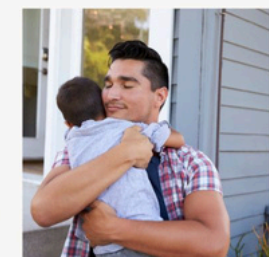
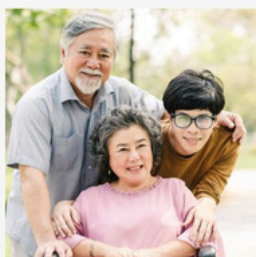


SURVEY REPORT MAY 2024

# WHAT MOTHERS AND OTHER CAREGIVERS WANT AND NEED



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PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY  
GLOBAL WOMEN'S STRIKE

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# INTRODUCTION

Mothers, motherhood, mothering, and caregiving are often talked about in public, but seldom are these conversations informed by the experiences and views of mothers and other caregivers themselves.

When we do hear about mothering and caregiving it is usually in the context of how hard it is and how happy we should be that there are paid caregivers to look after our loved ones—whether they be children, those who are ill or have a disability, or older adults.

In 2021, the Global Women's Strike (GWS) decided to put together a working group that would design a survey to find out what mothers and other caregivers actually think, want and need.

The group from Thailand, the UK and the US hammered out a questionnaire that made sense to caregivers from different racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, and countries with different state provisions. It was available in English, Italian, Spanish and Thai.

What emerged from the respondents is in sharp contrast to the assumptions we find in the media and among politicians. We are convinced that these views should be carefully considered by all who are interested in social change based on satisfying people's needs and aspirations rather than market forces.



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# SURVEY SUMMARY

The survey was completed by 1065 respondents from 50 countries, the majority from the UK, the US and Thailand. Most respondents, 91%, identified as women, including trans women, 76% as mothers, half of them single. Most were middle or low income, and 63% had a waged job. About half identified as white and just over half as people of color, including Asian, Black or African descent, Hispanic/Latinx, Indigenous and Mixed Race. Some had a disability or a disabled child.

The key findings are particularly poignant for mothers and are ripe for immediate action:

1. Caregiving is work that makes a valuable contribution to society.
2. Caregiving is often invisible.
3. The bond between mother and child is vital.
4. Most mothers would prefer to have more time for family and relationships, and to work outside the home only part-time.
5. Mothers and other caregivers would prefer to take care of their older relatives at home, as would the majority of people who rely on their care.
6. Respondents in no country thought society valued the work of mothers and other caregivers.
7. Caring work deserves a care income. That was the overwhelming view of 84% of respondents.



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# OUR RESPONDENTS



Most respondents identified as women, including trans women. Men, including trans men and non-binary individuals, were also represented. For the race/ethnicity question, respondents could choose “all that apply.” Here’s how they identified: 50% white; 23% Asian; 14% Black or of African descent; 9% Hispanic/Latinx; 7% mixed race; and 5% Indigenous. When asked about income, they replied: 41% middle income, 36% low income, 13% no income, and 10% high income.

While respondents from 50 countries took part in the survey, most responses are from the United Kingdom/England (358), the United States (209) and Thailand (178). Other responses—in order of the number—are from: Germany, Italy, Brazil, Uruguay, India, Sweden, UK/Scotland, Australia, Spain, Netherlands, Ireland, Canada, UK Wales, Mexico, Colombia, France, Myanmar/Burma, Switzerland, Fiji, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Argentina, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru, UK/Northern Ireland, Belgium, Bolivia, Burundi, China, Denmark, Egypt, Hungary, Israel, Palestine, Mongolia, Nepal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Syria, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, and Ukraine. Some had emigrated from one country to another.

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# KEY FINDINGS

## #1: CARING WORK DESERVES A CARE INCOME



Mothers and caregivers who took our survey overwhelmingly felt that caregiving requires skills, time, and dedication, and said that society and/or governments do not value this important work.

They said they are not getting the support they need, and mentioned healthcare, paid maternity and paternity leave, free childcare, and help with food and housing.

