



Make  
Mothers  
Matter

**UN high-Level interactive dialogue on the  
occasion of the International Day of Education**  
UN Headquarters New York, January 24, 2020

## **Parent Education, a Major Challenge**

On this 2<sup>nd</sup> International Day of Education, **Make Mothers Matter** calls for support and education for parenting and its affiliated issues. As stated in paragraph 3 of the Incheon's action framework, it is essential to support families as the first protectors and educators of children.

Indeed, the rapidly-changing world is leading to major transformations in societies and in family structures. From urbanization to family configuration to income and gender inequalities to work-family life imbalances, these changes have health consequences, with new risks of illness, increased drug addiction or mental health problems linked to daily stress. Furthermore, technology impacts relationships and behaviors.

As traditional structures disappear, new parenting challenges emerge, requiring concerted parental support efforts. As the UNESCO publication on the State of the World's Early Childhood Care and Education indicates, global trends show that more than half of young children are at risk of being deprived of quality parental care in areas identified as essential. There is an urgent need to analyze and examine the reasons why some parents are not engaged in or unable to fulfill their parental child-rearing responsibilities.

Social and family policies play a key role in parenting practices and family functioning, but more needs to be done to provide parents with access to education and support programs, including pre-parenting education. These programs exist, and their evaluation must take into account not only the child's cognitive development but also his or her physical and social development.

**Parent education benefits not only children and families, but society as a whole. It is therefore an essential challenge, which we hope to address together.**

**Because mothers count, parce que les mères comptent, porque las madres cuentan**

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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).*