

BOUNDARY

PEACE INITIATIVE

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# WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER

*Since 1983 Americans and Canadians have met at the Osoyoos Oroville Border to celebrate friendship between all people and to protest the ceaseless wars we inflict upon one another worldwide.*

*This year, our 40th, we'll share food in a picnic potluck. We'll have a box of extra on hand.*

**Americans meet at The Oroville Library at Noon  
Canadians walk from Haynes Point Provincial Park at 1 p.m  
Celebrations at The Border from 2 to 4 p.m.  
Talks, Poems, Songs, Skits and Other Presentations**

**Everyone is Welcome  
Contacts: Oroville 509-476-4072 Grand Forks 250-442-8252  
Keremeos 250-499-5417**

## MOTHERS DAY

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

The "Appeal to womanhood throughout the world" (later known as "Mother's Day Proclamation") by [Julia Ward Howe](#) was an appeal for women to unite for peace in the world. Written in 1870, Howe's "Appeal to womanhood" was a pacifist reaction to the carnage of the [American Civil War](#) and the [Franco-Prussian War](#). The appeal was tied to Howe's [feminist](#) conviction that women had a responsibility to shape their societies at the political level.

In 1872 Howe asked for the celebration of a "Mother's Day for Peace" on 2 June of every year, but she was unsuccessful. The modern [Mother's Day](#) is an unrelated celebration and it was established by [Anna Jarvis](#) years later.

### Appeal to womanhood throughout the world

Again, in the sight of the Christian world, have the skill and power of two great nations exhausted themselves in mutual murder. Again have the sacred questions of international justice been committed to the fatal mediation of military weapons. In this day of progress, in this century of light, the ambition of rulers has been allowed to barter the dear interests of domestic life for the bloody exchanges of the battle field. Thus men have done. Thus men will do. But women need no longer be made a party to proceedings which fill the globe with grief and horror. Despite the assumptions of physical force, the mother has a sacred and commanding word to say to the sons who owe their life to her suffering. That word should now be heard, and answered to as never before.

### GDAMS 2023 Appeal · War Costs Us the Earth

By: Global Campaign on Military Spending  
*Global Days of Action on Military Spending – April 13 to May 9, 2023.*

The world's militaries are responsible for roughly five percent of global Greenhouse Gas emissions, however their carbon footprint, as well as the various other ways that they contribute to climate breakdown, are rarely scrutinised. Our governments currently spend more than US\$2 trillion on militarisation, but military expansion is inconsistent with efforts to reach essential emissions targets and will exacerbate, not stem, the climate emergency. War and armed conflict lead, not only to death and destruction, but also to environmental devastation and climate breakdown. Although our governments may argue that such "defence" spending is necessary, it will ultimately render us defenceless in the face of the existential threat posed by the climate crisis.

Global heating poses a major and sustained risk to our planet's climatic cycles and the resultant weather-related

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## Mothers' Day Proclamation: Julia Ward Howe, Boston, 1870

*Mother's Day was originally started after the Civil War, as a protest to the carnage of that war, by women who had lost their sons.*

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of fears!

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 been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country 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 our 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 then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may 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.

Julia Ward Howe  
Boston 1870

**Happy Mothers Day**





### Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

**BPI web site: [www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org](http://www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org)  
For info contact Laura at (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434  
or email: [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).**

### UN International Days

- May 3:** World Press Freedom Day
- May 12:** International Day of Plant Health
- May 15:** International Day of Families
- May 16:** International Day of Living Together in Peace
- May 20:** World Bee Day
- May 21:** World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- May 22:** International Day for Biological Diversity
- May 23:** International Day to End Obstetric Fistula
- May 25-31:** Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
- May 29:** International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

(From page 2) **Appeal—War Costs Us the Earth** disasters often exacerbate existing injustices – and this can lead to conflict for access to land and basic resources, as well as forced displacement. Tackling Climate change must involve dealing with other structural problems such as poverty, economic shocks and weakened institutions. This is particularly true in regions that have contributed the least to the climate crisis, yet are impacted the most by its devastating consequences.

