

Nestle Boycott

This Union notes:

1. That Nestle currently violates the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent, relevant Resolutions of the World Health Assembly by promoting bottle feeding and undermining breastfeeding;
2. That Nestle controls about 40% of the world baby milk market and independent monitoring finds that it is responsible for more violations of the International Code and Resolutions than any other company;
3. That Nestle violations include promotion through health care systems (such as giving free supplies of breastmilk substitutes and gifts to health workers) which encourages mothers and health workers to favour bottle feeding;
4. That baby milk is so expensive that poor people often over dilute it, leading to malnutrition in the baby, and that expense contributes to family poverty;
5. That difficulty in sterilising bottles, teats and water can lead to life-threatening infections;
6. That UNICEF states that where water is unsafe a bottle fed child is up to 25 times more likely to die as a result of diarrhoea than a breastfed child and that reversing the decline in breastfeeding could save the lives of 1.5 million infants around the world every year;
7. That breastmilk is free, safe and protects against infection;
8. That in the context of HIV the risk of a mother passing the virus to her child should be assessed relative to the risk of replacement feeding and that the World Health Assembly Resolution 54.2 states that where replacement feeding is not suitable: "exclusive breastfeeding is recommended during the first months of life; and that those who choose other options should be encouraged to use them free from commercial influences."
9. That Nestle has exploited concerns about HIV in an attempt to excuse its marketing malpractice;
10. That, as well as aiming to protect breastfeeding, the International Code and Resolutions aim to ensure the safe use of breastmilk substitutes when these are necessary, by, for example, setting out labelling requirements;
11. That Baby Milk Action is the UK member of the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) consisting of over 200 citizens' groups in more than 100 countries and that IBFAN conducts independent monitoring of the baby food industry;
12. That a Campaign Against Nestle, including a boycott of Nescafe particular, was re-launched in the UK by Baby Milk Action on 15

- March 1989 (having been first launched in 1977 and then suspended in 1984).
13. That in March 2001 Nestle rejected Baby Milk Action's four-point plan aimed at saving infant lives and ultimately ending the boycott. The four-point plan states.
 14. Nestle must accept in writing that the International Code and the subsequent, relevant, Resolutions are minimum requirements for every country.
 15. Nestle must acknowledge in writing that it needs to change its policy and practice to bring them into line with the International Code and Resolutions in every country (i.e. explicitly drop its strategy of denial and deception).
 16. Once Nestle has made its commitment to change clear, Baby Milk Action will take the statements to the International Nestle Boycott Committee (INBC) and suggest that we meet with Nestle to discuss its timetable for making the changes.
 17. If IBFAN monitoring finds no violations from Nestle for 18 months, the boycott will be called off.
 18. This Union has no policy on Nestle apart from a one line decision to boycott Nestle products.

This Union believes:

1. That a consumer boycott is a peaceful and effective way of encouraging a company to behave responsibly;
2. That we have a responsibility as an organisation to take a moral stance against companies who fail to meet international standards of behaviour;
3. That Nestle should abide by the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent, relevant Resolutions in their entirety as a minimum requirement in all countries.

This Union resolves:

1. To call on Nestle to ensure that its policy and practice at every level in all countries conform to the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent relevant Resolutions and to act swiftly to end all violations reported to it;
2. Not to stock/sell Nestle/Nescafe products;
3. Vigorously endorse and publicise the Nestle boycott;
4. To support and publicise the work of Baby Milk Action and IBFAN.
5. To call for students to boycott Nestle products in university catering facilities.

6. To extensively publicise this policy.