



Oral Statement
44th session of the Human Rights Council
Item 3
ID with the UN Special Representative of the
Secretary-General on Violence against Children

MMM fully supports one of the report's key message: Investing in Early Childhood Development is indeed a powerful and cost-effective strategy for reducing intergenerational violence, poverty and exclusion and for building peaceful societies.

As rightly stated, "The most important protective resource to enable a child to cope with exposure to violence is a strong relationship with a competent, caring, positive adult, most often a parent. With the support of good parenting [...], a child's cognitive and social development can proceed positively, even in adversity.¹"

Indeed, a child's socio-economic environment and their mother's mental health are key. In addition to mental disorders such as post-partum depression, the stress experienced by many parents, seriously undermines their ability to provide the nurturing care which is so important for a child to achieve their developmental potential.

We at MMM would like to relay to the Council the call for action of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium².

Issued in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, it emphasises that Early Childhood Development strategies and services are now more important than ever *to mitigate the immediate and long-term impact of the multiple crisis on the most vulnerable young children and families.*

We are calling governments, policy makers and community leaders to safeguard the increasingly undermined rights of young children, and to prioritize investment in their survival, development and protection – also by supporting their parents and caregivers.

¹ UN Report A/HRC/43/39

² ECPC Global Call to Action in response to COVID-19 for children in fragile and conflict affected settings
<https://ecdpeace.org/work-content/ecpc-global-call-action-response-covid-19-children-fragile-and-conflict-affected>

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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.