**84%** considered that their caregiving was a contribution to

society that should be paid, for example, with a care income. They said they would be happier and/or a better caregiver if they received recognition and an income for their caregiving work.

Without it mothers and other caregivers, as well as children, people with disabilities, and older people, are not getting the support they need in the way they wish. They have no real choice about how to live.

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## #2: CAREGIVING IS WORK

RESPONDENTS THINK OF THEIR CAREGIVING AS ESSENTIAL WORK.



Just over half of respondents are solely responsible for the upbringing of their children.

The majority spend more than 40 hours a week caring for children and adults.

Many said caregiving is a 24/7 responsibility.

**“It is indisputable that the survival of all life on the planet depends on the work women and girls are doing all over the world to keep society going during wars, pandemics, hostile environments, and the climate catastrophe.”**



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# #3: CAREGIVING IS OFTEN INVISIBLE

MANY ASPECTS OF CAREGIVING ARE NOT OFTEN THOUGHT OF AS CARE WORK.



Many identified these activities as care work:

- Providing emotional support
- Breastfeeding
- Homeschooling, helping with homework, parent school activities
- Supporting family and friends with mental illness
- Caring for the land, the natural world, farming, gardening
- Defending loved ones from racism and discrimination
- Defending self and others from sexual and/or domestic violence
- Volunteer work

“Like caring for our fellow human beings, caring for the land and for the natural world is similarly hidden and unvalued.”

“Many of us are involved in many things for the environment, for the Amazon, so we are glad care work is extending to our natural world as well as the people.”





## #4: THE BOND BETWEEN MOTHER AND CHILD IS VITAL

**MOST RESPONDENTS ARE MOTHERS AND NEARLY HALF ARE SINGLE MOTHERS.**

Respondents believe that the bond between mother and child is vital to the welfare of the child.

Many felt less valued by society when they became a mother.

The vast majority breastfed (76%), many (46%) for up to a year and 25% for two years or more. A third said employers didn't support breastfeeding.

“Taking care of my two children at home when they were little was the most exhausting and the most joyous time of my life.”

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## #5: WITHOUT FINANCIAL PRESSURE, MOST MOTHERS WOULD NOT WORK FULL-TIME OUTSIDE THE HOME.



**63%** of respondents **have a waged job**, and they worry about what's happening to their child or relative when they are away from home.

They want to care for their loved ones and do waged work primarily because they need the money. They find it hard to leave a child or relative who is unwell.

**71%** said that they **would not work** the same job or for the same number of hours if they had no financial pressure. **5% would work full-time** outside the home if they could choose freely.

“There is no recognition for women who do a double day... I would work part time or not do waged work outside the home if I could.”

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## #6: MOST RESPONDENTS WANT TO BE CARED FOR OR CARE FOR OTHERS AT HOME



If they were to become dependent upon others for care, **73%** of respondents would want to be cared for at home.

If they are caring for others, nearly **60%** want to share a home with those in their care.

For many respondents, particularly those in Thailand and Myanmar, caring for loved ones at home was the only option they would consider.

**“I wish I could have spent more time caring for my elderly parents.”**

**“Cared for both parents until their death, and for my partner. State should recognize this as life-saving work. Instead we are invisible, unpaid, impoverished for doing it.”**



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## #7: SOCIETY IS NOT DOING A GOOD JOB OF VALUING CARE WORK



According to the World Policy Analysis Center, 96% of countries worldwide, including all 54 African countries, provide some statutory paid maternity leave.

Paid maternity leave ranges from 14 weeks in Thailand to 58 weeks in Bulgaria. In Sweden, mothers and fathers share 68 weeks.

The US, the major global economy in the world, provides no statutory maternity leave and no benefits.

Poverty is a serious issue.

**“Caregivers are severely undervalued and overworked. Society truly needs to adjust its priorities.”**

**“I am a single mum of 5 and struggling with mental health issues. The lack of money is hitting hard on our lives.”**



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# RESPONDENTS CRITIQUE SOCIETY



“In the US, we need a federal paid maternity leave. I work for a big global corporation, but only got four weeks of paid maternity leave. I could take up to a year of unpaid maternity leave, but the time is taken from your seniority at the company. Maternity is penalized, but any other ‘disability’ is covered.”

