



Women in Black
London

Vote for policies that encourage security, equality and human rights

Women Worldwide Suffer Injustice, Poverty and Violence **WAR MAKES IT WORSE!**

- War makes widows: Iraq, after decades of wars, sanctions and internal violence, has over one million widows today. In many cultures widows are maltreated and condemned to a life on the margins.
- War exacerbates sexual violence. Women and girls become victims of mass rapes that are now recognized as war crimes and acts of genocide. In Darfur, in one incident in October 2014, more than 221 women were raped by Sudanese troops. In the war in Bosnia (1992-5) an estimated 50,000 women were raped.
- Colombia - United Nations Human Development Report 2000 estimated that two-thirds of women in Colombia had been the victims of some form of violence (physical, psychological, or sexual).
- Domestic violence spans peace and war. In the UK, it accounts for 14% of all violent crime, and has more repeat victims than any other type of crime. Each week on average two women are killed by a partner or former partner (*Home Office*).
- War drives people from their homes. The world has 65.3 million forcibly displaced people. In Sudan, in April 2016 there were 3.2 million internally displaced people, 355,356 refugees, plus 350,000 South Sudanese. Over 10,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in the first half of this April.
- Over 11 million Syrians are estimated to have fled their homes since March 2011. According to the UNHCR, over 6.6 million are internally displaced within Syria, while 4.8 million have fled to Syria's immediate neighbours. In September 2016 70% of funding for humanitarian aid was still missing.

Women in Black is an international network of women for peace with justice and against war, militarism and violence.

We will vote for:

- **War on poverty – not “war on terror”**
- **Asylum for those uprooted by war**
- **An end to racist thinking that makes war possible and to sexism in peace and war**
- **More ££ for civilian peace work – less ££ for the military**
- **Ending the development and export of arms. Dismantle UK’s Trident nuclear weapons.**

We will vote for real peace and security For us, peace is not the mere absence of war. Real security means being able to live without fear from all forms of violence. For women, security means equality and independence, food and shelter, health and education.

At this election time, take action:

Question your candidates and canvassers on the issues in this leaflet.

Inform yourself by looking at the websites below, or by reading *Peace News* and other literature.

Organise a local meeting for candidates and question them all on these issues.

Write on these issues to your local paper, and phone a radio ‘Phone-in’.

Help a local candidate who agrees with these policies.

Stick up a poster – make your own or use the websites below.

Copy this leaflet and give it to someone else. Spread it on ‘social media’.

Useful websites – for information, tools for action, news and views

www.peacenews.info www.ukwilpf.gn.apc.org www.caat.org.uk www.stopwar.org.uk www.abolishwar.org.uk
www.peacewomen.org www.refugeecouncil.org.uk www.widowsrights.org www.peacebrigades.org http://medact.org

Women in Black, 24 Colvestone Crescent, London E8 2LH Donations for leaflets etc most welcome.

www.london.womeninblack.org Twitter: @WiB_London www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london

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.