



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

**REFUGEE WEEK 19-25 JUNE 2017
SUPPORT WOMEN IN FLIGHT FROM WAR**

Wars in Syria, Iraq and Yemen are constantly in our news headlines. But armed conflict continues also in many African countries, including Uganda, Nigeria, the Sudans and in the Horn of Africa, displacing millions of families from their homes. Many are living in camps in their own and neighbouring countries. A minority risk perilous journeys to reach Europe's borders, where they are subjected to further suffering.

Wherever they are, women are afflicted by sexual abuse and male violence, burdened by care for young, old and disabled; and deprived of income, property and resources. War makes it worse!

OPEN THE DOOR TO WOMEN ASYLUM SEEKERS

Much is made of former PM David Cameron's vaunted promise in 2015 to 'accept' 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK by 2020 - but so far very few of even this miserably ungenerous quota have been brought here. Meanwhile, in the last year for which statistics are available no less than 40,000 men, women and children applied for asylum in the UK. More than a quarter of these were women, some making their own claim, others dependant on husband or partner. Of the 23,000 initial decisions made on requests for asylum last year, two-thirds were refused. More than a thousand individuals were forcibly deported.

IMPROVE FACILITIES, LEGAL AID AND SUPPORT

At any one time, four hundred women deemed 'illegal' are imprisoned in the women's Immigration Removal Centre at Yarl's Wood in Bedfordshire, run by security firm SERCO. Women's organizations have investigated and bitterly criticised the cruel detention regime there, which defies women's human rights, with women under surveillance 24 hours a day, spied upon by male guards. Many are driven to self-harm. Even the Government's own Inspector of Prisons has fiercely criticized Yarl's Wood. Meanwhile, 'free' but awaiting a decision from the Home Office, other women asylum seekers are arbitrarily dispersed to areas where they know nobody, placed in inadequate accommodation, deprived of benefits and forbidden to work and earn.

Women in Black & WILPF invite you to support Women for Refugee Women
Women for Refugee Women challenge the injustices experienced by women who seek asylum in the UK. They work to empower women who have sought sanctuary in this country to speak out about their own experiences to the media, to policy-makers and at public events. They say, "We aim to give a voice to women who are all too often unheard and unseen. We create a bridge from the least powerful women in our society to the more powerful". To donate or get more information please contact: Tel: 020 7250 1239 <admin@refugeewomen.co.uk> < www.refugeewomen.co.uk>

Join Women in Black and WILPF in calling on the Government...

To the Prime Minister. We call on you urgently to:

- Bring the promised 20,000 Syrian refugees to Britain immediately;
- Open the door to more asylum seekers, especially women and children;
- Support asylum seekers more generously with accommodation, benefits, income and rights;
- End detention; close Yarl's Wood now.

Name:..... Signature.....

Address:

**Contact Women in Black at: <wibinfo@gn.apc.org> <Twitter@WIB_London>
Contact WILPF at: <ukwilpf.peace@gmail.com> <http://www.wilpf.org.uk>**

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!