“The social care in the UK is practically non-existent and an absolute disgrace. We need a radical reform of the way we recognize, fund, and support every aspect of care across our communities.”

“Our society needs to value family and caregivers. In the US, capitalism overrules the needs of families and that is a shame.”



“INDIA does not recognize the struggle of single mothers and supports the patriarchal social system. Society makes families of single mothers feel insecure. It is a strong belief system that only men and women together can form a family.”

“I want authorities in THAILAND to act sincerely and provide help urgently because it’s a basic right for mothers.”

“I realize I am privileged as a white GERMAN woman and things could be much worse. Still, even with all these privileges we have here, the situation is still far from good enough for (female) caregivers.”

“I want the government of THAILAND to recognize the value of caring work including providing an income and recognition in the Constitution.”

“Some kind of caregiving income would be brilliant - especially for people who do unpaid care for another adult. In SCOTLAND we have a Carer's Allowance, but it is such a tiny amount it is an insult.”



“I had better chances (40 years ago) than current mothers in EGYPT. At my time the state offered women better benefits than it does now.”

“In SWEDEN we don’t have a tax reduction to support a stay-at-home person or their children. In Sweden the norm is that you stay at home for about a year and then go back to your work. It is hard to go against the norm as you make yourself so different from all the others and also get rather lonely.

It’s also quite hard to get the money to last if you try to support a family on one wage.”

“More Moms need to know their labor is extremely important, and that people are trying to change how US society views Moms and domestic labor.

“Thank you for asking. As a mother, I felt I had no power to influence the UK government/benefits etc. I think government does not ask women much at all about what we need.”



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# STATISTICS



Responses from 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and Oceania

91% of respondents identify as women  
76% are mothers

57% married or in partnership  
43% single

50% white  
23% Asian  
14% Black or of African descent  
9% Hispanic/Latinx  
7% mixed race  
5% Indigenous

16% have a physical or other disability  
15% of respondents have children with a physical or other disability

40% middle income  
36% low income  
10% high Income  
1% no income

43% jointly responsible with partner/spouse for day-to-day financial support of the family

40% alone financially responsible

51% alone or mostly alone primarily responsible for day-to-day upbringing of the children

39% share responsibility with partner/spouse





44% have help from a relative or close friend to care for their children

23% have been separated from their children because they had to move to the city or another country, their children were taken by the child's father or by the state and/or adopted, they were in prison, or for other reasons

54% care for elderly relatives or friends

43% defend loved ones from racism and discrimination

38% defend themselves and others from sexual violence

40% defend themselves and others from domestic abuse/violence

54% support family and friends financially and/or by contributing to groceries and other necessities

46% check in or make arrangements for loved ones while at paid work

39% provide food to others through cooking, community farms, meal delivery

45% provide transportation to family and friends

52% support family/friends with mental illness

45% support family/friends with chronic illness

54% do community volunteer work

48% recycle/donate food, supplies, clothes

26% spend more than 40 hours a week caring for children and/or adults; 34% spend 24/7



73% would like to receive care at home if they were dependent on care from others

58% would prefer to live together if they were providing care for a loved one

54% would prefer to provide care in the house of the person who needs care

32% would arrange for others to provide care for loved ones.

76% breastfed

22% breastfed for 8 to 12 months

24% breastfed for over a year

25% breastfed for two years or more

44% did not get the support they needed to breastfeed or got only partial support.

29% gave up breastfeeding to go back to waged work.

36% said more financial support would have helped them to breastfeed longer.