As well as their carbon footprint, the world's military structures also contribute to the climate crisis in other key ways:

- Crucially, military spending diverts resources away from essential environmental and social spending, including initiatives to slow the speed of climate change, deal with loss and damage and to respond to weather emergencies.
- Military structures in the form of national armies, militarised police forces or private security companies are often deployed to protect the fossil fuel industry. This sector is one of the largest producers of GHG and military protection of it makes it complicit in these emissions.
- Although we urgently need to protect our ecosystems from environmental destruction, all too often when

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### Mothers Day for Peace

In the United States, Mother's Day was originally suggested by poet and abolitionist activist Julia Ward Howe. In 1870, after witnessing the carnage of the American Civil War and the start of the Franco-Prussian War, she wrote the original Mother's Day Proclamation calling upon the women of the world to unite for peace. This "Mother's Day Proclamation" would plant the seed for what would eventually become a national holiday. After writing the proclamation, Howe had it translated into many languages and spent the next two years of her life distributing it and speaking to women leaders all over the world for this cause. In her book *Reminiscences*, Howe wrote, "Why do not the mothers of mankind interfere in these matters to prevent the waste of that human life of which they alone bear and know the cost?" Her activity on this proclamation initiated annual "Mother's Day" gatherings in Boston, Massachusetts and elsewhere. In 1907, thirty-seven years after the proclamation was written, women's rights activist Anna Jarvis began campaigning for the establishment of a nationally observed Mother's Day holiday. Her mother, an Appalachian homemaker, had worked to develop better sanitary conditions for both sides in the Civil War, and to reconcile Union and Confederate neighbours after the war. Jarvis sought to honor her mother's work and vision, and in 1914, four years after Howe's death, President Woodrow Wilson declared Mother's Day as a national holiday on the second Sunday of May.

The North Carolina Council of Churches Strength in Unity, Peace with Justice [www.nccouncilofchurches.org](http://www.nccouncilofchurches.org)

For a truth to be heard, it must be spoken with kindness. Truth is kind only when it is spoken through your heart with sincerity. You should know that when a message you convey to another person is not understood by him, at least one of the following things is true: what you have said is not true, or you have conveyed it without kindness. *Leo Tolstoy*

If beautiful art does not express moral ideas, ideas which unite people, then it is not art, but only entertainment. People need to be entertained in order to distance themselves from disappointment in their lives. *Immanuel Kant*

## WHAT'S UP?

**Mothers Day Walk for Peace, 40<sup>th</sup>** anniversary at the Osoyoos Border; **May 14<sup>th</sup>** meet at **1 pm for Canadians at Haynes Point** and at **noon for Americans at Oroville Public Library**

. For those who cannot walk come to the Border and greet the walkers. The program of speakers, singers, entertainers will **begin at 2 pm**, or when the walkers get there. *This year we are asking you to bring finger food for a shared picnic lunch.*

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** starting at **9 am at Holy Trinity Anglican Church** in Grand Forks, B.C. the BPI is hosting a conference on relating climate change and military activities and how all that affects us locally and what can we do about it. Watch for further details in the next issue of the Newsletter, on the BPI website, on FaceBook, Twitter, LinkedIn and of course posters. We have a guest key note speaker from Ontario along with two local panalists.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Go to the Government of Canada website for MP email and phone contact at:

<http://www.canada.gc.ca>

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-444-0524** or **250-442-0434** or email [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).

The BPI is an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peace Pledge Union, Abolition 2000, CNANW and works with various local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

## (From page 3) **Appeal—War Costs Us the Earth**

environmental activists take steps to safeguard their lands, rivers and seas; they are violently repressed by militarised security structures including the police, private security companies and, at times, the army.

– The nexus between fossil fuel and extractivism, and armed conflict and war is well documented, from the colonial period to the wars of today.

– More and more people are being forced from their homes due to extreme weather events brought about by climate change. In the same way that the border security apparatus currently contains people and stops them from reaching safety or seeking asylum, the military will likely be further deployed to keep out those fleeing climate-related disasters.

– Moreover, the arms industry, which in many ways is the backbone of militarism, invests significant time and finance in corporate lobbying to advance its own profit-driven agenda. In recent years it has used the climate crisis as an opportunity to position itself as a key player in designing ‘greener’ weapons and has lobbied for more funding to be earmarked for that purpose. This approach prolongs and deepens the logic that drives militarism and war.

Political leadership has focused on hawkish politics and sabre-rattling, stoking tension and fear, instead of cultivating international relations based on mutual trust, diplomacy and cooperation – three components that are essential to tackle the global nature of the climate threat. Funds that could be used to mitigate or reverse climate breakdown, and to promote peaceful conflict transformation, disarmament and global justice initiatives, are instead being spent on militarising an already over-militarised world.

### **We urgently call on governments to:**

- change course and focus on rapid, deep cuts to military spending, driving an arms race and fuelling war;
- demilitarise public policy including policies designed to tackle the climate crisis;
- implement human and common-security-centred policies that protect people and planet and not the profit-driven agenda of the arms and fossil fuel industries;
- create governance structures and alliances based on mutual trust and understanding, cooperation and true diplomacy, where conflict is resolved through dialogue, not war.

The opportunity cost of doing otherwise just can't get any higher.  
**War costs us the Earth.**

