



The Global Initiative
for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

50th session of the Human Rights Council

Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women

Panel 2: Human rights-based and gender-responsive care and support systems

Statement by the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR)

27 June 2022

Thank you, Mr. President,

We thank the panel for their invaluable contributions to the discussion on Human rights-based and gender-responsive care and support systems.

The pandemic has brought into sharp focus women and girls' disproportionate burden of unpaid and underpaid care and support work across the world. As highlighted in our report 'From gender-responsive to gender-transformative public services', the decades of privatisation of care and support services has further entrenched gender inequality and global economic inequality.

This has detrimental effects on the realisation of women's human rights, including their rights to education, health, and fair labour. It also hinders progress towards the SDGs, particularly Goal 5 on gender equality, and Goal 4 on education for all.

Universal quality public services are the foundation of a fair and just society. They entrench the core values of solidarity, equality, and human dignity. In the context of the multiple, intersecting existing crises, universal public services are critical to build resilient societies able to respond effectively, while ensuring the enjoyment of all human rights. We therefore emphasise the importance of **quality public care services** which are indispensable for gender and economic justice, as well as for the fulfilment of women's human rights.

In line with the Care Manifesto and the Global Manifesto for Public Services, we urge States to use a human rights-centred approach in the organisation of care and support systems. States should strengthen universal public care and support services. This requires the expansion of the fiscal and policy space to fund quality public services, including through domestic mobilisation of public resources, and fair, progressive, and redistributive tax regimes, both nationally and internationally. In addition, ensuring that public care workers are properly valued and paid is imperative. Finally, all these measures must be reinforced by ensuring transparency and democratic accountability mechanisms.

Thank you.

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