



Breastfeeding advocates speak out on the importance of Innocenti +15

UNICEF supports the implementation of the Innocenti Declaration just as strongly today as when it was launched 15 years ago. This event today provides an excellent opportunity to take stock of the progress that has been made towards the protection, promotion and support of exclusive breastfeeding since 1990, and to continue to raise awareness of the adequate and appropriate feeding and nutrition for children.

Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director, UNICEF

The Innocenti Declaration, the work that led to it, and the energy that sprung from it, made breastfeeding promotion into a vital public health issue. The last 15 years have wrought a revolution in our thinking about child health with infant feeding as the basis of it. But let no-one fall into the trap of thinking that the job has been done: it is only just beginning - and we need Innocenti + 15 to make the world realise that.

Dr. Felicity Savage-King, World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action, UK

Fifteen years ago, through the Innocenti Declaration, a bold new initiative and sense of urgency was born to protect, promote and support breastfeeding in a systematic way as never in history. And that effort over the years has made real difference to the lives of millions of children, mothers and families - and to the world. Sadly, so much still remains to be done. The work is set out, but a new vigour and urgency and cooperating mechanism will be necessary to get things moving and done. The planning of the 15th anniversary celebrations was the kind of true community enterprise that augers well for the future and should be built upon. Never forget that breastfeeding is about saving lives and giving the best to the child, the mother and to humanity. There is little that does it better!

Anwar Fazal, Former President, Consumers International & Chairperson Emeritus, World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action

It is great to celebrate "The Innocenti Declaration", which in 1990 was such a critical event for children. This meeting was a starting point of so many important programs and activities around infant feeding. It was the root of a tree that has grown bigger and stronger branches, and borne fruit for the most vulnerable young children. The Innocenti meeting gave birth to many important organizations around the world that now promote, protect and support the gold standard for infant feeding. This is indeed something to celebrate.

Mimi de Maza, Executive Director, La Leche League, Guatemala