



**Oral Statement**  
**43rd session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 3**  
**Annual report of the Special Representative of the**  
**Secretary-General on Violence against Children**  
**General debate**

Make Mothers Matter welcomes the report [of the Special Representative] on the impact of violence on children's mental health and upbringing.

The report rightly states that violence against mothers, including during pregnancy, also has serious consequences for her children and their right to the highest attainable standard of mental health.

We draw attention to the impact that a mother's own mental health and socio-economic status has on her child's mental health.

Mothers with low socio-economic status have a tendency to bear children who are hyperactive and antisocial. A child whose mother suffers from depression has a higher risk of disruptive behaviour in preschool and problems interacting with their peers. Better-educated mothers on the other hand, have a tendency to bear more mentally stable children; they are also more able to cope with their children's mental problems.

The parental circumstances are crucial during childhood, especially for a mother, who remains the main educator and caregiver of her child. In particular, a mother's education level has a long-lasting effect on her children.

MMM therefore calls on governments

- To recognize the impact of a mother's mental health on her child and the child's healthy development
- To invest in early childhood development and support parents through parental education and counselling, as well as adequate social protection.

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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).*