



Make
Mothers
Matter

46th session of the Human Rights Council

Oral Statement Meeting on the role of poverty alleviation in promoting and protecting human rights

Make Mothers Matter would like to raise the issue of child poverty for the attention of the Council.

Globally, about 1 billion children are multidimensionally poor¹, with some of their basic human rights, including the right to food, clean water, healthcare or education, not satisfied, threatening their chance to survive and thrive.

Not only are children more likely to live in poverty than adults, they are also more vulnerable to its effects. In addition to suffering from poor living standards, the poorest children grow up less healthy, develop fewer skills, and earn lower wages later in life.

The intergenerational aspect of poverty must be broken. Addressing child poverty must therefore be a top priority for every government. It should also be seen as an investment – with potentially high returns. In this respect, MMM welcomes the EU's commitment to develop a European Child Guarantee, [which if adopted, would ensure that every child has access to health, housing, nutrition, education and childcare].

We want to stress however that child poverty alleviation cannot be disassociated from support to parents and caregivers, beginning with their right to work and to a decent standard of living.

Among them, single parents merit specific attention. Even in Europe, around two fifths of single parent households are at risk of poverty or social exclusion² – most of them are lone mothers³.

For them, the challenge of juggling care responsibilities and paid work is especially acute. Caring for and educating a child requires time - this unpaid yet essential work must be recognized for its positive impact on all society, and fully supported, particularly during a child's critical early years⁴. This means developing policies, structures and services to provide enough time, money and skills for parents-

Addressing child poverty is also working with and accompanying parents, especially mothers.

¹ <https://www.unicef.org/social-policy/child-poverty>

² In 2019, 40.3 % of single adult households with dependent children of the EU27 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion - <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?oldid=502929>

³ E.g. 85% in the EU, 85% in the US

⁴ See [WHO's Nurturing Care Framework](#) and the work of our partner the [Early Childhood Peace Consortium](#)

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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).