Maternity protection at work is an essential element in equality of opportunity, treatment and health protection. It seeks to enable women to combine their reproductive and productive roles successfully, and to prevent unequal treatment in employment due to women’s reproductive role. Maternity protection is important for nutrition in terms of achieving good birth outcomes and enabling breastfeeding. Since the ILO was founded in 1919, international labour standards have been established to provide maternity protection for women workers. The ILO Maternity Protection Convention No. 183 represents the minimum standards, whereas the accompanying ILO Maternity Protection Recommendation No. 191 proposes additional measures.

ILO maintains the TRAVAIL Database of Conditions of Work and Employment Laws, which provides a picture of the regulatory environment of working time, minimum wages and maternity protection in more than 100 countries around the world. It contains comprehensive legal information, which allows customized research on a specific country, comparison of the legislation of several countries or regions on a particular subject, and searches by text. ILO also periodically publishes reviews of national legislation related to maternity protection at work. Read more about the work of ILO related to maternity protection at work.

Policy topics:
- Maternity protection
- Paid breastfeeding breaks
- More than 66.7%
- Employer liability
- 14 weeks or more