

The full implementation of the International Code, a fundamental step in guaranteeing child rights worldwide

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has finally released their Concluding Observations for the countries that were reviewed in January 2011 (Afghanistan, Belarus, Denmark, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Singapore and Ukraine) – and it has made wide use of the information contained in the IBFAN alternative reports.

The Concluding Observations refer to breastfeeding in all cases (except for Belarus), reflecting the information that was sent as part of the IBFAN alternative reports. The Committee has stressed the importance of fully adopting and enforcing the International Code: this has been recommended to 6 countries out of 7. Also, it has reiterated the importance of implementing the BFHI, including breastfeeding in training programmes for nurses, and the need to strengthen the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for children up to 6 months.

Governments have been urged to collaborate with NGOs in order to fulfil their human rights obligations. Therefore NGOs are encouraged to use these recommendations as a powerful tool for actions and initiatives to enhance the right of the child to the highest attainable standard of health.

The table below summarizes the recommendations related to infant and young child feeding. The full text of the Concluding Observations for all countries can be accessed here: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crcs56.htm> .

IBFAN-GIFA is always happy and eager to assist country groups with the follow-up to the recommendations of the CRC Committee. So please, keep us informed on the initiatives to follow-up at the country level.

<i>Country</i>		<i>IBFAN report</i>	<i>Summary of specific recommendations on BF (and related issues)</i>
1	Afghanistan	Yes	Direct (Para 51-52): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance efforts to promote exclusive BF practices; - Comply with the International Code (IC); - Improve access to and quality of health care and nutrition services throughout the country; - Ensure the availability of qualified medical staff, including in remote rural areas.
2	Belarus	No	No
3	Denmark	No	Direct (Para 47-48): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fully implement the IC; - Promote baby-friendly hospitals; - Encourage BF to be included in nursery trainings; - Collect systematic data on BF in accordance with international rules.
4	Lao PDR	Yes	Direct (Para 52-53-54) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen awareness raising efforts on the importance of exclusive BF for children up to 6 months; - Formally adopt and implement the IC; - Strengthen strategies to reduce and eliminate child malnutrition; - Strengthen efforts to reduce infant, child and maternal mortality; - Ensure the provision of adequate training for health personnel.

5	New Zealand	Yes	<p>Direct (Para 38-39):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue efforts to increase exclusive BF up to 6 months; - Focus on awareness-raising on the benefits of exclusive BF among the Maori population; - Fully implement the IC; - Further promote the BFHI; - Encourage BF to be included in nursery trainings.
6	Singapore	Yes	<p>Direct (Para 56-57):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen awareness raising efforts on exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months; - Ensure that the main maternal hospital meets the standards required by BFHI; - Review, strengthen and enforce the Singapore voluntary code on the marketing of BMS; - Adopt and implement the ICMBS; - Include breastfeeding breaks in maternity legislation; - Ratify the ILO Convention 183 on maternity protection.
7	Ukraine	Yes	<p>Direct (Para 53-54):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen promotion of BF; - Enforce the ICMBS; - Prioritize primary health care system and the quality of health care; - Increase budgetary allocation to the health care sector.