On this Mother’s Day, NCNW expresses deep appreciation for mothers everywhere for the love they give and the sacrifices they make for their children. Dr. Maya Angelou entitled a 2006 collection of her poems “Mother: A Cradle to Hold Me.” That is a moving description of what mothers are charged to do. Like a cradle, mothers rock their children in troubled times, as they assure them that trouble don’t last always. And mothers cradle their children in good times too, rocking and swaying them as they sing songs that are filled with gratitude, hope and joy.

Mothers understand that to secure the safety and comfort of their own family means caring for the sick, the marginalized, the oppressed wherever they might be. Today, so many mothers are doing that in response to COVID-19, a pandemic that is disproportionately attacking our African American communities.

Not all women are, or choose to be mothers. But all women can choose to live their lives in a way that cares for children, for they are the only future that we have. And how good it is that all women who are members of NCNW have chosen not only to work in the interest of their own empowerment, but also in the interest of the empowerment of their families and communities.

There is an African proverb that says this: “A mother is like a kernel, crushed by problems but strong enough to overcome them.” Today, and throughout the year, I salute the mothers and all of the women in NCNW, in our communities, in our nation and our world who have the tenacity, the wisdom, and the faith not to be crushed by problems, but to overcome them.

Onward!

Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Ph.D.
NCNW Chair & 7th National President