



Women in Black
London

**SPENDING
CUTS? Yes:
Cut the Military
Budget!**

The Coalition Government threatens tough cuts in public expenditure. Women In Black say: cut defence spending and decommission nuclear weapons. Spend the savings on the services and benefits that support the caring work so many women do, paid and unpaid.

THREATENED SERVICES

To tackle the £152bn UK deficit the government has announced cuts of £6.2bn this financial year. These cuts will harm education, pensions, railways, London Transport, local government and more. The Chancellor mentions that the military will not be exempt from cuts...he should go further: by trimming one-sixth from the 2010-11 £37 billion budget he could achieve his entire cuts requirement in a single move!

CUT THE MILITARY BUDGET

The UK is the world's second highest military spender, in cash terms, behind only the United States. It is above the NATO European average. This massive so-called 'defence' budget' is an imperialist relic, defending us now from imaginary threats and fantasy enemies. Why is the Royal Navy buying two new aircraft carriers, the largest ever? Why are the armed forces fighting a war in Afghanistan that brings security neither to Afghanistan nor Britain? Defence Secretary Liam Fox says 'We need to say goodbye to the Cold War' ? Women in Black say, 'We need to say goodbye to *war*.'

SCRAP TRIDENT

The government's promised Strategic Defence and Security Review is a chance to take a step towards a less militarized society. Yet Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system is to be excluded from the Review. The Government is still planning renewal of Trident at a speculative cost of £97 billion over 25 years. By continuing to possess nuclear weapons, Britain is failing to comply with obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty : Article VI commits nuclear powers to disarm. The Trident system carries a minimum of 160 warheads each 8 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb. Their use would be a crime against humanity. We should scrap our nuclear arsenal, join those European governments calling for the removal of US nuclear weapons from Europe, and lead the world in seeking a Nuclear Weapons Convention. It's time to redefine 'security'!

To the Rt.Hon. David Cameron, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1.

I wish to add my voice to Women in Black's call on the British Government to make serious reductions in the 'defence' budget, scrap the UK's nuclear weapons, and spend the savings on education, health, public transport, communities and environment.

Name.....SignatureDate

Address.....

Women in Black hold vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin's Place, London WC2. Our vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. See our website at www.womeninblack.org.uk Contact us at: wibinfo@gn.apc.org