

3 April 2020



In just a few short weeks, our daily life as we know it has been turned upside down, changing everything. The COVID-19 pandemic which is hitting us with a force unlike anything we have experienced in recent memory, is taking its toll on ALL of us, regardless of our circumstances: where we live, our economic situation, our education, our nationality, our religion...

Make Mothers Matter is, as ever, primarily concerned with mothers. They are living through this period in very different ways. For, while we are all concerned, our individual circumstances mean that the consequences are far from uniform: this crisis also exacerbates inequalities.

What we are going through reveals the importance of the role of mothers. Never before has the word 'mother' been so widely used in the media. Because when our lives are refocused with emphasis shifting to our basic most fundamental needs, the role of a mother, as well as that of a father, become more critical.

While frontline health care workers unite in the fight against COVID-19, parents, especially mothers, take on a crucial role as well. In addition to their usual domestic and educational responsibilities, parents must, in this period of global confinement, supplement schools and nurseries, and more generally the educational communities that are active with children in normal times - while trying, as far as possible, to continue working to provide an income.

This crisis highlights the essential role of care work that is most often poorly paid or underpaid or not paid at all.

Strengthening the basis of our social fabric and ensuring the health, well-being and education of populations must be the priority for governments. In particular, the protection of mothers and fathers who are fundamental to our existence and development. We see today how vital it is to take measures to support them in their caring and educative role.

We will have to remember this... afterwards, and act accordingly: revise our political and budgetary priorities and rethink our economies and its objectives.

MMM will advocate for this as we have always done for more than seventy years.

Take care of yourselves and others.

Anne-Claire de Liedekerke  
President, on behalf of all MMM Teams

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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).*