



**Oral Statement**  
**49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Item 3**  
**General Debate**

We at Make Mothers Matter stand in solidarity and salute the courage of all people living in conflicts and war zones which, in too many parts of the world, are destroying lives. The brutality and devastation they bring about have profound and long-lasting effects on all, particularly children.

In Ukraine, many mothers are ripping themselves away from husbands and families to secure safety for their children in neighbouring countries. Many live a life in fear without knowing what the next day will bring them. UNHCR estimates that about 4 million people will flee in the next few months, making it one of the largest refugee crises in the world.

Still, what we all need most, in war and in peace, when young and when old, is Care, a key element of peace and security.

We are therefore calling on governments:

- To recognize Care as essential to peace and prosperity, and in particular to recognize the work of mothers caring for and educating their children as a fundamental contribution to a peaceful society
- To foster the development of a society where caring for each other is a priority and adequately supported
- To use the wellbeing of both people and planet as a measure of how well countries develop.

Thank you!

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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.*