



Human Rights Council – 56th Session
ID with the special rapporteur
on extreme poverty and human rights
Oral Statement

We at MMM fully agree with and support the call to abandon “growthism” and reshape our economy.

We want to highlight the gendered dimension of the problem: our current economy is based on masculinist assumptions – that economic reasoning mostly involves rational calculation; that real work takes place in factories and offices, not in households, schools or hospitals, nor in farms; and that value is created there and not in communities and the environment¹.

As Feminist economist Nancy Folbre said: “Not all the inputs and outputs come with price tags attached. Somewhere along the way, babies are conceived, nurtured, educated, and launched into adulthood in a process that requires considerable time and effort as well as money.”

Indeed, our current economy completely ignores the unpaid domestic, care and educational work done in households, which sustains society and the economy itself. It is inherently gender unequal, and a cause of much economic hardship and injustice, or even poverty for women – in particular when they are mothers.

In the face of all the social and environmental crises we face, it is urgent to repurpose our economy, so that it serves life, human rights and the wellbeing of people and the planet, instead of prospering at their expense. Care, in its broadest meaning, should be at heart of this transformation.

We at MMM stand ready to participate in the discussions on how to make this happen.

¹ Prügl, Elisabeth. “Untenable Dichotomies: De-Gendering Political Economy.” Review of International Political Economy (online 20 October 2020): 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2020.1830834> - See also <https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/communications/news/political-economy-must-overcome-its-binary-fixations>