



## ***REFLECTION***

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PREVENTING THE EXPLOITATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN WAR AND ARMED CONFLICT**

**6TH NOVEMBER**

Consider the multiple ways in which war and conflict destroy life:

- human life
- animal life
- plant life
- the life of the earth.

Consider the multiple ways in which war and conflict exploit life:

- use of humans to destroy life
- use of natural elements (like uranium) to destroy life
- deliberate destruction of habitat in pursuit of the goals of war.

Consider the fact that damage to the environment in times of armed conflict impairs ecosystems and natural resources long after the period of conflict, often extending beyond the limits of national territories and the present generation.

Consider the changes that could be wrought if all forms of life were valued:

- earth life
- plant life
- animal life
- human life.

Consider the attitudes that would lead to valuing all forms of life:

- respect for diversity
- reverence for earth
- commitment to the environment.

O Sacred Spirit, giver of all life,

I grieve for the death and destruction wrought by war and armed conflict

I regret the attitudes that lead to a devaluation of life  
and the exploitation of the environment.

I pray that humans will learn to take responsibility

for our role in ensuring  
that all life may flourish  
in glorious diversity  
and complex interdependence.

For your sake

For our sake

For the sake of life.