

The first **Mother's Day Proclamation** was made in 1870, written by Julia Ward Howe. In 1862, when she was actively involved in the antislavery movement, the original proclamation was an impassioned call for peace and disarmament. Here are the words of the original Mother's Day Proclamation:

"In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace."

It is interesting that this deep connection between motherhood and peace activism was part of the original Mother's Day proclamation. As we watch mothers around the world continue to suffer through war, famine and socio-economic injustices, let us remember our own. Let us remember their sacrifices for us, their love, kindness and commitment to us. And let us remember them in our prayers always.