

LET'S CHANGE THE NARRATIVE: INVEST IN MOTHERS

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www.minemothercenters.org

Introduction

Greetings, esteemed participants, allies, and sisters. I am deeply honored to join you today on this platform where we attempt to change the narrative of investing in mothers from being seen as an “expense” to a transformative investment. My name is Emese Dömösi, and I am the Director of the Board of the Mother Centers International Network for Empowerment (MINE), a worldwide organization with its roots in Stuttgart, Germany, while I am based in Hungary. Our mission at MINE is to empower and connect mothers for a caring community across the globe through the establishment, support and connection of mother centers.

Please come with me to the journey from the perspective of self managed, grass-root mothering communities, where the culture of care is reintegrated into public life.

Why investing in mothers?

Let's face it, everyone knows why: because mothers are equipped with leadership skills that the world is desperately crying out for today!

Mothers are excellent **Economic Strategists**: they run the world's most demanding startup: the family. Investing in mothers isn't just good manners; it's smart economics.

Mums as **Crisis Management Pros and Masters of Diplomacy** - armed not with guns - only with a diaper and a smile.

Ever seen someone convince a toddler to eat broccoli? Calming a sibling fight or turning a household dispute into a lesson on teamwork? The talents of these **Master Negotiators and Harmony Heroes** are **something that** governments around the globe could greatly benefit from.

Aren't mothers the **Sustainability Maestros**? Oh yes, they are. We are champions of the 'reuse and recycle' philosophy long before it was a hashtag.

Mothers and grandmothers are the deepest **Wisdom Wells**: They've got answers to questions you didn't even know you had. Google, who?

Moms were the most **Original Influencers** before social media existed. We were the ones shaping tastes, trends, and opinions. Still are, to be honest.

Acknowledging the care work of mothers is not just an investment in their well-being, but a bold move towards a future where empathy, peace, resilience, strength, and the revolutionary act “chocolate for breakfast” are the foundations of our society.

In mother centers—of which we currently connect more than 1,000, located everywhere from the slums of Buenos Aires to downtown Munich and the Roma district in Belgrade—these self-organized “**public living rooms**” are created by mothers for mothers. Here, skills that might even impress politicians aren't just practiced; they're lived, breathed, and passed on in the most authentic way that truly aligns with the real-life learning experiences of mothers. Far from the structured halls of traditional learning, these centers serve as vibrant hubs where the culture of CARE is seamlessly woven back into the fabric of public life.

Short story:

Imagine a mother and her child walking into the center in the morning, and the child curiously asking, “Who is my mother today?” This moment captures the essence of visible and shared care within the community, showcasing a profound understanding of collective support and nurturing that transcends traditional roles, affirming that care and love are communal treasures, not closed to a single individual.

Let's dive deeper into mother centers, those rebel spaces that just don't fit into the standard, current system—because, let's face it, the system wasn't built for the “real mom-life”. Mothers in the Mother Centers do not want to be smart in a system that doesn't serve them; they are rewriting the playbook, creating a world that truly understands and meets the needs of mothers.

A Mother Center is a space, usually with a couple of rooms and a kitchen, where moms can practice community parenting; share knowledge, relax, breathe, participate and embrace self-care as a revolutionary act.

MCs aren't just buildings; they're lively centers where meals become communal celebrations and personal growth meets collective support. It's a place that blurs the line between 'me time' and 'we time,' turning isolation into shared strength.

They are **Social and learning spaces**: here the basic thesis is that **everybody is good at something**. Here, we celebrate each other's strengths, not the stumbles or the gaps.

Diversity thrives here, painting a vibrant picture of different lives and stories, enriching the community as everyone shares and grows from their unique paths.

And yes Participation! Mothers are eager to actively engage in processes and be part of the solution. In Mother Centers, they grow to become not just kinder and smarter but also loud—yes, louder than a toddler refusing a nap. Imagine the numerous rejections and challenges they've faced, knocking on the doors of local decision-makers, asking for support or a worn, unused premises and only to be dismissed with comments like: “We don't fund coffee-drinking spots!”

And yet, how empowering it is when they take matters into their own hands!

A Mother Center is definitely a place of nurturing, where care and support are the ultimate acts of rebellion and strength.

As a wrap up, the question isn't why we should invest in mothers; it's hard to imagine why we wouldn't. Their roles as natural leaders underline not just a need but a necessity for investment. It's been an honor to share this platform with you, to advocate for seeing mothers not as an expense but as the transformative powers of our future.

I eagerly look forward to the insights of the next speakers and am hopeful for opportunities to collaborate further.

Let's continue to support each other in rewriting the playbook, creating spaces where mothers can thrive and shape a world with empathy, resilience, and, yes, even chocolate for breakfast.

For more on how we're empowering mothers and fostering communities around the globe, I invite you to visit minemothercenters.org. Together, we're not just supporting mothers; we're building a society that recognizes and celebrates their fundamental contributions.