



Human Rights Council – 58th Session
Panel discussion on
the realisation of the rights to work and to
social security in the informal economy
Oral Statement

With the support of



This Statement is endorsed by the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors.

MMM welcomes today's critical discussion, which is especially important for women with caregiving responsibilities, particularly mothers.

This issue matters for two key reasons:

1. Women are often forced to limit or even abandon formal work due to caregiving responsibilities.
2. The caregiving work they provide is vital yet largely unpaid and unrecognised.

As a result, far too many mothers are left without social protection. Globally, only 35% of new mothers have access to full maternity protection, leading to direct consequences not only for their own health and well-being but also for the health and future of their children. This lack of support also jeopardises their financial security and long-term autonomy.

Investing in mothers is not merely a human rights issue; it's a high-return investment. Mothers are the backbone of society—frontline health workers, primary nurturers, and the first educators of their children. Their unpaid care work, particularly in the early years, is indispensable but demands time, recognition, and dedicated support.

We urge governments to prioritise investments in universal social protection, based on social protection floors. Caregivers must be recognised, granted proper status, and specifically targeted within these policies.

Supporting mothers is the smartest investment in our collective future.

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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).