



Make  
Mothers  
Matter

Oral Statement  
51<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council  
Panel discussion  
The future of the right to work in connection with  
climate change actions, responses and impacts in the  
context of sustainable and inclusive economies

Raising and educating a child, caring for an older person or a dependent relative, running a household - this IS all work, although mostly unpaid.

Yet, this indispensable work is not what we are talking about when discussing the right to work.

The unpaid work of caring for each other is only framed as a burden, an obstacle to the realisation of women's right to (paid) work and economic empowerment.

The Covid-19 and Climate Change crises have both increased the unpaid domestic and care workload of women, mothers in particular, further threatening their right to paid work and exacerbating gender inequalities.

At the same time, these crises have also shed light on how essential and foundational this work is for the wellbeing of all, and for the functioning and future of our society and economy.

We at MMM are therefore calling for a redefinition of 'work' as a holistic concept, where both paid and unpaid work are combined and intertwined. **The right to work and its relation to a right to care needs be reassessed and clarified.**

We also call on states to:

1. Acknowledge that the multiple crises we face today (Covid-19 and climate change, but also environmental degradation, rising inequalities...) are all deeply rooted in an economic system that fails to recognize, value, protect, and invest in what's essential to our wellbeing – Care and support for caregivers
2. Seize the opportunity of these multiple crises to transform our economic systems at every level: it is time to move beyond the 'GDP growth' narratives and short-term profit making, and repurpose our economy to a caring economy, one that is human-centred and serves the wellbeing of both people and our planet

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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.*