indicators, State of the World Children, 2008)

2003-2008 reported	24
Adjusted	18
Lifetime risk of maternal death: 1 in:	5200

Reviewed by the CRC for the 2nd time in October 2002, session 31, the Committee was concerned with child morbidity, **high maternal mortality rates**, and the **high incidence of nutrition problems**. It was also particularly concerned about the large number of **abortions**, which is the main cause of maternal mortality.

3) Maternity Protection at work (Source: IBFAN-GIFA report, sent to CRC in Sept 2001, session 31)

The Maternity Protection Legislation allows 70 days leave before confinement and 56 days after with cash benefits amounting to 100% of salary. All mothers receive approximately 8.-US\$ per month for a period of 3 years; she is ensured job security for 6 years. To be noted that due to the opening of the market economy, the informal sector is expanding.

4) **IBFAN-GIFA's recommendations:**

- **Implement policies and regulations on breastfeeding promotion, protection and support – including a marketing code of breast-milk substitutes**
- **Improve reproductive health information, care and medication, including in relation to abortion**
- **Improve maternity protection for women working in all sectors of the economy, including the informal economy. Legislation should integrate the basic elements developed in ILO C183, 2000 as a minimum standard (14 weeks maternity leave, cash benefits at least at 66% of salary, health care benefits; non discrimination due to reproduction and job protection; health protection at the workplace during pregnancy and lactation, breastfeeding breaks upon return to work).**

We thank you for your assistance and understanding, and hope that it will be possible to bring up these issues during the country review.

Yours sincerely,

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