



15th July 2024

Kate Warren
Executive Vice President & Executive Editor
Devex
kate.warren@devex.com
Cc. editor@devex.com

Re: Devex/Nestlé partnership – **with signatories**

Dear Kate,

We are writing to express grave concern about the upcoming Devex event, “*Nutrition and flourish: The role of nutrition in improving womens’ health outcomes,*” and your role as moderator.

Devex’s event partner is Nestlé, which has been under intense scrutiny for decades for its exploitative marketing practices that undermine efforts around the globe to uphold the right to optimal nutrition, leading to an increase in morbidity and mortality for women, infants and young children. Indeed, in recent years Devex has provided valuable coverage of these issues including carrying [this opinion piece](#) by global expert Constance Ching on the importance of upholding and strengthening the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes (the Code). How can you be “the world’s leading independent news organization covering global development,” when you engage in such partnerships?

We are asking you to immediately withdraw as host, and for Devex to cancel this event, disentangle/dissociate with Nestlé, and commit to adhering to the Code and subsequent relevant WHA resolutions.

The event’s promotion correctly states:

“Millions of women and adolescent girls across the globe struggle to access nutritious diets and essential nutrition services, exacerbating gender inequalities. Good nutrition is vital for women’s health before and during pregnancy or breastfeeding, and to raise well-nourished children. Without proper nutrition, women and adolescent girls risk weakening their immunity to infections. Globally, more than 1 billion adolescent girls and women suffer from undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and anemia, endangering our communities. The

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gender gap in food insecurity more than doubled from 49 million in 2019 to 126 million in 2021, with COVID-19 exacerbating the situation.”

We would ask that you reach out to the IFE Core Group to open a dialogue to discuss potential next steps.

Sincerely,

Members of the IFE Core Group, Baby Feeding Law Group UK, World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) UK Steering Group and Associates:

Adriano Cattaneo, IBFAN Italy

Dr Aimee Grant, Senior Lecturer in Public Health, Swansea University

Professor Amandine Garde, Founding Director of the Law & Non-Communicable Diseases Research Unit, University of Liverpool

Dr Arun Gupta MD, Central Coordinator BPNI India

Bill Jeffery, BA, LLB, Executive Director, Centre for Health Science and Law, Canada

Bindi Borg, Nutrition Specialist Consultant

Catherine Hine, Chief Executive Officer, Breastfeeding Network (BfN)

Catherine Pereira Kotze, Senior Nutritionist, First Steps Nutrition Trust, on behalf of and as Secretariat for the Baby Feeding Law Group UK

Cecile Basquin, Nutrition in Emergencies Helpdesk for the Global Nutrition Cluster

Chris van Tulleken MD PhD, Associate Professor, UCL

Claire Allcutt, Baby Feeding Law Group Ireland

Dr Clare Patton, Academic, School of Law, University of Leeds

Deborah Joy Wilson, Nutrition Specialist Consultant

Dima Ousta, Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core Group Coordinator, Emergency Nutrition Network

Elisabeth Sterken, INFACT Canada/IBFAN North America

Ellie Mulpeter, on behalf of Infant Feeding Action Coalition USA, Inc.

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Helen Gray, Clare Meynell, Alison Spiro, Patricia Wise, Steering Group, World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) UK

Jean Rowe Baby Milk Action Member

Jodine Chase, SafelyFed Canada

Karleen Gribble, Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Western Sydney University, Australia; Steering Committee Member, Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies Core Group

Kate Sadler, PhD. Public Nutrition Consultant and Technical Associate Emergency Nutrition Network and NutritionWorks

Ma. Ines Av. Fernandez, Arugaan Philippines - Founder, IBFAN Southeast Asia – Leader

Margaret Miller, President, World Public Health Nutrition Association

Dr. Magdalena Whoolery, Breastfeeding International - Founder

Maria Inês Couto de Oliveira, IBFAN-Brasil

Mija Ververs, Senior Associate/Senior Nutritionist, Center for Humanitarian Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Baltimore, USA

Dr Mona Alsumaie, IBFAN ArabWorld

Natasha Day MBE, Paramedic- independent member of BFLG

Nicki Connell MBE, Senior Technical Associate, Emergency Nutrition Network

Patti Rundall, on behalf of IBFAN Global Council

Dr Peter Poore, Patron, Evidence for Development

Sally Etheridge IBCLC, Director, Leicester Mammias CIC

Stuart Gillespie, independent consultant

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