



Human Rights Council – 58th Session
General Debate on Item 3
Oral Statement

Make Mothers Matter congratulates OHCHR on its report on Care and Support.

However, we regret that **mothers — the primary caregivers worldwide — are not mentioned even once.**

Women who are mothers bear the brunt of unpaid care work, often at the cost of their careers, income, and pension in old age. This **Motherhood Penalty** is a major driver of gender inequality and economic hardship for women — yet it remains invisible.

In fact, according to a recent MMM survey, a staggering **50% of mothers in Europe report suffering from a mental health condition.** And in too many countries, becoming a mother still means risking one's life.

By failing to name mothers, we fail to address the unique discrimination, human rights violations and challenges they face. We also fail to leverage their power as changemaker.

It is time to **recognise women in their role as mothers.**

It is time to **put motherhood at the heart of gender equality.**

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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).