

Mothers Day — a Day for Peace

Mothers Day has always been a time for reflection on peace (the 1870 proclamation is overleaf). In 2003 the need for peace is more urgent than ever.

There Is Still War in Iraq, even if “major hostilities” are said to be over. Many Iraqis are threatening guerrilla warfare. Bring the troops home.

There Is Still War in Afghanistan. There is no national government; the roads aren’t fixed; the Taliban is active; Osama Bin-Laden is still at large.

We Have to Stop These Wars, and others before they start. The whole world needs not war but healthcare, schools, jobs and peace.

*Please think and talk and act and vote for peace.
Write to your representatives and local papers.
Join other peacemakers; you can find them on the web by searching for “peace” or via, for example:*

**rcnv.org people-link.org zmag.org
http://pax.protest.net nonviolence.org**

This & other flyers by Pete Shanks are available at wordsontheweb.com

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Mothers Day Proclamation, 1870

Arise, then, women of this day!

Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or tears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies.

"Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

"Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have taught them of charity, mercy and patience.

"We women of one country will be too tender of those of another to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of the devastated earth, a voice goes up with our own. It says, "Disarm, Disarm!"

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice.

Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, and each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

— *Julia Ward Howe*

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