



Human Rights Council – 60th Session
Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special
Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery

Oral Statement

M. President,

Make Mothers Matter welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur and its focus on Child Labour, which still affects 138 million worldwide. We agree that it is indeed a form of slavery that must be urgently eradicated, and that this requires addressing its root causes.

Child Labour is a symptom of poverty and family vulnerability. It is also directly linked to gender inequality and mothers' inability to participate in the Labour market. We know that when women have better education and can participate in the labour force, child labour seldom takes place.

It is therefore essential to address in particular the inequitable distribution of unpaid domestic and care work, which prevents too many women, in particular when they are mothers, from engaging in income generating activities. According to the ILO, globally two thirds of women aged 25 to 54 indicate unpaid care responsibility as the reason for being outside the workforce.

[As a result, women too often end up working in the informal sector: agriculture, domestic work and care are all sectors contributing to everyone's well-being where women predominantly work, either unpaid or underpaid. Even when they are employed, mothers struggle to balance their care responsibilities with paid work, often confined to part-time, low-paid and precarious jobs, which makes them economically vulnerable].

Children's rights are interconnected with the mother's rights: preventing child labour therefore requires the economic empowerment of mothers through policies that recognise, value and support the unpaid work of caring, and redistribute this vital work more equitably, both between men and women and across society.

At MMM, we believe that this can only happen through systemic changes to our economic and social systems, when our economy is repurposed to serve wellbeing and place care at the heart of socio-economic concerns and policymaking.

Thank you

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Since 1947, MMM has been at the forefront of advocating for mothers' rights and recognition worldwide, raising awareness amongst policy makers and the general public on the contributions of mothers towards social, cultural and economic development. MMM has no political or religious affiliations. Working with local partners, MMM advocates on influential global platforms including the European Union, the United Nations (General Consultative Status), and UNESCO, ensuring that the lived realities of mothers are voiced and acknowledged.