

DON'T LAUGH
PORTIA YURAN LI

我人生中第一次被网暴的经历就是我在社交媒体上发布了一个呼吁大家对于公共哺乳的理解与包容，因为真的亲身经历了才明白有很多的不得已，会让自己在公共场合去哺乳。那些几千条评论我都没看，大概就是说我不够格当妈妈，没有自尊心，没有羞耻心，说母亲的权利不是没有下限。这些评论让我唯一寒心的一点是，她们都出自于女性的口中，甚至很大一部分是妈妈群体。

The first time I experienced online bullying in my life was when I posted on social media, urging everyone to have understanding and acceptance regarding public breastfeeding. It was because I had personally experienced situations where there was no other choice but to breastfeed in public. I didn't read all thousands of comments, but I can imagine they were probably saying I wasn't fit to be a mother, lacked self-respect, had no sense of shame, and that there should be limits to a mother's rights. The most disheartening aspect of these comments was that they came from women themselves, and a significant portion of them were even from fellow mothers.

What could be more perverse than asking a woman to feel shame for nurturing an innocent life in the way she was biologically designed to do?

Moreover, women are legally allowed to breastfeed your baby in public. Women sharing nursing images on the internet are seeing their intimate moments with children taken out of context or used without consent as pornography.

수늘

그날 커피숍에서 제 딸아이가 소리를 내어 울었어요. 아이에게 젖을 먹이기 위해 화장실에 갔어요. 하지만 그다지 위생적이지 않았어요. 그러다 내 딸을 덮여줄 코트 하나를 찾았어요. 남자 직원이 다가와 나에게 화장실에서 할 수 없겠냐고 물어 보더군요. 그 일이 있은후, 난 달동안 딸을 데리고 나가지 않았어요. 다른 선택지가 없어요. 딸을 옷으로 가릴 때는 아무도 아무것도 보이지 않아요. 그럼에도 많은 비난의 시선들이 있어요. 저는 수유를 안 하면 딸이 크게 울 거예요, 그래도 사람들은 비난하는 시선으로 바라볼 거예요. 제가 엄마로서 자연스러운 반응을 하고 있는데도 그들의 반응을 통해 부끄럽고 당황스러움을 느끼고 있었어요.

That day at the café, my daughter was crying so loudly. I knew she wanted to drink milk, so I pushed open the door to the restroom, but it wasn't very clean in there. I had no choice but to find a jacket and cover it over my daughter. When I breastfed her like that, others couldn't really see, but there were still many judgmental glances. The male waiter came over and told me to go to the restroom to breastfeed. After that incident, I didn't take my daughter out of the house for two months, and I quickly weaned her off breastfeeding.

Conner Kendall

A stranger posted a photo of me breastfeeding, asking if doing that was appropriate. I was totally shocked. That was my initial response. ... I really didn't feel like I was that exposed. ... It really hurt my feelings that somebody would try and shame me for just taking care of my child. I replied as "I did nothing wrong, I turned away to latch my son and pulled my shirt back up when he was finished. ... I do not use a cover, because my son fights them, screams, and doesn't eat at all while under them."

Camie Manning

I was recently offered money to share intimate footage of me breastfeeding, is from Instagram handle called @curetheincels, the person offering to pay "25 for a photo" or "50 for a video" of my nursing my baby. I mean, the account claimed this is part of a campaign to normalize breastfeeding. Of course, I declined the request. I know that they are getting shared somewhere, I just don't know where exactly.

Maïlis

J'étais en train de faire la queue avec mon bébé de 6 mois pour récupérer le colis, et mon enfant s'est mis à pleurer parce qu'il avait faim. J'ai pas eu le choix, j'ai dû l'allaiter. Heureusement, je portais des fringues spécialement conçues pour les mamans qui donnent le sein. Je pouvais nourrir mon p'tit bout discrètement et partiellement. Et comme on était dans un lieu public, j'ai aussi mis une veste pour le cacher. Mais là, une femme a gueulé sur moi : "T'as pas honte ? T'aurais pu préparer ton gosse à manger et l'allaiter à la maison." Et elle a pas arrêté de me critiquer, elle m'a même giflée. Personne autour n'a bougé pour me défendre, et pire encore, une vieille dame a applaudi celle qui m'avait giflée. J'étais tellement choquée que je pouvais plus produire de lait et je me suis même demandé si je devais continuer d'allaiter.

I was queuing with my 6-month-old child to pick up the courier, and my child began to cry because he was hungry. I have no choice but to breastfeed him. I wear clothes specially designed for breastfeeding women. I can breastfeed my baby privately and partially. And because it's in a public place, I also use a jacket to cover it. But then a woman yelled to me: "Don't you feel ashamed? You should prepare your child to eat and breastfeed at home." The woman continued to scold me and slapped my face. At that time, no one around came out to speak for me, but an older woman applauded the woman who slapped me. Due to the mental shock I received, I could no longer produce milk anymore, and I even wondered if I should breastfeed.

Gemma Balmbra

I'm from Edinburgh. Yeah, I have two kids, and I'm 26. This is funny because I was shopping at ASDA when it happened. You know, when you're about to check out, there's always a long queue. My little one, who was just six weeks old at the time, needed to be breastfed right at the checkout. She started crying very loudly, and I tried my best to comfort her, but nothing worked. She simply needed to be breastfed. I held her in my arms, and then a female staff member approached me and told me quite seriously that I needed to "cover up" while breastfeeding. I was so shocked that I want to speak to her, but then someone starts to take pictures or video of me.

Liz

I posted me and my baby on TikTok @liscareliz, as she's so cute, and you can't miss any of the part that she is growing. While some has footage of me breastfeeding, but is like a view of my back, still. Many people attacking me and others who post this material argue that breastfeeding has no place on an app for children and catchy dance routines and that it should be kept private. I also have to face a deluge of very inappropriate comments from men.

Kara Skelton

As an assistant professor at Towson University, my research focused on breastfeeding on social media. During the study with Johns Hopkins University in 2018, I saw cases in which breastfeeding content taken out of its original context had turned up for sale on for-profit websites, Women seeking to empower others to breastfeed should be able to post about it without being trolled or having their images abused, but there are no clear answers as to how that can be achieved.