63% have a waged job

60% worry about what's happening to their child or relative while they are away at their job(s)

36% said their employer did not accommodate their needs as a mother or caregiver very well

55% received paid maternity leave

33% said that their waged job did not provide breastfeeding breaks

34% said their main job did not provide family or medical leave to take care of a newborn or someone who is sick



73% find it hard to go to work when their child or relative is unwell

72% work primarily because they need the money

71% would not work at the same job or for the same number of hours if they had no financial pressure

5% would work full-time if they could choose freely

30% would work part-time outside the home

28% would become self-employed

23% would be a full-time mother or caregiver

40% wish they could spend more time with their children

64% think the bond between mother and child is vital to the welfare of the child

40% felt less valued when they became a mother

86% think society or the government is not doing a good job of supporting mothers and children

89% think society or the government is not doing a good job of supporting the care of older people

83% think society or the government is not doing a good job of supporting people with disabilities

84% think their caring work as a mother or family caregiver for another adult is a contribution to society that should be paid, for example, through a care income

85% think they would be happier and/or a better caregiver if they received the recognition and support of an income for caregiving

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# OUR METHODOLOGY



To learn more about what mothers and caregivers want, we conducted an online and in-person survey of 55 questions about topics related to caregiving. The survey was available in English, Spanish, Thai and Italian. To adjust for the fact that not all individuals responded to every question, we calculated percentages in this report based on the total number of responses to the relevant question.

Filling out the survey was entirely voluntary; there were no incentives.

The responses summarized in this report reflect only the views of those who took this survey, but they do provide illustrative testimonials on crucial topics that are otherwise not discussed frequently. We consider this an important starting point for change.



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# HOW THE SURVEY CAME TO BE



The survey drew from three other surveys: *The Motherhood Survey: Fresh Insights on Mothers' Attitudes and Concerns* published in 2005 by the Mother's Council; the *Mothers Survey* drafted by the Global Women's Strike in the UK in 2017; and the *Caregiving Survey* conducted at the Crossroads Women's Center in Philadelphia, PA, in 2020.

A working group of unpaid caregivers from Thailand, UK, and US created and conducted the survey. It was a year in the making as we tested and retested it to ensure the language was inclusive and that it made as much sense to women farmers in Thailand and domestic workers in Peru as it did to mothers in the US.

Launched on March 8, 2022, the survey kicked off a year of activities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the International Wages for Housework Campaign, which coordinates the Global Women's Strike. Speakers at the launch were from Africa, Argentina, Burma, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Thailand, UK, and the US.

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# OUR WORKING GROUP



The Survey Working Group included: Crissie Amiss, Kay Chapman, Laura Connelly, Solveig Francis, Liz Hilton (see page 25), Phoebe Jones, Nina Lopez, Tracey Norton, Peggy O'Mara, Shoda Rackal, Sidney Ross-Risden (not pictured), and Michelle Wong.

Special thanks to Peggy O'Mara for the original design.

Special thanks to Drexel Medical students Catherine Blankemeyer and Kevin Chen, for their work on the CAFES survey and to Christopher Yam and Nana Frimpong for their invaluable tech help in navigating Survey Monkey and the translations. And, to launch translators Ben Martin, Giorgio Riva, Juliana Barnet, Marina, Thai translators and launch Tech Team Crissie Amiss, Eric Gjertsen, Niki Adams, and Sam Weinstein.



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# OUTREACH IN THE UK

GLORIA PETERS, KAY CHAPMAN AND SHODA RACKAL DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS IN KENTISH TOWN, LONDON, JUNE 2022.



The survey was distributed by the autonomous organizations and networks of the Global Women’s Strike—All African Women’s Group, English Collective of Prostitutes, Legal Action for Women, Payday men’s network, Queer Strike, Single Mothers’ Self-Defence, Support Not Separation, WinVisible (women with visible & invisible disabilities), Women Against Rape, and Women of Colour/GWS. It was shared widely on social media, and distributed at street stalls, schools, and community events. Local mothers were invited to coffee mornings at the Crossroads Women’s Centre so they could have access to computers and ask any questions.

“Caring work is essential to the whole of society yet we are impoverished for doing this work. Can you think of anything more unjust?”

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# OUTREACH IN THE US

CAROLYN HILL HANDS OUT SURVEY BROCHURES IN HER NEIGHBORHOOD IN PHILADELPHIA, IN THE SUMMER OF 2022.



