

Mothers, unpaid care work and global crises: connecting the dots

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9:30-11:00 New York / 15:30-17:00 Paris

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The twin crisis of care & its impact on unpaid care

Human care systems under strain due to economic, societal and demographic factors

A triple planetary crisis

- climate emergency
- accelerating biodiversity loss
- widespread air, water and soil pollution

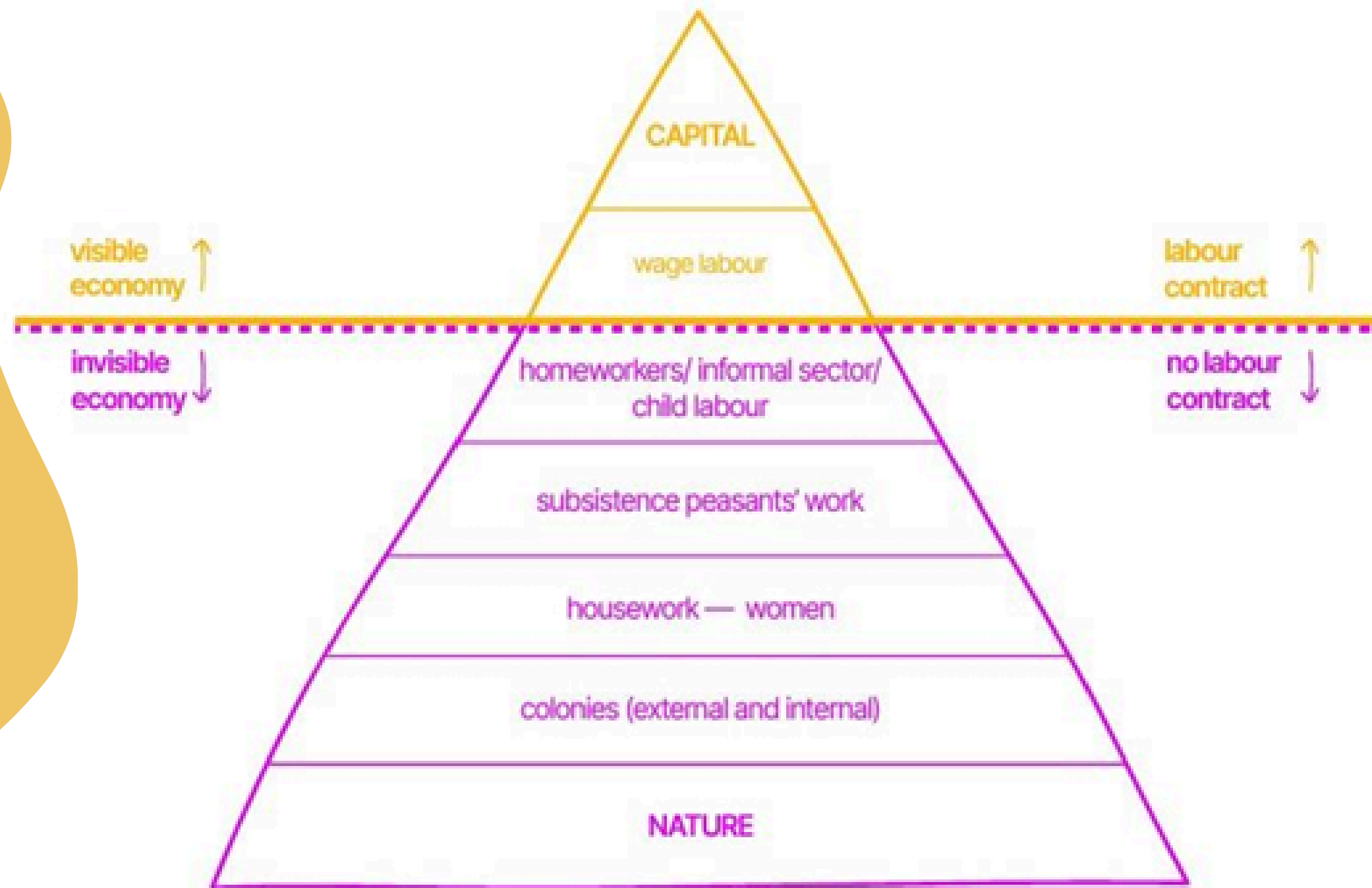
Multidimensional impacts on households (incl. mothers):

- Higher morbidity and mortality of family members
- Disrupted ecosystem and public care infrastructure
- Pricing of essential goods and services
- Income, livelihoods, assets
- Availability of social protection & other coping mechanisms
- Displacement

- **Increasing societal demand** for unpaid (and underpaid) care
- **Reduced capacity of care givers** due to a combination of covariate and idiosyncratic shock
- **Changing nature of unpaid care needs**

The common roots of the twin crisis

societal norms which **fail to distribute care work evenly and invisibilize & devalue (care givers and providers)** (incl. eco-systems)



Hot or Cool. 2023. Economies that dare to care

an economic system which conceives **caring** for people and the living world **as a public good** & which rewards extraction & care-less destruction of human and natural capital

What solutions?

Environmental policies

Damage limitation
& just adaptation
through egalitarian sufficiency

Care-sensitive
environmental policies and tech

Valuing care
for commons

Economic policies

Care-full metrics beyond GDP

People's sovereign funds

Uncarerer pays

Social policies

Climate proof & sustainable
care infrastructure&services

Universal social protection floor

Reduced working week
&other policies to
reduce time poverty

Equity test

Inter-country
Intra-country
Intergenerational



Be the change you want to see in the world



Building more caring working cultures and shifting societal norms around care, including new investments in redistributing and supporting care work at work and home

About the 148 respondents in the EU:



44%

are Executive Director / Secretary General



83%

work full-time



62%

work for an NGO



70%

are over 31 yo

"There's no room for celebration of achievements; there's so much more to do. We don't deserve to celebrate when there's so much not done yet."

"Our big mistake as women leaders in NGOs is the failure to acknowledge that the challenges we are experiencing are not personal, they are systemic."

"We are overachievers. We believe we can make a difference."

73 %
of survey respondents feel like they make a contribution to a better world

More than 30%
of respondents almost never or never feel confident in saying no to projects that fall outside of the scope of their role or mandate.

Only 10%
of survey respondents manage to go through their to-do list on a weekly basis



Latest publications of relevance

- A European Green Caring Society: overcoming fragmentation
- New metrics for sustainable prosperity: Options for GDP+3
- Call to action from the Forum for Caring Societies
- Women CSO leaders for systemic change

