



Oral STATEMENT
39th session of the Human Right Council

Item3
Clustered ID with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its cause and consequences

MMM welcomes the excellent report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, and its focus on migrant women working in the domestic sector.

Because their work is considered of low value, and because it is mostly done informally in the private sphere, in which case it is not considered as employment under most labor Laws, women migrant domestic workers face high risks of Human Rights violations that can amount to exploitation and domestic servitude, or even slavery.

Many of these migrant domestic workers are mothers who left their children behind. They often care for other women's children, allowing the very women who employ them to be in the labour force. The children left behind are in most cases left to a grandmother or an aunt, in a "global care chain" that perpetuates gender roles and stereotypes, and creates care deficits in the country of origin.

Whether paid, underpaid or unpaid, domestic and care work is essential for the wellbeing of families and society. In fact it sustains the whole economy. When caring for children, domestic workers also contribute to building human capital. But unfortunately, domestic and care work remains undervalued, looked down, and invisible, especially to policymakers.

MMM fully supports all the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, especially the first one which is to address the root causes that push these women to migrate and work below their qualifications in order to ensure a better future for their children.

But it is also important to change the perception of society on the essential value of domestic and care work, a work that deserves better recognition and respect. The issue of domestic servitude affecting migrant women domestic workers must be addressed in the broader context of the care economy.

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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.