In the US, the survey was distributed in neighborhoods and at women's centers, including the Crossroads Women's Center in Philadelphia.

It was promoted by Every Mother Is a Working Mother Network, Give Us Back Our Children, Green Child, Moms First, Mocha Moms, Payday men's network, the Poor People's Campaign, North City Congress, Center in the Park, Family and Home Network, US PROstitutes Collective, and Women of Color/ GWS, among others.



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# OUTREACH IN THAILAND

MAI JANTA DESCRIBES HOW THEY DID IT



I first heard about the Care income, or wages for mothers and carers, a few years ago from our sisters in Global Women's Strike. Until then I had always been made to understand it was my duty to do the housework and care for my family without any expectation of money. After all, if we don't care for the family, who would take our place?

But when I thought about the work we do at home and the work we do outside the home, often the only difference is we only get money for the work we do away from our home and family. It started me thinking, yes why don't we get paid? Why does a woman have to leave her home to care for someone else's children simply to make enough money to care for her own kids and family? When I began to understand I started talking at length with other community women.

I became a part of making the survey along with women in different countries and different contexts. We had lots of debates. I led the Thai team and many of the questions were confusing when translated from English language and context to Thai. We had much back and forth and many changes until the survey was solid and ready to go!

I have been visiting our sisters from our Community Women Human Rights Collective. Our Collective has women representing 19 different communities.





“Why does a woman have to leave her home to care for someone else’s children simply to make enough money to care for her own kids and family?”

We are women caring for and defending the land, environment, and Indigenous peoples. We are women demanding justice for our livelihoods such as sex workers, factory workers, migrant workers, and street vendors. We are women from slum communities insisting on housing and an end to poverty. We are disabled women, single mums, and other women struggling for democracy. We are all caring for our families, communities, and society.

When I talked with other community women about the Care Income I started by asking everyone to say what unwaged caring work we are doing every day. Then I posed the same question I had asked myself: “Why do we have to go out to earn money to do the work of caring at home?” After a short time to reflect, nearly every woman said, “Why? Yes...exactly!?” and were ready to pressure the government to pay mothers and caregivers.

Care Income doesn’t take a lot of explanation for women who do the caring work unwaged every day to understand and embrace it. It is not a university theory; it is a grassroots common-sense solution.

I hope this survey will give mothers and carers a chance to think about, talk about and organize to fight for a Care Income. This survey is like a tool we can use to debate and to expand the recognition of the importance and value of caring work in society.

It will take time and effort because whatever country or tradition, mothers and children are still taught that caring for family is a duty done without payment. Aside from this, all those systems and people who benefit from the work we do for free, they know very well when we have a Care Income, they won’t be able to exploit us and live as they do now any longer.

I don’t know if it will take us five years or 20 or 50 like Pi Selma, or maybe the next generation will be the ones who see caring work recognized as work and valued financially and in society. But however long a Care Income is on its way!

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# OUTREACH AMONG TRANS SEX WORKERS IN LATIN AMERICA

FROM MARINA, DEDICATED TO NATALIA WHO “SPOKE SO WELL ON MOTHERING AND CARE WORK AND OUR HISTORY.”



The survey took a long time to do because of the translation and it is hard to know what to select on some answers, but we made our best effort. Twenty surveys completed: 13 from **Brazil**, two **Mexico**, two **Venezuela**, one **Colombia** and two women living in the US who are from **Honduras** and **Dominican Republic**. Some are undocumented.

The gender question: some tick “trans woman” and write “travesti” in the “other” box because it is cultural and political. It is not just to respect trans identity, but because it is anti-racist and recognizes Indigenous cultures. In many cultures the binary does not exist like it does [in the West], and in many places where it does it is because it has been enforced by colonialism.

Most are young, 20s and 30s because life expectancy is not good. Most are mixed race, some Black, a few Indigenous and the rest Latinx. Most are living with long term health issues but not all marked this as a disability.

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Everyone said they are low income and the two older women have no income now so are being supported by the younger trans women.

