



**Oral Statement**  
**Human Rights Council – 51<sup>st</sup> Session**  
Interactive Dialog with the Special Rapporteur  
on the right to development  
**Response and recovery plans and policies on the  
COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of the right  
to development at the national level**

Make Mothers Matter welcomes the report and its focus on the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Women.

This crisis worsened existing and deep-rooted inequalities and discriminations.

But was also an eye-opener:

- It showed how Care is central to our lives, and that this essential work is not properly recognized and valued
- It shed light on the inequitable distribution of this unpaid work, a cause of economic injustice for women, mothers in particular
- It exposed gaps in social protection and inadequacies in current systems to recognize and support unpaid caregiving

We now face a unique opportunity to redress these systemic failures - by putting Care and Education at the centre of recovery policymaking.

This means:

1. Recognising unpaid care work as essential work and a collective responsibility, benefitting society across generations
2. Considering universal social protection to support parents and families as a high-return investment in people, not an expense to be minimized
3. Acknowledging that the multiple crises we face today<sup>1</sup> are all deeply rooted in an economic system that fails to recognize, value, support, and invest in what's essential to our wellbeing – Care and a healthy environment

The Right to development is the perfect framework to move beyond the 'GDP growth' narrative and prioritize the long-term wellbeing of people and the planet in all policy-making.

It is time to transition to a wellbeing economy<sup>2</sup> - with care and education at its heart.

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<sup>1</sup> Covid-19, but also climate change, environmental degradation, rising inequalities...

<sup>2</sup> A few governments (Finland, Iceland, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales) are showing us the way – see [www.weall.org](http://www.weall.org) and the report of our 2020 HLPF side-event on 'Care and Education: cornerstones of sustainable and just economies': <https://makemothersmatter.org/placing-care-education-at-the-heart-of-a-new-economic-system/>

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