

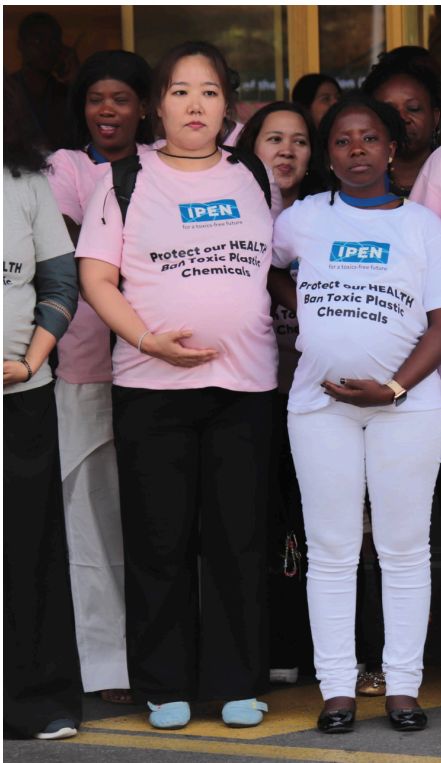
# WOMEN AND CHEMICALS NEWSLETTER

July-December, 2025

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## Feature Spotlight

### WOMEN AND EDCs CAMPAIGN

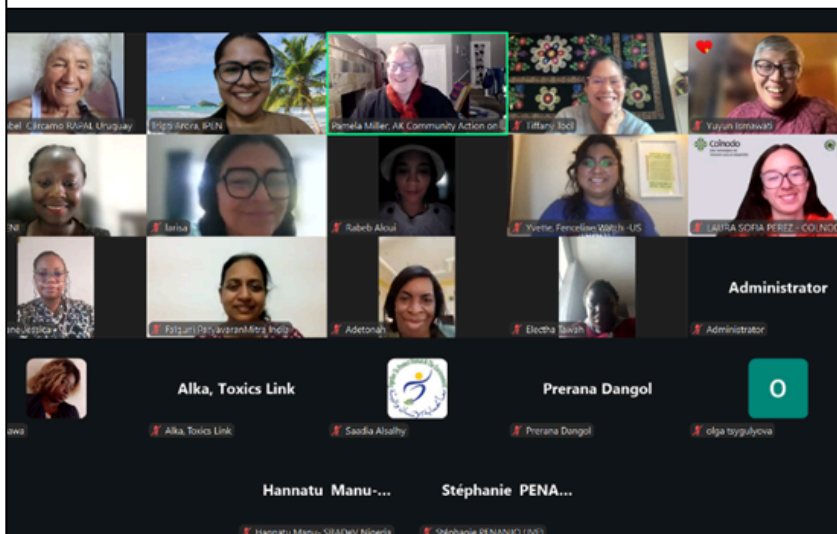
This year, IPEN led a campaign on Women and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) across the network, with 24 organizations leading activities in their countries. The campaign focuses on raising awareness about EDCs, particularly bisphenol A (BPA) and phthalates, and their impacts on women's health.

Through national and community-level outreach, the initiative strengthened understanding of everyday chemical exposures and advanced women's chemical safety by conducting awareness campaigns, workshops, webinars, and community engagement activities.



### WOMEN'S CAUCUS MEETING

A virtual meeting was held on December 16 to facilitate discussion on the Women and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) campaign. Participants exchanged updates on ongoing outreach activities, with three participating organizations sharing their work, experiences, and key challenges. The discussion also focused on ways to strengthen engagement across the wider network, including involvement beyond the organizations directly implementing the campaign, and concluded with reflections on sustaining momentum and collective action.



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# WOMEN AND EDCs CAMPAIGN: KEY MESSAGES



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**Women Face Greater Risks from Chemicals**

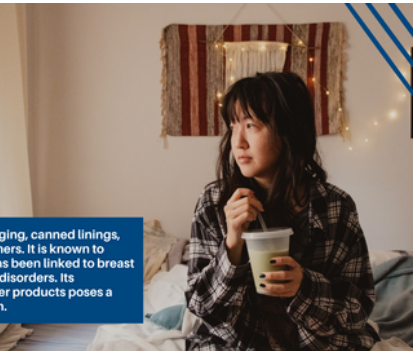
Women are disproportionately exposed to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) such as phthalates and bisphenols due to both biological and societal factors, due to different lifestyles and biology.



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**Communities Have a Crucial Role in Advocating for Chemical Safety**

We must empower communities to take action for ending the risks from chemical exposure. This way, communities at risk can drive the demand for safer chemicals and stronger regulations.



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**BPA Disrupts Our Natural Hormones and Poses Serious Health Risks**

BPA is widely used in food packaging, canned linings, receipt paper, and plastic containers. It is known to disrupt hormonal systems and has been linked to breast cancer, infertility, and metabolic disorders. Its widespread presence in consumer products poses a significant risk to women's health.



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**We Need Chemical Safety for Women's Equality**

Chemical health threats to women are barriers to women's equality. Stronger chemical safety regulations are needed to safeguard women's health and promote women's equality.



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**We Have a Right to Know About Harmful Chemicals**

Hazardous chemicals are in thousands of everyday items, yet we often have no way of knowing they are there. We have a right to know about chemicals that our children and families may be exposed to. Transparency, access to information, and strong regulations are essential.