Most of the women are raising children, not all biological of course. Some are sharing responsibilities with very close friends and chosen family. It is exhausting but many have been used to raising younger siblings. Some of us have been the main carer of other children while we were young living on the street.

We wish we could spend more time with them. This is made much harder when you are not only in poverty but you are facing a lot of violence and discrimination. All of your energy and resources are spent on trying to remain alive.

The Mexican women say of how the trans women / Muxe have a particular caregiver role in the culture. It is the same as the daughters who stay at home and care for the elderly parents and relatives and collectively for others children.

Yes, the bond between mother and child is vital, but the bond with another primary carer or relative can sometimes be as important. [For example] the women that have raised us when our own mothers have abused and rejected us. We feel the bond and role of the mothers in our lives is valid and important and should be respected because these women have given us the love we never received in our biological families.

My daughter was born from my boyfriend but I have raised her alone as her mother since the day she came into this world and my bond is not false, or invalid as a mother. He is a man who gave birth to our child and then left us. We are all strongly agreeing that what fathers contribute is very different, if they are even there.

The breastfeeding we of course skipped, but women were glad this is a focus in the survey.

One of the women said: the government and society will never compensate us for our work because they don't even want us alive, or many of the people we care for. And we are definitely not seen as mothers or caregivers as we are not even seen as women.

We are glad there has been an attempt to include us and that many types of caregiving have been included. Many of us are involved in many things for the environment, for the Amazon, so we are glad also it is extending to our natural world as well as the people.



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# LIZ HILTON



We dedicate this survey to our dearest friend and colleague Liz Hilton, who died suddenly in 2023. Liz, originally from Australia, had been living in Thailand for over 30 years. She was a member of the sex worker organization, *Empower*, and a coordinator of the *Community Women Human Rights Defenders Collective*, which brought together 19 sectors of women in struggle who campaigned for a care income to be included in the Constitution of Thailand.

Liz was part of the *What Mother's and Other Caregivers Want* survey working group, discussing every draft (translated into Thai) with her network and bringing back their comments; their input was crucial to shaping this survey. She brought her compassion, and her unique intelligence, wit, humor and accountability, to the creation process.

Her colleagues in Thailand used the questionnaire as a community building tool, on the streets and at events, so women could speak about their caring work. Thank you, Liz, you are deeply missed. Liz Hilton: Presente!!!



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# GLOBAL WOMEN'S STRIKE



**IN MARCH 1972, AT THE THIRD WOMEN'S LIBERATION CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER, ENGLAND, SELMA JAMES (ABOVE) PUT FORWARD WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

**CONTACT US AT:  
GWS@GLOBALWOMENSTRIKE.NET**

In 2000, the Wages for Housework Campaign (WFH) launched the Global Women's Strike (GWS). Since 2021 its *Care Income Now* campaign has brought together the care and protection of people and the planet. The WFH Campaign has been shaped by the autonomous organizations that formed within it and share its perspective. (See Outreach, pages 21 to 24)

# WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD?



"Mothers are so important for society and quality of life. The world population comes from mothers."

THAILAND

"I am still working full-time at 68 because I can't afford to retire. If the financial pressure was not there, I would retire in a flash. I would be able to spend time with relatives and my pets, care for people and the land the way I would want to and would be able to spend time organizing! I am the youngest of five, and my sisters may be requiring care in the next ten years. Hopefully by then I can stop working!"

CANADA

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"I was able to be there for my first child, before I separated and got divorced. With my second child, I was just trying to survive as I separated and was unable to provide and care for him in the same way. I still feel that we both missed something very important . . . The option to get paid for the work of taking care of my children and missing work is a very important option . . ."

PALESTINE

"I got a job which took me away from my children. I sacrificed caring full time for my children so I could continue my career. It really upsets me that women are still very undervalued, the time as mothers is not valued or seen as work, we are seen as desperate after having any gaps in our CV, and not supported despite all the rhetoric."

