



A Statement from Rev. Dr. Soni Cantrell-Smith, Spiritual Leader of Centers for Spiritual Living

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Responding to Recent Military Actions Against Iran

CSL Chooses Compassion Over Conflict, Unity Over Division, Love Over Fear

At this time of growing conflict and deep uncertainty in the Middle East and beyond, I speak to you from my heart, grounded in the teachings of Science of Mind, reminding us that all life is a unified expression of an infinite, loving Universal Spirit. We witness with deep concern the expanding military actions involving the United States, Israel and Iran that have brought widespread suffering and loss of life across the region.

CSL stands in solidarity with other spiritual organizations, faith communities and seekers of peace everywhere. We affirm that the longing for compassion, understanding and harmony is universal, and that every tradition holds wisdom that can help heal the world.

These values are not distant ideals. They are living spiritual truths, rooted in the understanding that there is one Infinite Reality, that love is the self-giving impulse of Spirit and that every person is an individual expression of the One, connected with all others through the field of universal consciousness.

As Ernest Holmes said in his "Spiritual Armament" radio address, "Yes, the world is possibly at the point of the greatest crisis in all human history, and there seem to be two attitudes we can assume. One is calmness, faith and conviction; the other world, despair. And despair is unthinkable. Let's then, each in our own way, dedicate our time, service, hope and spiritual conviction to the common cause of liberty and justice for all. And let's work without tiring and pray without ceasing."

We recognize that humanity stands at a pivotal spiritual threshold where patterns of division, fear and rigid attachments to identity continue to generate suffering. Yet these do not define the deeper truth of who we are together. From the Science of Mind perspective, as we shift our thinking from separation to interconnection, from fear to love, we participate in creating a world that more fully reflects the spiritual laws of unity, peace and mutual respect.

Across cultures and nations, we see a profound yearning for peace, compassion and ways of being that honor the sacred bond we share with one another and this living Earth — fragile, beautiful and entrusted to our collective care. Every expression of Spirit advances the cause for peace on Earth. We can answer the call to love, justice, tolerance and reverence for all life.

Living these commitments requires more than intellectual agreement. We must be willing to transform our consciousness, look within, align our thoughts with higher truth and to act in ways to serve the well-being of all life. As Science of Mind teaches, our inner transformation ripples outward, influencing the field of consciousness in ways that nurture harmony, compassion and greater understanding among peoples.

We therefore call on ourselves and all leaders, communities and individuals — across every tradition and geography — to acknowledge that what affects one part of humanity affects the whole, that our highest spiritual calling is to choose compassion over conflict, unity over division and love over fear.

May we not only affirm these principles with our words and thoughts, but live them through our actions so peace, justice and compassion are revealed as our spiritual legacy.

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