



Oral STATEMENT
37th session of the Human Right Council

Item3
**Clustered ID with the Annual report of the Special
Representative of the Secretary-
General on Violence against Children**

To complement the excellent report on violence against children, Make Mothers Matter - MMM, wishes to draw attention to violence against mothers and its impact on child development, including during pregnancy.

Violence by intimate partner is manifested by physical, sexual or emotional abuse as well controlling behavior. An estimated 3 to 9% of pregnant women experience violence during pregnancy. And there is a higher rate of abuse if the mother is young, single, from a minority or living in poverty.

Violence during pregnancy can have serious outcomes for both the mother to be and her baby. It can impair fetal growth, and result in low fetal weight or even miscarriage.

Maternal stress during pregnancy and the early years of a child can also have life-long negative consequences on the child's physical, cognitive and emotional development and jeopardize their future.

Violence against mothers is also violence against their children.

Therefore, MMM calls on all government to pay particular attention to domestic violence and its consequences on children, especially during pregnancy and the early years.

A cross-sectorial / multi-stakeholders mobilization is required at every level:

1. To provide support for mothers during pregnancy and after childbirth, including child/mothers friendly maternity services;
2. To Identify mothers who have experienced intimate partner violence and give them the necessary support;
3. To empower mothers from being victims to stand for their rights;
4. To develop interventions at the local, national and international levels to prevent domestic violence, promote gender equality and safe and respectful relationships.

Children have the right develop to their full potential and thrive. Preventing domestic violence is key for healthy early childhood development and for fostering more prosperous and peaceful societies.

Thank you!

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Make Mothers Matter (MMM) is an international NGO created in 1947 to raise the awareness of policy makers and public opinion on the contribution of mothers to social, cultural and economic development. MMM has no political or religious affiliations, and thus transparently voices the concerns of mothers at international level with permanent MMM representatives at the United Nations (General Consultative Status), UNESCO and the European Union.