



Intergovernmental Working Group on the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Right to Education – 2nd Session

Oral Statement

Make Mothers Matter reaffirms its full support for an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the Right to Education and welcomes the non-paper presented by the chair rapporteur.

We agree that the CRC already comprehensively addresses parental rights, responsibilities and duties, affirming in particular that parents have the primary responsibility for their children's upbringing and development. These provisions should not be altered or undermined in any way.

However, we believe that the protocol could provide an opportunity to recognise the important role that parents play in supporting their children's formal education. This role starts with choosing a school or education system. It continues with ensuring that their child has the necessary material and books, supporting homework, coaching and motivating their child, engaging with teachers and other educators, celebrating successes and addressing difficulties and discussing academic pathways and choices.

In some countries parents are also involved in the day-to-day life of schools, supporting staff and participating in decision-making.

This role is absolutely critical to a child's educational success. Parental involvement in supporting a child's formal education can make a significant difference to their educational attainment. However, this involvement requires time and commitment from parents, who may themselves need support – particularly when they are raising a child alone.

We therefore call on Member States to consider including an element in the protocol that recognises parents as key partners in their child's successful educational journey, from early childhood care and education through to the end of secondary school, and recognises the need to support parents in this endeavour.

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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).