



**NO TO
VIOLENCE
in PEACE and WAR**

The Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict 10-13 June, 2014

This week the eyes of all who campaign, worldwide, against sexual violence are focused on London, where the UK Foreign Secretary William Hague, and Angelina Jolie, UN Special Rapporteur on Sexual Violence, are jointly chairing the largest-ever assembly on the theme of ending rape in war.

End war rape, yes! Representatives of 140 nations are meeting here with the aim of launching a new international protocol for documenting and investigating sexual violence in conflict. The conference aims to stop war rape happening, by shifts in policy such as better control and training of armed forces. But it also aims to provide more support to survivors, and above all to change attitudes - for their lives are often ruined by the humiliation, rejection and even punishment that all too often follows the original assault upon them.

But also: end rape, and end war. Women in Black welcome the Summit and congratulate those who have worked to achieve it. But we also call on our Government to go further. We say, yes, "End Rape in War" - but also "No to Rape", and "No to War".

“The prevention and cessation of war itself is the best means of preventing sexual and other forms of violence” Sanam Naraghi Anderlini

Violence is a continuum. From the raised fist in a domestic assault, through rape of a partner or stranger, to the use of individual weaponry to threaten, rob or dominate, and ultimately to the use of armed force in pursuit of political ends or national interests - acts of violence are connected, and each one is a choice.

I join with Women in Black in calling on the Rt.Hon. William Hague, Foreign Secretary, to ensure that the UK Government:

- + pursues the path on which it has now set out, seeking measures to end rape in war;
- + continues UK support for victims of sexual violence and concerned women’s groups in conflict and post-conflict areas;
- + pays more attention to sexual violence 'at home' in 'peace time' - listening to victims, punishing perpetrators, making the reshaping of masculinities an urgent policy issue;
- + removes the war-option from UK foreign policy, learning the lessons of Iraq and Libya;
- + demilitarizes society, dismantles the UK nuclear arsenal, uses EU and NATO membership for co-operation for peace, not aggression.

Name..... Signature

Address.....

.....Date.....

**Women in Black, C/o The Maypole Fund, PO Box 14072, London N16 5WB
Donations for leaflets etc most welcome. www.womeninblack.org.uk**

Women in Black holds 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. The vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black.