



13 May 2018

Mother's Day 2018

Make mothers matter for Peace

On 13 May 2018 many countries around the world celebrate mothers. They follow the United States, which in 1914 proclaimed the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day to honour mothers, as well as motherhood and the influence of mothers in society.

In fact, the idea of having a Mother's Day actually emerged earlier, in the aftermath of the American Civil War. In 1872, Julia Ward Howe led a "Mother's Day for Peace" anti-war observance in New York, which was accompanied by an "Appeal to womanhood throughout the world".

On the occasion of Mother's Day 2018, Make Mothers Matter (MMM) wishes to recall the roots of Mother's Day and its relation to the promotion of Peace. MMM also wishes to reaffirm the power of mothers for building sustainable Peace at all levels: beginning in the family, but also at the community, national and international levels. And this is not limited to biological mothers: mothers also include stepmothers, adopted mothers, and all those who "mother" without delineated relationships...

"Mothers at the heart of change for a culture of peace" was also the motto of the **International Conference #Mothers4Peace** organized by MMM in collaboration with CARE International Maroc on 3-4 May 2018 in Casablanca, Morocco. The main objective of the conference, which benefitted from the High Patronage of His Majesty The King Mohammed VI, was to show how mothers practically build peace and how they can better be supported to do so.

About 200 leaders, experts and practitioners in the field of women and peace building exchanged the latest findings and good practices on the empowerment of women and mothers to foster a culture of peace.

"Mothers are part of the solution to build and sustain peace. We must work not only for them but also WITH them. We call on policy makers to recognize that mothers are a resource that is too often untapped, and that it is necessary to educate and support mothers to build a better world", concluded Anne-Claire de Liedekerke, President of Make Mothers Matter.

On Mother's Day, may we remember and honour their contributions; let's commit to empower mothers for peace!

About Make Mothers Matter

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) is an international, apolitical and non-denominational NGO created in 1947 at the UNESCO. Its mission is to promote and support the essential role of mothers for peace and for the social, economic and cultural development of societies. MMM emphasizes the universality and importance of the economic, social and cultural role of mothers, based on their skills and responsibility as primary educators of their children

MMM affirms that mothers who are informed, heard and supported are key partners who need to be consulted, and actively involved in development projects and goals, especially those that affect them. Indeed, despite the diversity of their situations, living conditions and cultures, mothers all over the world have much in common, starting with the concern for a better world for their children. It's a powerful driving force – and the strength of MMM.

Contact

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