

This is not a proposal, statement nor complaint: It is a greeting and a sincere wish

Dear President Putin,

I pray this letter finds you well. Today, it is below freezing but sunny in Nebraska, which is not unusual for February. We are accustomed to temperatures fluctuating 40-50 degrees Fahrenheit in a day, and not surprised to have ice and snowstorms as early as September or as late as May. July and August are typically, sometimes brutally, hot and humid. I think our volatile weather requires people who live in this region to be sensible, conservative, patient, flexible, and helpful. It is in that spirit I reach out to you.

I am not a rich nor a powerful woman by any measure. I am considered a very ordinary, working-class citizen. I am not political and believe little of what our politicians tell us. I watch television news and read newspapers and am often wary of what our journalists report. I see many grave issues facing humankind and I strive to reserve judgment and envision multiple perspectives and solutions. I think of myself as a human citizen of Earth, insignificant in the scope of the universe. And yet, I glean infinite joy from my family life. It is simply as a mother that I write.

My four young adult children, now living independently, are all trying desperately to make their ways in the world, learning new things every day, some good, some bad, all life. It is the lot of a mother to feel every joy and every pain of her children, from the moment she feels them move in her womb, through every twist and turn in their lives, and for as long as she lives. Sometimes we feel more for our children than they do for themselves! We come to understand that being a mother is the thing in life that is most fulfilling. We cannot bear to even imagine life without our children. I believe it is a universal feeling of all mothers. In this regard, we mothers are all sisters, and our hearts ache for the loss of every sister's child everywhere. Every human – even you and me – is a mother's child. That is how I think of every human – loved and cherished beyond life itself by one's mother.

I enjoyed seeing on your web site the picture of you as a boy in your loving mother's arms. No one will ever love us more than our mothers have. It seems we go through life always longing to be loved like that! And so we love our children all the more, unconditionally, with every fiber of our being.

I understand you have very important work to do as you steward your great Nation into the future, and that you must make many difficult decisions every day. I do not envy your responsibilities! I merely ask that as you lead your people through these challenging times you will pause, if only momentarily, to consider the pain and suffering of the mothers who have and will continue to sacrifice their children. Young people are cavalier about life because they do not know much about it. We know what our children do not, which is the longer we live, the more lovely life becomes. We pray our children will live to be ancient and that our time on earth will pass long before theirs. They are humanity's most important asset. Please protect as many of them as possible!

Thank you for accepting the responsibility of great leadership. To this mother's mind, the greatest leaders find ways to allow our children to live long and prosper -- so we may rejoice in their accomplishments and love them until our dying breath! Thank you for taking time out of your very busy schedule to read this.

I wish you good health, love, and peace.

Ким Балковец