



take action!

THE REAL MEANING OF MOTHER'S DAY



FLOWERS? CANDY? LASTING PEACE?

YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO TELL NOW, but Mother's Day did not begin with greeting cards and chocolate boxes: it began with a cry for peace. It was 1872, and Julia Ward Howe — wife, mother, poet, early abolitionist and suffragette — found herself appalled at the state of the world. The Civil War had left countless families mourning in the U.S., and the Franco-Prussian War had just claimed thousands of lives in Europe. She believed war was unnecessary, savage, and contradicted all that mothers stood for; she believed it was ruining lives: of those killed and maimed, of those mourning, and of those who had to fight.

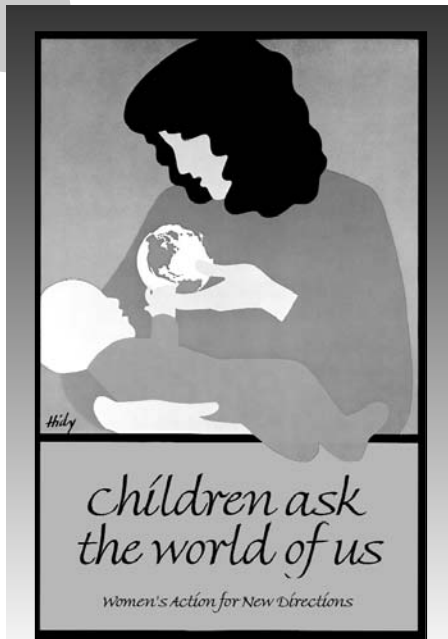
"Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

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."

Julia Ward Howe proposed that one day a year, we step back and act on behalf of the values represented by motherhood: values that "make for peace."

She called it *Mother's Peace Day*.



Children ask the world of us

From the beginning, the founding women of WAND were inspired by Julia Ward Howe's vision. WAND has long said that "children ask the world of us," and has worked to reduce militarism and violence.

When we realize that children ask the world of us, we start to think beyond our own lives, our own generation, and to consider the future. What example are we setting for young people? What environment are we creating for them? WAND hopes that everyone — mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts — will care about the well-being of future generations, and broader social and political issues.

WAND was originally formed to prevent nuclear war, and to bring about nuclear disarmament. In the 1980s — when the threat of nuclear war loomed large — WAND tapped into the original spirit of Mother's Day to urge disarmament. Since the Cold War ended, WAND has focused more on how our federal budget pie is sliced; we believe that the Pentagon gets far too large a slice — over half the discretionary budget.

Today, while the U.S. continues to wage war in Iraq and Afghanistan, WAND directs its energies toward educating and empowering women to take action on issues that affect our lives, and our children's lives: encouraging nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, reducing excessive military spending, supporting alternatives to war as a means of resolving differences. Today, as in 1872, we need to proclaim a day of peace and celebration of mother's values.

GET CONNECTED!

WAND and WiLL have built great resources online. Check them out!

The WAND web site:

www.wand.org

The WiLL web site:

www.willwand.org

The WAND PAC web site:

www.wandpac.org

The WAND Take Action! Center:

www.wandactioncenter.org

The STAND web site:

www.standwand.org



Women's Action for New Directions



Women's Action for New Directions

WAND empowers women to act politically to reduce violence and militarism, and redirect excessive military resources toward unmet human and environmental needs.

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CREATING CHANGE. CELEBRATING PEACE.

HOW DO WE DEFINE NATIONAL SECURITY?

No one would argue against security — for our nation, our families, our children. The question is: How does security get defined, and who defines it?

One measure of our national definition of security is the federal budget: it reveals where we spend money. It's sometimes hard to see what's happening in the budget, but once you do, you get a clear picture.

The total U.S. budget is \$2.4 trillion for FY06. Two thirds of this is mandatory spending (programs that must be funded, like Social Security); a third of it is discretionary. Discretionary programs include military spending, international affairs, domestic programs. Right now, *over half of our discretionary budget goes to the Pentagon (not the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan)*; while funding for programs to meet basic human and environmental needs is slashed.

"Real security means feeling safe. It's short-sighted and self-destructive for our country to define security as building weapons that are too expensive and unnecessary. Throwing money toward a new nuclear arsenal is out of step with what we need. Let's take a smart view of security: health, housing, jobs, education, international cooperation and lasting peace."

—Susan Shaer, WAND Executive Director

Skewed priorities — It appears that the U.S. defines national security primarily in military terms. Weapons and armaments are funded much more generously than domestic programs. For example, the FY06 *supplemental* budget appropriation for the war in Iraq is \$82 billion (this is *not* included in the \$438 billion for the Pentagon); \$82 billion is more than the amounts budgeted for international affairs (\$33.6 billion) and veterans' benefits (\$31.4 billion) — *combined*.

Gratuitous spending — We certainly need to fund and maintain a strong defense system. But we have built an excessive war machine. The U.S. military budget is over *22 times* as large as the combined spending of the seven countries identified as our most likely adversaries (Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, North Korea, Cuba, and Sudan).

The good news — Experts agree that the U.S. could cut the military budget dramatically, while still maintaining a strong defense. Further, we could upgrade pay and living conditions for our military personnel.

This Mother's Day, let's redefine national security.

Let's expand our idea of security. WAND believes it means protecting our citizens: through investing in education, health care, jobs, a healthy environment. We believe that taking steps toward nuclear abolition means security — for our nation and our world.

National security is more than building up our own defense systems: it's working with other nations to find peaceful solutions that will improve the lives of all citizens.

What you can do!

ACTIONS TO TAKE TODAY

Call the WAND field office and find out how members and friends are celebrating Mother's Day around the country: **404.524.5999.**

Register to vote and get family and friends to do so also.

Learn more! Visit the WAND web site, request our fact sheets, sign up for action alerts. This is your world: *get empowered.*

Join WAND! www.wand.org.

