



**NO TO
MALE VIOLENCE**
against women in peace
and war

Today we are standing, alongside women in many cities and countries, in protest against male violence against women.

Nov 25 : International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Male Violence Against Women In Peace Time

The statistics of violent crime in England and Wales are profoundly gendered. Roughly nineteen out of twenty individuals found guilty of violent crime are males, and, in the case of violent crime of a sexual nature, 99 out of 100 perpetrators are males. Almost half of all women (45%) have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Around one in every five girls are sexually abused as children. At least 80,000 women suffer rape every year. And on average, two women a week in England and Wales are killed by a violent partner or ex-partner. The abusers, rapists and murderers behind these statistics are almost invariably male (see annual crime statistics published by the Home Office ONS).

Nov 25 - Dec 10 : Sixteen Days of Action against Violence against Women

Militarized Violence Victimizes Women and Damages Men

As we see currently in many African and Middle Eastern countries, the sexualized and domestic violence visited upon women by men in peace time is massively amplified in times of armed conflict. Rape is endemic in war, perpetrated by state armies and rebel militias. Sexual torture is a widespread weapon of police, security services and prison officers in many countries. The victims in some cases include men and boys, but the rapists and torturers are almost always male. Both inflicting and suffering violence is highly damaging to men. Research shows young British servicemen who did active service in Iraq and Afghanistan are three times more likely to be convicted of violent offences back home after their war experience than their civilian peers (*The Guardian*, 15.3.2013 p.9).

**Dec 10 : Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948
WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**

Women in Black is an international network of feminists committed to peace and justice, opposed to war, militarism and other kinds of violence. We call for an end to violence, whether its purpose is state power, economic advantage, male dominance or personal control. We work to build bridges in conflict and we choose non-violence in our actions, believing that a more respectful, equal, just, co-operative and caring way of life is possible.

We invite men who see our vigil today to take responsibility for challenging and ending the social shaping of masculinity in violent forms. We appreciate the solidarity with women shown by the WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN (<www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk/>) who say "We're a group of men who know that there's never an excuse for violence against women. We pledge never to condone it, or to stand by when we know it's happening. We're part of a worldwide movement. There are thousands of us". Join them today!

**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. Vigils are silent, women-only and we wear black. Do join us.