



Women in Black
London

SAY NO TO THE ARMS TRADE FAIR

12-15 September: London is the weapons market-place of the world

The **Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI)** arms trade “fair” is taking place at the Excel Centre in London’s Docklands on 12-15 September. Around 1,600 weapons manufacturers are promoting their deadly products. The DSEI website urges participants to, “Tap into the increasing demand”... for arms.

The UK arms industry is responsible for 20% of global arms sales exports, second only to the USA over the last 10 years. The government’s Defence and Security Organization is at DSEI promoting UK arms companies to an expected 34,000 international political and military potential “customers”.

The Government claims...that its export control system prevents sales to repressive regimes. NOT TRUE! In the year to July 2017 the UK government sold over £774,893,470 worth of arms to 20 out of the 30 countries on the government’s human rights watch list, including Saudi Arabia, Israel, China & Bahrain. In January, Theresa May announced a £100m deal between UK arms giant BAE Systems and Turkey.

According to Greenpeace.... In 2015 83% of UK arms sales went to Saudi Arabia. Since Saudi’s war on Yemen began in March 2015, the UK has sold £3.3bn of weapons to Saudi Arabia. According to the UN, 10,000 Yemenis have been killed and 40,000 injured. A cholera epidemic has affected 500,000 people and killed 1,500, and 10 million people need 'urgent assistance'

The Government claims...that the UK arms industry promotes our ‘security’.

WRONG!! Weapons create war, devastation, death and displacement.

As Women in Black, we say arms sales do not protect women or provide real security for women. All over the world women need a secure home, a secure livelihood, the right to health, education, food and freedom from sexual violence.

Growing support for change... Since 2015, UK arms sales have been increasingly challenged. In 2016, Edward Bell, head of the government’s Export Control Organization, argued against arms sales to the Saudis. Business Secretary Sajid Javid also expressed doubts. In 2017 Campaign against the Arms Trade (CAAT) took the government to court over the issue. Activists who blockaded the entrance to the last DSEI in 2015 were later acquitted by judges. *Let’s make this the last DSEI Arms Trade Fair!*

Join: Stop the Arms Fair Week of Action Sept 4-11 <https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk>;
Support: Campaign against the Arms Trade (CAAT) <https://www.caat.org.uk/issues/arms-fairs>.
Donate: <https://www.caat.org.uk/support-our-work/donate>.

To The Rt.Hon. Theresa May, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA.

I call on the UK government to: stop selling arms to countries that violate human rights; stop subsidizing British arms manufacture and export; close down DSEI and its biennial London exhibitions; and invest instead in responding to the real security threat of climate change, and the real security needs of women.

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

Name:.....

Address:

**Contact Women in Black at: <wibinfo@gn.apc.org> <www.london.womeninblack.org>
<[@Twitter@WIB_London](https://twitter.com/WIB_London)> <www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london>**

Women in Black holds vigils every Wednesday between 6 and 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. Do join us!