



# Motherhood: The Unfinished Business of Beijing

**Thursday, March 20 | 10:30am – 12pm | United Nations Church Center 10<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**This session will highlight the criticality of supporting motherhood for gender equality and global development, explore the progress and challenges in fulfilling the Beijing +30 commitments to mothers, and discuss possible mechanisms for change going forward.**

## **Background**

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) is a landmark global policy document focused on advancing gender equality and women's rights. It was adopted by 189 countries at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995. The Platform for Action is considered one of the most comprehensive and progressive blueprints for gender equality worldwide.

In contrast with other women-focused policy efforts and commitments around the world, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action explicitly calls for the recognition and support of mothers. The words “mothers” and “motherhood” are mentioned seventeen times in 14 different clauses of the Platform for Action. It touches on a variety of topics affecting mothers, including recognition of motherhood’s impact on family and society, the importance of mothers’ health and education, and the need for equal career and income-generating opportunities and empowerment. Paragraph 29 is specifically dedicated to highlighting the importance of women’s role as mothers and carers, and care as a shared responsibility across all of society.

While presumably, some of the 189 countries in the declaration have made advancements in these action commitments, no organization is monitoring and reporting progress at a global level. Motherhood is one of the least discussed areas of gender equality and sustainable development. This 30-year review of the Beijing declaration and platform for action present a timely opportunity to spotlight the power of motherhood in global development, the lack of societal and policy support for motherhood, and some mechanisms of change going forward.

## **Objectives**

- To reinvigorate the discussion around motherhood as engine of global development and gender equality
- To explore the progress and challenges in fulfilling Beijing +30 motherhood-specific commitments
- To collectively envision a way forward that includes identifying mechanisms and actions for progress.

## Host Organizations

This event is organized by **Make Mothers Matter** with the kind support of the following esteemed organizations:



Through advocacy and grassroots mobilization, [Make Mothers Matter](#) works at the local, regional and global levels to advance laws, policies, programs and organizations in support of mothers as change makers of the world. We voice the concerns, inequalities, rights and perspectives of mothers around the world. Through our global network of member organizations, we reach 10 million mothers in their quest for better health, social participation and protection, and economic opportunities. Our network helps empower mothers as agents of life-long well-being for their children and long-term, sustainable development of their societies.



[The Global Alliance for Care/Alianza Global por los Cuidados](#) is the first global multi-stakeholder community that facilitates and fosters spaces for dialogue, analysis, exchange of experiences and learning about care, its recognition as a need, as work, and as a right. It is an articulation between governments, civil society, union associations, the philanthropic sector, international organizations and academia with a view to implementing the care agenda from the local to the global level. Co-convened by the Government of Mexico through the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES), and UN Women, this ground-breaking global multi-stakeholder community was launched during the Generation Equality Forum in 2021 in the context of the Action Coalition on Economic and Justice and Rights.



[SOS Children's Villages/Aldeas Infantiles](#) SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest organization focused on ensuring that children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it grow up with the care, relationships and support they need to become their strongest selves. We build families for children in need, we help them shape their own futures, and we share in the development of their communities. They are our priority and we do whatever it takes to ensure that they grow up empowered with trust and a feeling of belonging. Our work is adapted to local contexts and customs, as it must be in order for us to reach those who need our support.



[Single Super Mom](#) was founded in 2008 and offers support to single mothers and their children throughout the Netherlands. Our goal is to strengthen the socio-economic position, well-being and network of single mothers. We do this through workshops, training, networking events and social activities. Our activities focus on welfare, money and care, which are essential for single mothers to be able to take good care of themselves and their children.



[NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing](#) was first designated as a [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Collaborating Center \(CC\)](#) in 2004 and has since been renewed every four years. It is one of more than 800 WHO CCs worldwide and 47 WHO CCs based on schools of nursing. It is a member of the Pan American Network of Nursing and Midwifery Collaborating Centers and the Global Network of Nursing and Midwifery Collaborating Centers. It is based on NYU Meyers Global Initiatives.