SYRIA

"I love being a mother even though it is hard work. A care income is essential to end mothers' poverty and get the recognition that mothers and other carers need and deserve. It is hard to have the caring relationships we want when the society we are part doesn't value caring and the (mostly) women who do it. A care income would increase the power of all carers to insist that society must prioritise life, all life."

UK/ENGLAND

"Damn the Patriarchy."

PUERTO RICO

"My brother is chronically ill but i do not see my support of him as 'care-work' or something to discuss at work and maybe it should be. Similarly with aging parents, we care for them / do their shopping but is that care work?"

"The government also needs to support fathers more financially and in terms of leave arrangements so they can take a full part in their child's upbringing."

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"I wish mothers were given more time to raise their children and be financially supported and for the childcare charges to be more reasonable for mothers to pay. Because life is expensive in general, and it becomes more expensive when you have a child. To have a more flexible approach for mothers to work and look after their children and be able to take them to after-school clubs."

UK/ENGLAND

"Being an alone parent is very difficult without support."

UK/ENGLAND

"Women make up more than half of population of the planet and are solely responsible for the existence for the entire population of the planet. At minimum, women should own and control half the wealth that exists and continues to be generated on Earth. That's a start."

USA

"Care is work."

PERU

"If parents/mothers and caregivers were financially compensated for their labor, I would have been able to have a child or children."

GERMANY

"The days where billionaires and those in power steal our wealth to enrich themselves are coming to an end. May this international survey be another tool to end our poverty and their greed."

UK/ENGLAND

"If mothering was valued more women may choose to have kids earlier and a career later or not at all, which could be healthier for women and children."

UK/ENGLAND



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"Would very much welcome more questions re caring for the land/nature, work very similar to caring for fellow humans and similarly hidden/unvalued."

US

"Many jobs penalise carers in all kinds of ways for taking 'time off'. A fixed guaranteed caring income would cushion carers and those we care for."

UK/ENGLAND

"I've never considered this before, the idea of being paid for the care I give to my children or extended family members who need it. My gut feeling is that it would feel wrong to be paid for this as it should be done willingly and out of love. It's good for thought about recognition for something women have done since the beginning of time. I'll definitely think about it more."

UK/ENGLAND

"Thanks for making space for Moms. More Moms need to know their labor is extremely important, and that people are trying to change how society views Moms and domestic labor. Thanks!"

US

"I am a single mum of five and struggling with mental health issues. The lack of money is hitting hard on our lives and the unseen work of a mother is immense; the survival mode is not healthy at all."

GERMANY

"If there is a certain value given to children in foster care, why isn't this financial value true for all children?"

UK/ENGLAND

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“Being a mother is extremely challenging, but working at the same time is almost impossible.”

UK/ENGLAND

"There is no recognition for women who do a double day, working for example as teachers or nurses and then go home to care for children. Women in this position are not promoted and their health is affected. If they have one child with a disability like autism, they also work at fighting to get support for their child. I would work part time or not do waged work outside the home if I could. I get no rest!!

UK/ENGLAND

"Imprisoned people need care. They are often unjustly imprisoned, many are old, sick, mentally ill, separated from family including parents, siblings, children. The state that imprisons is not giving care, the families are. They need to be supported AND THEIR LOVED ONES FREED."

US

"I am separated from my children. They are growing up without a mother. It has been so many years without seeing them. They are moving from one place to another.

They are unprotected."

UK/ENGLAND

“A lot of lesbian women are seen as spare women and so get stuck with extra caring duties because they don't have children and also so that they are accepted in the community.”

“In the past I did farming at home, in our back yard. I do informal work for very low pay due to my immigration status. Volunteers in residential homes and who help neighbours & friends informally e.g. taking out, shopping, computer work, should get some financial help.”

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"I had two small children, physical health issues myself, my ex-husbands teenage child and their mental health, my ex-husbands mental health and my elderly mother and her terminal physical and mental health to care for, and wondered why I found it difficult to work as well."

UK/ENGLAND

"I would make the choice to care for my children over and over again. It's the best time of my life. Hard work, but so worth it. The lack of visibility and remuneration must change and it's not fair that poverty is the reward of a life spent caring for others.

