



Women in Black  
London

**SAY NO  
to the  
ARMS TRADE  
FAIR**

**Sept 15 - 18 London: the weapons market-place of the world**

One of the biggest arms fairs in the world is happening at the Excel Centre in East London's Docklands. More than 1000 companies will be promoting their deadly weaponry to 30,000 attendees, including some of the world's most repressive governments. The **DSEI** (Defence and Security Equipment International) arms fair is run by Clarion, a private company, and the UK Trade & Investment's Defence & Security Organisation (UKTI DSO), a government department that exists solely to promote UK arms exports. UK government ministers will promote British arms companies, whose exports are subsidized by the taxpayer to the extent of several million pounds per year.

**The Government claims...that its export control system prevents sales to repressive regimes.** NOT TRUE: in the last 3 years it approved arms export licences to 19 "countries of concern" in its own Human Rights Annual Report, including Israel, Yemen, Colombia, Pakistan, Russia, Somalia, Central African Republic and Saudi Arabia. Where human rights are threatened, women's rights are threatened.

**The Government claims... arms exports are important for the national economy.** NOT TRUE: arms exports are less than 1.5% of total UK exports. The industry generates only 55,000 jobs – and many of its employees are skilled engineers in short supply, that other industries are keen to recruit.

**The Government claims...that having a home-grown arms industry promotes our 'security'.** NOT TRUE: Weapons deployed by the UK in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and resulting deaths and injuries have made no-one safer, but increased anger and heightened the risk of further violence.

**Weapons don't create the security sought by women all over the world: secure homes, secure livelihoods, food security, and security against sexual and domestic violence. The conflict and crime fuelled by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, traded legally and illegally, damage development, and make violence against women more deadly.**

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

I call on you to make this the last international arms trade fair hosted in the UK. I call on the UK government to stop subsidizing British arms manufacturers and their export trade. Divert the money spent subsidizing this industry to socially responsible production, including activities that respond to the real security threat of climate change, and the real security needs of women.

Signed.....Date.....

Name : .....

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.london.womeninblack.org](http://www.london.womeninblack.org) Contact us at: [wibinfo@gn.apc.org](mailto:wibinfo@gn.apc.org)  
**Donations for leaflets gratefully received. If you are a woman and agree with us, then do come and join us**