



Women in Black
London

**1 month to
STOP
ARMS TRADE
FAIR**

Sept 12-15, London plans to become the weapons marketplace of the world – help to STOP it!

For four days in September 2017, the international weapons industry plans to set up shop in London at a huge arms fair, DSEI.

The weapons sold here fuel the death, destruction and injustice perpetrated by militaries, police forces and at borders around the world.

- Because those who torture protesters, brutalise indigenous people and murder civilians are on the guest list.
- Because arms companies profit when their plane drop bombs on ordinary people
- Because they profit again by pushing militarised solutions to 'protect borders' from the refugees fleeing those bombs.
- Because public services are cut but there's always money for war.
- Because war, repression and injustice start here

UK 'Defence and Security' exports for 2015 totalled £11.7 billion.

The Government claims...that its export control system prevents sales to repressive regimes.

NOT TRUE: In 2015 63% of Defence Exports were to the Middle East - to countries including Israel, Bahrain, Egypt and Saudi Arabia which are in the UK Govt, FCO report of July 2016 as 'Human Rights Priority Countries'. 28% of our arms exports go to Saudi Arabia.

Where human rights are threatened, women's rights are threatened.

The UK has licensed £4.2 billion in arms since 2015 to the 20 countries that top a list of places with the worst gender gap. Since May 2010, the UK has licensed £10.5 billion worth of arms including fighter jets and rifles to 22 of the countries listed as having the worst gender gap.

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.

What can you do to STOP the Arms Fair?

- Take part in the Week of Action – 4-11 September #StopDSEI stopthearmsfair.org.uk
- Lobby your MP – write a letter, send an email (see WiB Facebook page for list of London MPs)

Organisations working to stop arms fairs and wars:

www.caat.org.uk/issues/arms-fairs wilpf.org/ peacewomen.org/ www.medact.org/

Do your own research: www.dsei.co.uk/ www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-trade-and-investment-defence-and-security-organisation www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/other-committees/committee-on-arms-export-controls/

WiB holds vigils every Wednesday, 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the National Portrait Gallery, London WC2. Vigils are silent, women-only and we wear black. Do join us. <wibinfo@gn.apc.org> www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london Donations welcome.