

Who we are?

IBFAN is a 35-year-old coalition of more than 273 not-for-profit NGOs in more than 168 countries.

We work towards a just and healthy society free of commercial pressures, where every child enjoys the highest attainable standard of health, where breastfeeding is the norm for feeding infants and young children and where women and families are empowered to optimally care for their children.

We fight for the implementation, enforcement and monitoring of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent WHA resolutions.

We are also committed to advance a better maternity protection and we support the implementation of the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI).

What does the Convention on the Rights of the Child say about it

Article 24 CRC recognizes the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and urges States Parties to pursue full implementation of this right by taking appropriate measures to:

- diminish infant and child mortality
- combat disease and malnutrition through, inter alia, the provision of adequate nutritious food
- ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers
- ensure that all segments information, access to education and are support in the use of basic knowledge of, inter alia, child health and nutrition and the advantages of breastfeeding

Referring to the “Protect, Promote and Support” framework (Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding, 2002), the **CRC General Comment 15** on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (article 24) urges States parties to:

- protect and promote exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months of age
- protect and promote continued breastfeeding until 2 years of age
- introduce into national law, implement and enforce, inter alia, the International Code on Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes
- promote community and workplace support to mothers in relation to pregnancy and lactation, and feasible and affordable child-care services
- comply with the ILO Convention No 183 (2000) on maternity protection

CRC Committee’s Concluding Observations

During its latest review in 2013, the CRC Committee issued direct recommendations to Slovenia regarding breastfeeding (para 56-57):

56. The Committee welcomes the information of the existence of thirteen baby-friendly hospitals in the State party. However, it regrets the lack of data on breastfeeding rates, and expresses its concern at the under-regulated marketing of food for infants, young children and adolescents.

*57. The Committee encourages the State party to **ESTABLISH BABY FRIENDLY PRACTICES IN ALL MATERNITY CARE INSTITUTIONS**. The Committee urges the State party to **COLLECT DATA ON BREASTFEEDING AND INFANT NUTRITION** and to **STRENGTHEN THE MONITORING OF EXISTING MARKETING REGULATIONS** related to infant food formula and regulations relating to the marketing of breast-milk substitutes, including bottles and teats, and ensure that such regulations are **MONITORED ON A REGULAR BASIS** and **ACTION IS TAKEN** against those who violate the code. Finally the State party is requested to **ENSURE THAT NO PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FROM MILK FOOD COMPANIES IS ALLOWED IN ANY MATERNITY CARE INSTITUTIONS**.*

In addition, the Committee also urged the country to pursue its efforts to **COMBAT CHILDHOOD OBESITY** and intensify measures in **RAISING AWARENESS ON HEALTHY NUTRITION** among parents, children and the public in general and **PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING HABITS** particularly among young children and adolescents (para 53).

Current national implementation of CRC's Concluding Observations

➤ **CO1: Establishment of Baby Friendly practices in all Maternity Care Institutions**

In 2002, according to UNICEF, there were only 5 “baby-friendly” certified hospitals in Slovenia.

➤ **CO2: Systematic collection of data on breastfeeding and infant nutrition**

In 2012, there was no systematic collection of data on breastfeeding practices.

➤ **CO3: Regular monitoring of existing marketing regulations related to infant food formula and regulations relating to the marketing of breast-milk substitutes, including bottles and teats**

Currently, the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and its subsequent WHA resolutions have still not been fully implemented into national legislation. Indeed, the government has adopted the EU Directive 2006/141/EC, which does not cover all International Code provisions. Furthermore, there is no monitoring of Code violations.

➤ **CO4: Action taken against those who violate the International Code**

As violations of the International Code are not monitored, no action has been taken yet against those who violate the Code and thus, undermine optimal breastfeeding practices by misleading messages on formula feeding.

➤ **CO5: Ban of promotional material from milk food companies in all Maternity Care Institutions**

No information is available about the ban of promotional material in maternity wards.

➤ **CO6: Promotion of healthy eating habits, in particular among parents and young children**

No information is available about breastfeeding promotion programmes and initiatives.

Other important elements related to breastfeeding

With regard to the 2007 Operational Guidance on Infant and Young Feeding in Emergencies, there are other key policies and initiatives that have to be implemented in order to “Protect, Promote and Support” breastfeeding:

- **Training of health professionals:** No information is available about the training on breastfeeding provided to health professionals as well as about the quality of the support and counselling provided to parents by health workers good.
- **Breastfeeding in emergencies:** No information is available about emergency preparedness to ensure integrated response to protect and support breastfeeding in case of emergencies.

Our recommendations to the Universal Periodic Review

Slovenia should be urged to:

1. Ensure that all maternity care institutions are following “baby-friendly” practices and banning promotional material from the baby food industry. Allocate resources for the progressive implementation of the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) in all maternity facilities of the country.
2. Develop systematic collection of data on breastfeeding and infant nutrition practices.
3. Enforce the national law on the marketing of breastmilk substitutes to implement fully all provisions of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and its subsequent WHA resolutions, including bottles and teats, and ensure regular monitoring of Code violations.
4. Adopt an effective sanction mechanism that would deter any future Code violation.
5. Launch a comprehensive national campaign for promotion of optimal breastfeeding practices.
6. Ensure integrated response to protect and support breastfeeding in case of emergencies.