



Human Rights Council - 57th Session
Panel discussion on the implementation of States' obligations on the role of the family in supporting the human rights of its members

Nowadays families come in many forms, but we would like to draw attention to the increasing number of single-parent families, mainly headed by mothers, and in most cases, not by choice.

As the family's only caregiver, single mothers are on the frontline, shouldering the unpaid and time-consuming – yet vital – work of caring for and educating their children, juggling to maintain the household while earning an income.

They often sacrifice their own needs to prioritize those of their children. They suffer from time-poverty, and are particularly vulnerable to financial poverty and social exclusion, which negatively impacts their children's physical, emotional and cognitive development.

At MMM we call upon governments to develop family support policies that address the specific challenges and needs of single mothers in the various aspects of their and their children's lives. These policies should promote single mothers' economic and social rights, including their right to an adequate standard of living, right to education, right to work and to social security, as well as their children's right to be cared for in a nurturing family environment.

Ensuring the human rights of family members must include the full human rights of all mothers. And consider care as a right.

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Make Mothers Matter believes in the power of mothers to make the world a better place, advocating for their recognition and support as changemakers. Created in 1947, MMM is an international NGO with no political or religious affiliations, transparently voicing the concerns of mothers at the highest level: the European Union, UNESCO and the United Nations (general consultative status).