



Human Rights Council - 57th Session

General Debate on Item 3

Oral Statement

Make Mothers Matter's High-Level Political Forum side-event¹ highlighted the links between today's multiple global crises and women's unpaid care work. In the face of systemic challenges, women, in particular mothers, work as shock absorbers. While our current world is in critical need of care, we fail to adopt this lens in addressing and mitigating crises.

Our current economic system fuels inequalities and fails to appropriately respond to the challenges of our time. The debt crisis precipitates societies into social crises. When priorities shift from providing public services to debt servicing, mothers pay the highest price. When austerity policies reduce investment in healthcare, education or social protection, mothers have to adapt and perform the work public services no longer provide. Environmental degradation and climate change also increase the unpaid work of caring.

These crises are self-reinforcing because they are rooted in an economic system that fails to recognize the proper value of what really matters to people and the planet: care.

It is time for a systemic transformation of our economic system. Care must be at the heart of our response to all our challenges.

¹ 2024 HLPF side-event on 'Mothers, unpaid care work and crises – connecting the dots' – See recording, report and other information on <https://makemothersmatter.org/envisioning-care-as-a-common-thread-to-global-crises/>

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