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HAVING KIDS LAUNCHES MOTHER'S DAY PETITION TO CHANGE THE WAY WE ALL PLAN FAMILIES

Nonprofit changing family planning to focus on kids

SAN FRANCISCO – This Mother's Day, the nonprofit organization Having Kids is launching a public sign-on petition to gather support for changing the way we all plan families. The petition – which you can see at bit.ly/HKFairStart – begins to break the taboo around talking about the decision to have children.

Most governments currently rely on outdated and unsustainable family planning models to determine things like income taxes, reproductive health services, and early childhood development programs. Those models, which focus more on what parents want in the short-term rather than what children need in the long-term, don't offer mothers the support they need to ensure their children get a fair start in life relative to other children born in their generation. Study after study confirms that for most people, starting poor in life means living a poor life and ending poor in life.

Also, because these outdated models favor male-dominated decision making, mothers around the world are pressured into spending much of their lives having and raising children, but without the actual resources they and their children need. The pressures on women range from outright coercion to more subtle, but just as effective, cultural and familial norms. As a result, every year there are millions of unintended pregnancies and abortions, and hundreds of thousands of preventable pregnancy-related maternal deaths worldwide.

Today's Mother's Day Petition calls for replacing the outdated models with a human rights-based and child-centered model focused on giving every child a fair start in life. The sign-on petition asks supporters to recognize that "unsustainable, subjective, and parent-centered family planning models should be replaced, in all international and domestic legal regimes, with an objective, human rights-based and child-centered model. This model must be oriented around every child's right to a fair start in life and the correlative duties communities and parents have to protect that right."

This sign-on petition lays the groundwork for four distinct legal petitions that will be filed later this year, urging the United States, European Union, and two treaty bodies of the United Nations to implement the change.

"Having Kids is rewriting family planning by putting kids first, ensuring their right to a fair start in life above all else," says Anne Green, Executive Director of Having Kids.

Carter Dillard, Having Kids' co-founder and President, notes: "The best way to celebrate motherhood and help mothers around the world is to break the taboo around talking about the decision to have children, and start promoting the fundamental human right to a fair start in life."

A new family planning model focusing on guaranteeing every child a fair start in life would have many other benefits, including restoring and protecting our environment, as well as building true democracies by maximizing investment in the people who will comprise them.

Having Kids will use the sign-on petition as a rally point for the legal action it will take later this year to change our family planning systems.

For more information, please visit [HavingKids.org](https://www.HavingKids.org)

About Having Kids: Having Kids promotes and protects every child's right to a fair start in life by replacing parent-centered family planning models with the child-centered Fair Start family planning model. For more information, please visit [HavingKids.org](https://www.HavingKids.org)