



The Mothers' Charter

- A mother is the well-spring of human history.
- A mother is the most powerful influence on the cultural, economic and social life of the family and society.
- A mother, therefore, determines the moral and spiritual values of an entire nation and impacts on the ethos of the international community.
- It is a human reality that the dynamics of a mother's vocation in the family are as irreplaceable as the role of the family in society.

With these underlying beliefs, the activities of Make Mothers Matter (formerly Mouvement Mondial des Mères - MMM) are based on the following principles:

Man and woman are equal. Their different attributes are mutually advantageous and complementary.

The organisation of family and social life must recognise that, like a man, a woman must have an equal opportunity to make informed choices about her own life: her education, her employment status, her relationships, her marriage, her fertility and motherhood, free from cultural, economic and social pressures.

In the same way, the union of a couple in marriage and the fertility of their conjugal life are subject to their conscience alone and may not be imposed nor impeded by legislation, political institutions or economic planning.

Together with a father, a mother is responsible for birth and a child's first lessons about love, the fragile balance of rights and responsibilities, one's place in the family and in the community, understanding and respect for oneself and for others. A mother passes on to her child the cultural heritage of the family. Private and public organizations have to prolong, complete and not replace the education given by the family. A mother must be enabled to ensure her happiness and that of her loved-ones in strong, stable family life.

Mothers are the living link between the family and the community. The shared experience of motherhood transcends all cultural, ethnic, religious or social barriers.

For these reasons, it is vital that public opinion and policymakers in all countries recognise and value the priceless contribution of mothers throughout the world.

Translation of la Charte de la Mère - Paris 1947

The work of the Make Mothers Matter is based on the Mothers' Charter and all of its members adhere to its principles.