

**Oral STATEMENT**  
**38th session of the Human Right Council**



**Item 3**  
**General Debate /**  
**OHCHR Report on key lessons learned and promising**  
**practices on engaging men and boys to promote and**  
**achieve gender equality**

MMM congratulates the OHCHR for its report [on key lessons learned and promising practices] on engaging men and boys to promote and achieve gender equality.

MMM wants to highlight the role of mothers to change social norms regarding masculinity. The elimination of discriminations against women begins at home, in the family. Social cohesion and gender equality start with the transmission of fundamental values upon which human beings construct themselves.

The educational role of parents is crucial, including as role models. Mothers in particular are often the pillars of the family, and they are in a privileged position to transmit equality values. They must be recognized and empowered as change makers.

Therefore, MMM calls on all government to:

- 1- Recognize that the unpaid work of caring and educating a child is also crucial for gender equality; and adopt redistributive policies of this work between fathers and mothers
- 2- Educate mothers and fathers on the transformative power they have to change social norms regarding masculinity through informal education
- 3- Acknowledge the competences of mothers in both the family and public spheres
- 4- Involve parents, especially mothers, as essential partners in policymaking to achieve gender equality.

Mothers should be able to act on the same level as other actors of civil society, get involved in public life, recognize their own responsibilities, and trust themselves and their capacities to contribute to the development of a more balanced and safer society.

Thank you!

---

**Make Mother Matter - MMM** - 5 rue de l'Université 75007 Paris, France - Tel/fax: +33 1 42 88 27 28  
mmmi@makemothersmatter.org - www.makemothersmatter.org  
Contact in Geneva: Valerie Bichelmeier - un-geneva@makemothersmatter.org

*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.*