

**General Assembly Building Conference Building Basement** 1st Floor GA-3BMED1 CB-01MED1 **Public Visitors Area** 4th Floor GA-1BMED1 CB-04MED1 GA-1BMED2 Secretariat Building 2nd Floor 5th Floor GA-0225 S-05MED2 S-05MED3 S-05MED4

We would encourage you to share this information brochure with your colleagues and friends, as part of our collective efforts to publicize the availability of these spaces at the UN Headquarters.

It is my sincere hope and endeavor that this initiative at the UNHQ will underline the importance of these essential spaces for nursing parents, the need to normalize their provisioning at workplaces and encourage replicability.

## H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid

President of the 76th session of the General Assembly



A MORE INCLUSIVE UN:

## Designated Lactation Rooms for Nursing Parents











The United Nations has constantly endeavored to create inclusive spaces and tailored policies to address specific gender requirements in its premises. In this regard, UN Women has identified provisioning of designated lactation rooms as key to bolstering gender parity and increasing the representation of women in the UN system<sup>1</sup>.

For the attainment of gender parity across the United Nations system, UN Women has also developed the Enabling Environment Guidelines<sup>2</sup> for the United Nations system to guide entities across the UN to take concrete steps towards creating enabling working environments in order to improve organizational culture and ultimately, reach gender parity.

Promoting an enabling and caring environment through assured access to user-friendly, dignified, and dedicated lactation rooms at workplaces is indispensable and critical for the promotion of gender equality and ensuring parity.

## Newly Upgraded & Expanded Lactation Rooms

As part of his commitment to advancing gender parity and empowering women, H.E. Abdulla Shahid, the President of the Seventy-Sixth session of the UN General Assembly announced his intention to upgrade and expand the lactation rooms in the UN premises during the very first day of his Presidency.

The newly upgraded and expanded lactation rooms in the UN premises are designed to create a safe and soothing environment that offers comfort, privacy and respect to nursing parents who work at or visit the United Nations.

The lactation rooms were formally inaugurated on Monday, 16th May 2022, as a special initiative under President Abdulla Shahid's "Presidency of Hope" banner, together with the strong support of the UN Department of Operational Support and generous contributions by the Permanent Missions of El Salvador and New Zealand to the United Nations, who agreed to be the proud quardians of these essential spaces.

Through the provision of safe spaces for lactation, the United Nations takes a positive step towards encouraging staff who are working parents to reconcile work and family

responsibilities and advance the well-being and development of their children.

The lactation rooms have been upgraded and expanded, keeping in mind that nursing parents need to retreat to a quiet, private, and comfortable space several times during a day to collect and express milk.

The rooms are easily identifiable through clear signage placed outside the designated rooms. They are well lit and have handwashing facilities and necessary supplies such as a liquid soap dispenser, hand sanitizer, cold storage, a microwave, a diaper changer and paper towels. The rooms also come equipped with comfortable chairs and an ottoman, a full-sized mirror, children's story books, pillows and a music player to play ambient music.

<sup>1</sup> UN Women, Gender Inclusive Practice Note on Lactation Spaces, 2021

<sup>2</sup> UN Women, Enabling Environment Guidelines 2019