UK/ENGLAND

"I agree on income but not entirely on care. Although care work must be paid in all its aspects, we risk naturalizing even more care work on the bodies of women and racialized people."

"The government and society will never compensate us for our work because they don't even want us alive, or many of the people we care for. And we are definitely not seen as mothers or caregivers as we are not even seen as women."

BRAZIL

"Carers are over-stressed and undervalued people who need their own section in the Equalities Act as I have faced disability discrimination and carers discrimination."

"Mothers should have free healthcare for themselves and the children, free childcare or financial support for childcare, paid time off for a year with new born, food support, and housing support."





## SOME CAMPAIGNS FOR CAREGIVERS

Money for caregivers is on the agenda as never before and women's contributions are increasingly being acknowledged.

According to a conservative estimate, women do at least twice as much unpaid care work as men, sometimes 10 times as much, on top of their paid work. The yearly value of this work comes to at least \$10,8 trillion--more than three times the size of the global tech industry.

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/why-majority-worlds-poor-are-women>

In a number of countries, grassroots women are making significant gains.

### INDIA

Caring for the land is at the heart of the women's self-help movement in Andhra Pradesh, which spearheads community-managed natural farming. They regenerate the soil, transform the food they grow, their families' health and their incomes, and tackle climate change. Their main State backer says that "they should be entitled to an income for their work for all humanity." The Global Women's Strike (GWS) in Chhattisgarh has also joined this movement.

<https://globalwomenstrike.net/india/>



## IRELAND

A recent referendum proposal, aimed at replacing Article 41.2 of the constitution on the work of mothers in the home with wording that erased any State obligation to them, was comprehensively rejected by voters who considered it an insult to both caregivers and the people who need care. GWS-Ireland and others are campaigning for State support as a right. <https://globalwomenstrike.net/ireland/>

## PERU

GWS-Peru works with the domestic workers federation as well as the union of remunerated and unremunerated workers in the home. They have won legislation recognizing domestic workers' rights, and campaign for a living wage for work "in your home and the home of others." <https://www.facebook.com/HuelgamPeru/>

## THAILAND

The Community Women Human Rights Defenders Collective, which brings together women from 19 different community struggles and is part of the GWS network, is demanding that any new national constitution must include a care income. <https://www.facebook.com/WHRDPOWER>

## UK

GWS is pressing for a care income for all who do the work of caring for people, the soil and the natural world. This was raised at the Oxford Real Farming Conference in 2023 and 2024. <https://globalwomenstrike.net/caringfortheland/>

Support Not Separation and Disabled Mothers' Rights Campaign organize to end the forced removal of children from their mother or other primary carer, especially from low-income single mothers, often women of color, disabled and/or victims of domestic violence. A care income is a core demand. <https://supportnotseparation.blog/>



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Safety First Wales is pressing for sex workers who are mothers to have access to a care income similar to the payment given to young people leaving care, in recognition that most sex workers are working to support families. <https://safetyfirstwales.org/briefing>.

The Scottish Kinship Care Alliance is campaigning for “parity” from the government so that kinship carers receive the same money as foster carers. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/23503896621236/>

**US**  
GWS-US campaigns for reinstatement of the pandemic-era Child Tax Credit, which made monthly payments to all caregivers of children, lifting half of children out of poverty. <https://globalwomenstrike.net/us>

We support the Worker Relief and Credit Reform Act which would redefine work to include caregiving enabling mothers and other caregivers to get the Earned Income Tax Credit. <https://globalwomenstrike.net/us> and <https://bit.ly/CaregivingWorkBriefing>.

In San Francisco, GWS is working with the In Defense of Prostitute Women’s Safety Project on a Guaranteed Care Income pilot to be launched in June, 2024. A number of other cities are also conducting income pilots focused on mothers.

Give Us Back Our Children, like Support Not Separation, campaigns against the unjust removal of children by child welfare, demanding that resources such as a care income be put in mothers’ hands.

Other resources on compensating care: <https://cssp.org/resource/strategies-to-compensate-unpaid-caregivers/>