



- **Celebrating International Women's Day March 8, 2006**
- **Valuing women's lives**
- **Honouring women's resistance**

## **NO TO VIOLENCE**

**in the home - in the community- in the state - in international relations  
YES TO PEACE WITH JUSTICE**

**Violence against women knows no borders. It occurs in war and peace; in London as around the globe. It's mental and physical, economic, social and legal. It's done in the name of love, sexual impulse, masculine authority, ethnic purity, business interest, godliness and morality, victor's spoils, 'security' and national pride. And everywhere, women are organizing against it.**

♀ Domestic violence is the major cause of death and disability for women aged 16 to 44 in Europe, accounting for more death and ill-health than cancer or traffic accidents (Council of Europe).

♀ In the UK, one incident of domestic violence is reported to the police every minute (Home Office). And on average a woman is assaulted 35 times before her first call to the police (Jaffe – cited Amnesty 2005).

♀ Up to 70% of female murder victims worldwide are killed by their male partners (World Health Orgn). In the UK, on average two women per week are killed by a male partner or former partner (Homicide Stats 2003/4).

♀ In Britain, three-quarters of a million women have been raped on at least one occasion since they were sixteen years old (British Crime Survey). Conviction rate (<6%) is the lowest of any violent crime (Home Office 2002).

♀ Worldwide, one out of three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused at some time in her life. Usually the abuser is a member of her own family or known to her (50 country surveys cited Amnesty 2005).

♀ In England and Wales in a recent typical year, 90% of crimes involving violence against the person were committed by men. And 99% of sexual offences were committed by men (Home Office statistics 2002).

♀ UK immigration and asylum laws trap migrant women in violent marriages. They underrate sexual violence experienced or threatened in country of origin as a case for granting asylum (Southall Black Sisters).

♀ In war, women are routinely raped by the invading and occupying forces. Currently: Indian armed forces in Kashmir; Sudanese government forces and allies in Darfur; rival militias and state forces in Colombia.

♀ Wherever troops are billeted, including international peace keeping forces, prostitution, trafficking and sexual slavery follow them. Eg. peacekeeping missions in Liberia and Democratic Republic of Congo; US bases in Korea and Okinawa (Women's Network against Militarism).

♀ In inter-communal conflict women are often raped as a way of humiliating their menfolk, eg. mass rapes, many followed by murder, were a weapon of ethnic genocide in Gujarat in 2002 (Awaaz-e-Niswan, Mumbai).

♀ In some countries, in so-called 'peacetime', the random sexual murder of women is so prevalent it is termed an epidemic of 'femicide'. In the towns of Chihuahua and Juarez in Northern Mexico there are 130 unsolved murders of young women in recent years, 48 since the start of 2004 (Amnesty/Amigos Mujeres).

♀ More than 60 million women are 'missing' from the world today as a result of sex-selective abortions and female infanticide (Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize winner).

**NO TO MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
NO TO ALL VIOLENCE**

## 8 FOR 8 ON THE 8<sup>th</sup> March

**Women of EIGHT networks are here tonight inviting you to celebrate International Women's Day with us. Since 1910, IWD has been marked by women's groups around the world, and is now commemorated at the United Nations. In many countries March 8th is designated a national holiday. Please take a flower, take a leaflet, and give them to another woman. We are:**

**Code Pink**, an international peace and social justice network seeking positive change through creative actions. We call on people to "BE the change" they want to see in the world. <codepink@codepink.org.uk>

**Feminist Network**, informal networking and campaigning group for feminist women and groups working on women's rights in London; we organize an annual Reclaim the Night march etc. <finn\_mackay@yahoo.co.uk>

**Older Feminist Network**, formed 1982, social and supportive network, we lobby on women's issues and produce a newsletter. London group of OFN meets monthly in Central London <jonegro@nearthgarden.demon.co.uk>

**Older Lesbian Network**, offers a secure, social, feminist environment for lesbians over 40 to meet and share experiences, manage changes in lifestyle, devise strategies for dealing with prejudice. <valduk2003@yahoo.co.uk>

**Southall Black Sisters**, a campaigning, advocacy and case-work organization for black and minority women, especially South Asian women. We address issues of domestic violence, honour crime, forced marriage and the impact of immigration and asylum laws on violence against women. <[southallblacksisters@btconnect.com](mailto:southallblacksisters@btconnect.com)>

**Widows Rights International**, we support organizations in S. and W. Asia and Africa working for justice and human rights for widows, countering the poverty and violence widows suffer. <administrator@widowsrights.org>

**Women in Black against War**, international network opposing militarism and war. We hold regular silent, women-only vigils on Weds 6-7 pm, Edith Cavell Statue, St. Martin's Place, London WC2. <WiBinfo@gn.apc.org>

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**, b.1915, now in 37 countries, we campaign from a gender perspective to eliminate war, for global justice and environmental sustainability. <ukwilpf@hotmail.com>

**We are holding this vigil in honour of EIGHT women's organisations in EIGHT countries, and the many more worldwide, working in support of women survivors of sexual and patriarchal violence in peace and in war. We send them greetings, congratulations and good wishes for another year of achievement, in a future less violent than our past.**

**Baobab for Women's Human Rights, Nigeria**, campaigns fearlessly to contest judgments under which women are punished, including with death by stoning, for infractions of customary law. <www.baobabwomen.org>

**BUKLOD**, Philippines: a project by and for survivors of military prostitution around former US bases of Subic Bay. Sister project **NAGKA** in Angeles city recently evicted due to bar owners' opposition <[buklod@info.com.ph](mailto:buklod@info.com.ph)>

**Durebang, 'My Sister's Place'**, campaign against the many negative impacts of militarization in South Korea; support and counsel women in prostitution in 'camptowns' around US military bases. <[durebang@hotmail.com](mailto:durebang@hotmail.com)>

**Justicia para Nuestras Hijas**, calling for investigation and an end to impunity for sexual slaughter of hundreds of young women in recent years in Cd. Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico. <[amigosdemujeres@yahoo.com](mailto:amigosdemujeres@yahoo.com)>

**Ka-Mer, Diyarbakir**, SE Turkey: women's rights, support for survivors of violence, including threats of 'honour killing'; working for alternatives to armed violence by state and Kurdish groups. <[nebahatakkoc@superonline.com](mailto:nebahatakkoc@superonline.com)>

**Newham Asian Women's Project, London E13**: supports Asian women and children experiencing domestic violence: four refuges, a resource centre, legal advice, young women's project etc. <savitaayling@nawp.org>

**Vamos Mujer, Medellin**, Colombia: offers women psycho-social care, skills and resources to counteract the effects on women of the political, military and criminal violence endemic in Colombia. <[vamosmujer@epm.net.co](mailto:vamosmujer@epm.net.co)>

**Vimochana, Bangalore**: their "Women's Right to Live" campaign exposes dowry deaths, their refuge supports survivors. Their Women in Black vigils oppose domestic, communal and state violence. <angala@hclinfinet.com>