## Program/Agenda

- |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7-10 mins   | <i>Opening Remarks and Introduction: Motherhood, Development and Beijing +30</i><br><b>Farah Arabe (Moderator), UN Representative Make Mothers Matter</b>                                                                                                                    |
| 7 -10 mins  | <i>A Social Affair: Beijing on Health &amp; Education of Mothers</i><br><b>Donna Cill, Associate Professor and Deputy Director, World Health Organization Collaborating Center at NYU College of Nursing</b>                                                                 |
| 7-10 mins   | <i>A (Unsupported) Balancing Act: Beijing on Work-life Balance, Income Generation &amp; Career Opportunities for Mothers</i><br><b>Ana Moreno, Global Alliance for Care/Alianza Global por los Cuidados</b>                                                                  |
| 7 – 10 mins | <i>All the Single Ladies: The Specific Challenges to Lone Motherhood and their Consideration in Beijing+30</i><br><b>Isra Lee, Founder and Director, Single SuperMom</b>                                                                                                     |
| 7 -10 mins  | <i>Best Practices From The Children's Perspective: The Importance of a Two-Generational Approach and the Consequences of Maternal Absence</i><br><b>Sofia García García, Head of Strategic Partnerships and External Engagement at SOS Children's Villages International</b> |
| 20 mins     | <i>Q&amp;A and Discussion on Taking it Forward: Possible Strategies for Impact</i>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5 mins      | <i>Final Remarks: Quick Twitter Style Round</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 15-20 mins  | <i>Open Networking Time</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



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Mothers  
Matter



Whether you are an individual or represent an association, institution, company or foundation, Make Mothers Matter welcomes you. To join our efforts as partners, members or volunteers, please learn more and contact us.

## Speaker Bios



**Ana Moreno, Technical Secretary at the Global Alliance for Care.** Social anthropologist and journalist with over 30 years of experience in public policy, international, and local sustainable development projects. Specializes in defining and implementing collaboration platforms and multi-stakeholder alliances, participating in intergovernmental processes, and designing advocacy and outreach strategies for sustainable development and resource mobilization. Notable roles include serving as Coordinator for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum (2012-2018), as well as Director of the UN-Habitat Office for Brunei-Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Additionally, has held key positions with the Barcelona City Council, Spain's Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.



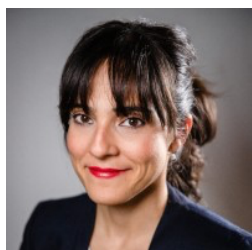
**Donna Cill, Clinical Associate Professor NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing.** Prof. Cill has a strong affinity for global health with a focus on nursing leadership, education, and healthcare delivery. She has worked in England, South America, India, Egypt, Tanzania, Ghana, Jamaica performing need assessments, working with the ministry of health, and providing patient care. Her research focuses on communication in the mother-daughter dyad and its effects on health risk behaviors. She works in collaboration with the United Nations to promote health in young girls and their mothers.



**Farah Arabe, UN Representative for Make Mothers Matter.** She is a passionate advocate for the transformative power of early relationships, experiences and environments for sustainable and inclusive global development. Upon experiencing motherhood, Farah became the Founder of itotheN | Intergenerational Impact, an international policy consulting firm that focuses on the early formation of the human mind and heart as a catalyst for global change. Currently she is also UN Representative for Make Mothers Matter, serves on the advisory board of the Global Mental Health Action Network and co-presides the Harvard Kennedy School Women's Alumni Network.



**Isra Lee, Founder and Director of Single SuperMom,** a grassroots CSO concerned with supporting single mothers, with a specific focus on increasing economic independence amongst this target group. Isra is the child of a single mother, and a single mother of one son herself. On the basis of this personal experience, she founded Single SuperMom with the goal of creating communities of single mothers and organising empowerment trainings focused on giving back a sense of personal autonomy and long-term self-direction to single mothers.



**Sofia Garcia Garcia, Head of Strategic Partnerships and External Engagement at SOS Children's Villages International.** Prior to this, she served as UN Representative for the organization, representing the rights and voices of children without parental care. Previously she led SOS Children's Villages engagement at the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs negotiations, with a key focus on ensuring a comprehensive approach to the "leave no one behind" concept. Sofia holds a Masters in International Affairs by The New School University of New York and a Masters in European Union Studies by the Universidad de Salamanca. She graduated in Journalism and Political Sciences.