

Mother's Day 2020 Peace Proclamation

By Rivera Sun

Instead of flowers, give us peace. Instead of brunch, end the wars. Let no more mothers raise their children to kill other mothers' children. **Give us, instead, the abolition of war, the promotion of peace, and the care of people and planet.**

Each day, the cruelties of war demand the blood sacrifice of mothers' children, young and old, civilian and soldier, foreign and domestic. Each day, the greed of the war machine siphons off our wealth and drains away that which should have nourished life and prosperity for all. Each day, the militaries of the world ravage and pollute the fragile ecosystems of our one and only home. Each day, humanity hurtles closer to annihilation by means of nuclear weapons and climate crisis.

It is time to say no more! To refuse to go along with this insanity. To put down our foot, each and everyone, and reject the military's demand for blood sacrifices in all their many forms. Neither the flesh of our flesh, nor the children of other mothers, nor the prosperity of our labors, nor the Earth's vitality should be sacrificed to the false idols of war.

We cry for the abolition of war. We cry for the ending of all drafts (both through lottery and poverty). We demand the return of private and public wealth to economies of peace. We call for the demilitarization of every sector of our societies from our streets to the police to our economy to the spread of military bases around the globe. We, the mothers and the children of mothers, demand

respect for our common mother, the Earth, and for the end of the military's violations of her being.

To commemorate Mother's Day without demanding these changes rings flat. It becomes a celebration of hollow words and vacuous platitudes, tunnel vision and callous blind spots.

For every mother dining with her children, there are two other mothers' children trying to kill each other. For every mother smelling the roses, there is another mother wailing over the body of her child. For every mother strolling beside her college-bound son, there is another mother's son conscripted by poverty and injustice. For every mother appreciating the beauty of the spring, there is another mother screaming under the terror of bombs and bullets. For every mother savoring breakfast in bed, there is another mother hungry and unhoused, stateless and fleeing from war.

We, the mothers and the children of mothers, stand united against war and united for well-being of people and planet.

On this Mother's Day, 2020, let us promise to protect all children and our imperiled planet. **Let no mother's child kill another mother's child.** Let every mother stand against war. Let every mother call for peace. Let every mother's cry be heard. This Mother's Day, instead of flowers, give us peace. Instead of brunch, end the wars.



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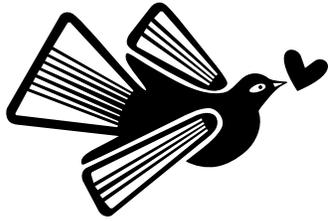
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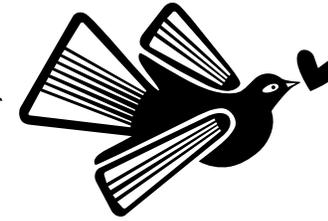
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