



**Oral Statement**  
**44th session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Item 3**  
**ID with the SR on the Right to Education**

Make Mothers Matter thanks the special rapporteur for her report on the impact of covid-19 on the right to education and the looming education crisis.

We would like to draw attention to how, in the context of the pandemic and imposed lockdown, the demand for unpaid care work and informal education has increased and reinforced pre-existing gender inequalities in sharing this essential work.

Before the lockdowns, parents, mothers especially, were already facing difficulties raising their children under proper conditions, often juggling between their educational responsibilities and their need to make a living.

With widespread school closures, the extra unpaid childcare provision has disproportionately fallen on mothers. [A British sociologist from Kent University even refers to a "return of the 1950's housewife"<sup>1</sup>]. Home schooling has also put an additional strain on mothers.

In addition to the health crisis, the economic hardship brings uncertainties and fears, which can feed discrimination and xenophobia. In this instance, informal education in the family is crucial. It is indeed within the family that life-skills are learned, and that the transmission of values such as respect or tolerance takes place.

We at MMM are therefore calling on Member States to recognize the important role of informal education, and to support parents, especially mothers, by enabling them to fulfill this role under proper conditions.

<sup>1</sup> Article by Heejung Chung, Reader in Sociology and Social Policy, University of Kent in [The Conversations](https://theconversation.com/return-of-the-1950s-housewife-how-to-stop-coronavirus-lockdown-reinforcing-sexist-gender-roles-134851)  
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