Raising Children is Work And Our Welfare System Should Recognize That!

Mother Earth James

When I started having children, I did not trust anyone else to take care of them. I went on welfare so that I could stay home with them. I hated the idea of getting a job! "Why?" you may ask. It was not because I was lazy. It was because of what happened to me when I was little.

I was sexually abused as a young child. I had my first child when I was 14. My childhood was stolen from me because the adults in my life were always out working. They weren't at home protecting me. It was as though work was more important than the love and protection of children.

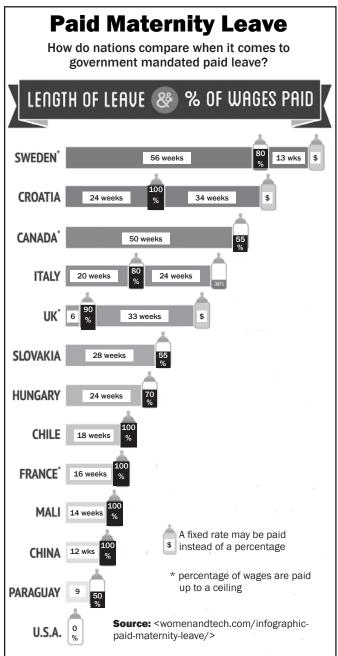
By staying at home all those years with my children, I was able to love them and keep them safe. I was a young mom, but I always stopped whatever I was doing to meet with my children's teachers and make sure school was working out for them.

I taught my children what I knew of life, the good and the bad. I protected them from perpetrators. There is no price tag you can put on that. There is no amount of money that is large enough to compensate a single mom for the work she does to raise and teach her children.

Kids need a parent at home with them. I believe a new welfare system should be created that recognizes that raising children is work. Parents should get support for having a strong relationship with their children. A healthy mind and soul can lead to great things. If we support moms and dads to be with their children and to be good parents, then all of society benefits.

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Summarize this infographic. How do you think it affects women and families to have paid maternity leave?

