

Celebrating women's resistance to violence in war and peace

This Sunday, 8 March 2015 is International Women's Day

Violence against women occurs across the world in peace and war. A few facts:

- ❖ Rape is widely used as a weapon of war. UN agencies estimate that more than 60,000 women were raped during the civil war in Sierra Leone (1991-2002), more than 40,000 in Liberia (1989-2003), up to 60,000 in the former Yugoslavia (1992-1995), and at least 200,000 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 1998 (www.un.org).
- ❖ Worldwide, one out of three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused, usually by someone known to her, at some time in her life. (Finding of 50 surveys from around the world, cited by Amnesty.)
- ❖ Up to 70% of female murder victims worldwide are killed by their male partners (World Health Organisation)
- ❖ 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 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.)

Here today, standing in solidarity with women worldwide, we are:

Common Cause UK: support and empowerment of Congolese women: <www.friendsofthecongo.org/>

Friends of Victoire Movement: support Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza, prisoner of conscience <www.friendsofvictoire.org>

Global Campaign for Rwandan Human Rights: international campaigning organization <<http://rwandansrights.org/>>

London Feminist Network: for women's rights and against patriarchy <www.londonfeministnetwork.org.uk>

Network of Eritrean Women (NEW): working for justice, peace & human rights <www.networkoferitreanwomen.org>

Older Feminist Network: older women together opposing misogyny and ageism <www.olderfeminist.org.uk>

Older Lesbian Network: opposing homophobia, sexual & gender-based violence <www.olderlesbiannetwork.btck.co.uk>

Southall Black Sisters: Asian and Black women experiencing violence and abuse <www.southallblacksisters.org>

Sudanese Mothers for Peace (SMP): for education, empowerment & relief of poverty <<https://vimeo.com/100312660>>

Voice of Darfur Women: Darfuri women for peace, justice & development <<http://opencharities.org/charities/1143308>>

Women in Black, London: international network against violence, militarism and war <www.womeninblack.org>

Women Living Under Muslim Laws: a space for women whose lives are shaped by Islam <<http://www.wluml.org/>>

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, (WILPF): for peace and justice <www.wilpf.org.uk>

***NO TO MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
IN THE HOME - IN THE COMMUNITY - IN PEACE AND IN WAR***

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS