



**SUPPORT
CEASEFIRE AND
PEACE PROCESS IN
UKRAINE**

All to gain : a stable Ukraine

Background: When former republics of the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991, Ukraine became an independent state, alongside Belarus to the north and Moldova to the south. Bordering on European Union member states Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, Ukraine is perched on Russia's uneasy frontier with the EU. The European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are both ambitious to extend eastwards to enrol Ukraine, encircling and containing Russia in the interests of Western world dominance.

Today: war in Ukraine. Ukrainian civil and political society is divided on its choice of future. Many in western Ukraine seek economic and strategic security through joining the European Union and NATO. But many in the east are Russian-speakers, and some are separatists, preferring to be associated with Russia. Since early 2014 more than 5000 have been killed and 11,000 wounded in hugely destructive fighting between Ukrainian government forces and separatist militias in Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine.

Cold War replay: This war in Ukraine is a dangerous reversion to Cold War hostilities between 'the West' and 'the Kremlin'. Both sides are playing recklessly into the contest. Russia happily took control of the Crimea (part of Ukraine) when 97% of its population voted for secession. It is sending weapons and possibly also soldiers to the fighting. NATO is sabre-rattling, its aircraft intensifying patrols in the region. Western states are imposing punitive sanctions on Russia. The British Government has announced it will join the US in sending military trainers to Kiev, and there is talk of supplying advanced weaponry.

Women pay the cost. Human Rights Watch condemn both sides in Ukraine's war for using unguided rockets, cluster munitions and other explosive weapons with wide-area effects causing many civilian casualties, mostly women and children. Two-thirds of the million internally-displaced adults are women. There are many reports of women gang-raped by fighters of both sides. Women of civil society in Ukraine, Russia and NATO countries are urging the inclusion of women in peace negotiations and demilitarization.

**Women in Black calls urgently on the UK Government,
as a member of the European Union and NATO,
to take a lead in achieving peace, neutrality and stability in Ukraine.**

See: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/02/03/ukraine-rising-civilian-death-toll> <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/russian-feminists-rise-up-for-peace-in-the-ukraine/> <https://www.change.org/p/say-no-to-nato> <http://www.wri-irg.org/node/23579>
<http://www.womenundersiegeproject.org/blog/entry/evidence-mounts-in-ukraine-that-both-sides-are-committing-sexualized-violence/>

To: The Prime Minister, Rt.Hon David Cameron, MP, 10 Downing Street, London SW1.

With Women in Black, I call on the British government to:

- Support a UN peace mission to Ukraine
- Reverse decision to send military trainers to Ukraine, and resist supplying weapons
- Use influence to rein back NATO engagement
- Contribute to implementing Minsk II agreement for ceasefire, negotiations and a lasting accord

Signature.....Name.....Date.....

Address.....

Women in Black, 24 Colvestone Crescent, London E8 2LH
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.