



Women in Black  
London



**£100 billion  
and rising.....**

**CUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
- NOT our health  
and public services!**

**A treaty banning nuclear weapons is on the international agenda - why is the UK boycotting?** In 1970, 187 countries signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. It committed states already possessing nuclear weapons, such as the UK, to work towards their dismantling. Now, following the achievement of treaties banning biological and chemical weapons, landmines and cluster bombs, the majority of nations in the world are determined to negotiate a tougher Nuclear Weapons Convention to ensure their total elimination. Instead of joining this international effort, Britain's Coalition government refuses to renounce nuclear weapons and has been boycotting multilateral talks. Ask why!

**The UK Trident nuclear weapons system must go - it is unusable, unsafe and unwanted**

The UK's submarine-borne Trident missiles, based at Faslane in Scotland, are equipped with 160 nuclear warheads, each 8 times more powerful than the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. If used, they would technically violate international law. Even unused they are dangerous. Nuclear warheads are transported by road between Faslane and Coulport (near Glasgow), and the nuclear bomb factories at AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield, west of London. These convoys pose a serious safety risk. Any nuclear detonation – accidental or intentional – would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences. Understandably, there is overwhelming public opposition to Trident in Scotland.

**Don't waste our money on nuclear weapons: invest in real human security**

Far from dismantling the UK nuclear arsenal, the Coalition government plans a 20-year programme to renew this ageing weapons system at a likely cost to the tax-payer of £100 billion - and this while our education, health, welfare and other services are desperately starved of cash, and yet deeper public spending cuts are on the way. BUT... Parliament has delayed the final decision on Trident renewal till 2016, after the next election. Here is a window of opportunity: let's tell our party leaders right now not to waste our money on nuclear weapons, and to invest instead in real human and environmental security.

**For more info and to get involved, contact <info@actionawe.org> or <infouk@icanw.org> Please sign the letter below and post this leaflet to your chosen politician c/o House of Commons. Or leave it for us to mail to four party leaders.**

**To: The Leaders of the Conservative, Labour, LibDem and Green Parties,  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA:**

Like the majority of British people, I strongly oppose nuclear weapons. I call on you to work individually, within your parties, and together in Parliament to:

- Halt plans to finance and build a new generation of nuclear weapons to replace the Trident system.
- End Britain's costly nuclear dependency and redirect resources to our vital human security needs, such as schools, hospitals, public services, and to tackling the climate threat.
- Stop taking Trident missiles on patrol and start the process of dismantling and elimination.
- Support multilateral negotiations for a comprehensive treaty to ban and eradicate all nuclear weapons.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Women in Black holds vigils every Wednesday from 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin's Place, London WC2. The vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. Contact: <wibinfo@gn.apc.org>. Donations welcome**