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**Everyday Chemical Exposures Pose Significant Health Risks to Women**

Many commonly used chemicals are especially harmful because they disrupt the body's hormone systems, even at low doses. Known as endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), they include phthalates, BPA, parabens, PFAS, pesticides, and flame retardants. Exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and heavy metals has been linked to various health problems in women. These include reproductive health issues, developmental disorders in children, and increased risks of certain cancers.



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**Phthalates: The Everywhere and Everyone Chemicals**

Phthalates are everywhere chemicals that affect everyone and may be especially hazardous for women. They are used in plastics, cosmetics, personal care items, and countless household products—leading to widespread, daily exposure. These chemicals have been linked to reproductive harm, preterm birth, and disruptions in child development. Reducing everyday exposure is critical to protecting women's and children's health.

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Across the network, IPEN partners have adapted and translated key campaign messages to reach communities in ways that resonate locally. Each adaptation reflects creativity, cultural context, and a shared commitment to protecting women's health from harmful chemicals.

## WOMEN AND CHEMICALS BLOG

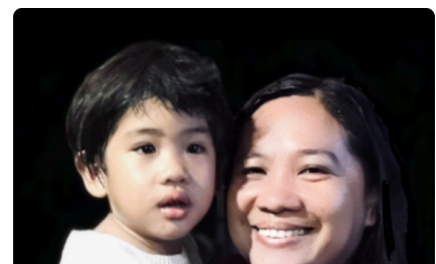
This year, IPEN featured a heartfelt blog by Chinkie Peliño-Golle from the Philippines. Drawing on her own experience as a mother, she reflects on the hidden dangers of everyday chemicals like phthalates, bisphenols, lead and the risks they pose to children's health. The blog calls for stronger chemical regulations, greater corporate accountability, and community awareness to ensure that women and children can grow up safe and healthy. Read it [here](#).

## Toxic Truths and Tender Love: Why Mothers Must Speak Out

20 August 2025

By Chinkie Peliño-Golle, IPEN Regional Coordinator for Southeast and East Asia; she is based in the Philippines where she works with the EcoWaste Coalition

I remember the moment I first held my son, his tiny fingers wrapped around mine, his breathing soft and



# FEMMES ET PERTURBATEURS ENDOCRINIENS

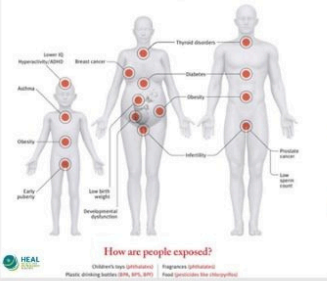


## WOMEN AND EDCs CAMPAIGN

Throughout the year, our partners brought the campaign to life in creative and locally relevant ways. Schools, colleges, and community groups hosted workshops and awareness sessions; online and offline events sparked dialogue; and social media became a platform for sharing key messages widely. Many partners adapted IPEN's graphics, infographics, facilitation guides, and press materials into local languages, making the information accessible and actionable.

These efforts not only increased understanding of chemical risks among communities but also encouraged conversations on policy gaps and regulatory needs. By equipping people with practical tools and knowledge, the campaign empowered women and communities to advocate for safer, gender-sensitive chemical policies.

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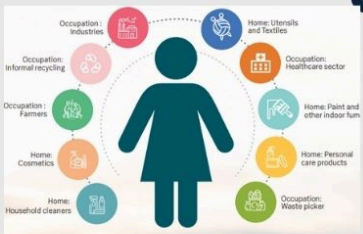


### Que sont les perturbateurs endocriniens ?

Les perturbateurs endocriniens sont des substances chimiques qui interfèrent avec les hormones naturelles de notre corps et peuvent augmenter le risque de maladies graves, notamment le cancer, l'infertilité et d'autres problèmes de santé.

### Pourquoi se focaliser sur les femmes ?

Les femmes sont exposées à des substances chimiques nocives différentes et souvent plus graves, en raison des différences physiologiques entre les sexes et de facteurs sociaux tels que les produits qu'elles utilisent ou le travail qu'elles effectuent.



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### Les phtalates : des substances chimiques « omniprésentes et universelles »

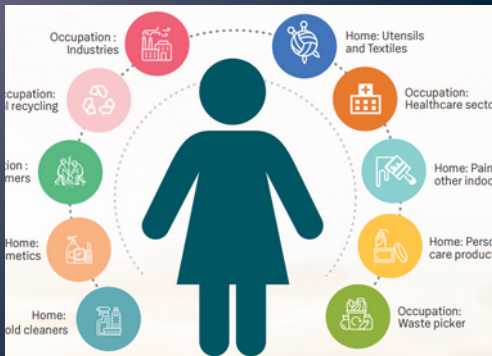
Les phtalates sont des perturbateurs endocriniens appelés « les produits chimiques omniprésents » car ils ont été détectés dans presque tous les environnements et échantillons humains testés.

### Comment les phtalates affectent-ils la santé des femmes ?

Les phtalates sont présents dans des centaines de produits d'usage quotidien, notamment dans de nombreux plastiques. L'exposition à ces substances est associée à :  
Cancers  
Troubles de la reproduction et naissances prématurées



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## IPEN WOMEN AND CHEMICALS

Know more about IPEN at [www.ipen.org](http://www.ipen.org). Updates from Women's Caucus, blog posts and newsletters can be found [here](#). Other information and resources can be found [here](#).

If you wish to join the women's caucus or need any other information, reach out to us at [women@ipen.org](mailto:women@ipen.org)