



Human Rights Council – 56th Session
ID with the Working group on discriminations
against women and girls
Oral Statement

Make Mothers Matter commends the working group's report.

We are convinced that substantive gender equality cannot happen until women's disproportionate share of unpaid domestic, care and educational work is not systemically addressed. This issue is at the heart of most of the discriminations that women face in all spheres – private and public; social, economic and political – in particular when they are mothers.

As rightly stated in the report, the multiple and intersecting crises we face have also contributed to the backlash. Again, the common thread is that most of these crises increase women's already disproportionate share of unpaid care work, further weakening their economic and political participation, and exacerbating patriarchal power structures.

Recognising, redistributing and adequately supporting unpaid domestic, care and educational work should be at the top of every policy agenda at every level.

Redistributing care in particular could be an effective way of getting men on the gender equality journey. Involving men in domestic work and as fathers in the upbringing of their children not only supports women's economic and political participation, but also reduces domestic violence. Ultimately it benefits women and children, but also men themselves.

Redistributing care may be the trigger to the redistribution of power and resources – and counter the backlash.

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Make Mothers Matter believes in the power of mothers to make the world a better place, advocating for their recognition and support as changemakers. Created in 1947, MMM is an international NGO with no political or religious affiliations, transparently voicing the concerns of mothers at the highest level: the European Union, UNESCO and the United Nations (general consultative status).