



Human Rights Council – 54th Session
ID on OHCHR Vision for reinforcing its work in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

Make Mothers Matter welcomes OHCHR's vision to reinforce its work on economic, social and cultural rights. We agree that urgent action is needed to deliver these rights in line with the 2030 Agenda.

We regret however that the importance of care and the strengthening of care and support systems as a means to respect and advance the enjoyment of human rights for all, is absent from this vision.

To quote Sec General Guterres, 'The pandemic has shown us who is doing the work that really matters: nurses, teachers, care workers. As we recover, we need to remember this. It is time to end the inequities of unpaid care work and create new economic models that work for everyone.'¹

Strengthening care and support systems should be at the heart of such new models, which must be based on Human Rights and serve the wellbeing of both people and the planet.

This means recognizing the essential value of the unpaid and underpaid work of caring, whose inequitable distribution has been a driver of exclusion and discrimination for women and girls, in particular for mothers.

It also means supporting and redistributing this crucial work more equitably, not only between men and women, but also across society.

Care connects to many if not all human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights. It concerns all of us. It is time to put care at the centre, and to frame care as a right: right to care and right to be cared for.

¹ Town Hall with Young Women from Civil Society Organizations on 31 August 2020