



Oral Statement
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High-level panel
on the 25th anniversary of Beijing
Conference – Beijing+25

As the only International NGO voicing the concerns of mothers, Make Mothers Matter would like to emphasize §29 of the Beijing Platform for Action which concerns women in their role as mothers.

25 years on, and despite progress in some areas, women continue to be denied full maternity protection and to suffer penalties and discriminations linked to motherhood. Further, the essential social and economic contributions of women to raise and educate the next generation of citizens and workers still remain largely unrecognized and unaccounted for.

As mothers, 2 issues particularly constraint women's economic empowerment:

1. Women still take on about three times more unpaid care work than men – up to 10 times more in some countries – and even more so when they have young children. This inequitable distribution of essential and necessary work remains the main obstacle to women's income-earning abilities.
2. Women still face all kinds of barriers to participating in the economy, particularly when they are mothers. These include discriminatory laws and practices, and an economic environment that remains largely family-unfriendly.

It is high time to make the vision of the landmark Beijing Platform for Action a reality, and to acknowledge and support the multiple roles of women as mothers, citizens and economic agents.

The benefits of policies that foster a more equitable distribution of both paid and unpaid care work between men and women, that promote a better balance between work and family life, and that support parents in their educational responsibilities, are essential to women's rights, but also go well beyond Gender equality. They must be seen as an investment, with broader positive ripple effects on the whole of society.

We at MMM believe the "time to care" is truly upon us - to make the work of caring for others visible and valued in our economic system and thinking, and to bring about a paradigm shift that puts the wellbeing of people and the planet at the center of our economic system and government policy-making.

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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).