



Women in Black
London

Women for Peace Opposing war and militarism

24 May is International Women's Day for Peace & Disarmament

International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament began with Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp and spread around the world in the 1980s. Our women's networks opposed nuclear deployments and kept up pressure on the Cold War militaries, bringing about the 1987 INF Treaty that banned the ground-launched nuclear missiles that could strike first and launch a nuclear war.

More recently, the women-led International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for raising awareness about the unacceptable humanitarian suffering caused by nuclear weapons, resulting in the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), adopted by the United Nations on 7 July 2017.

With man-made weapons and conflicts causing misery around the world, women's work for peace has never been more important. We create conditions for disarmament, reconciliation and reconstruction. We care for survivors, organise self help groups, bridge differences, and initiate new approaches to build peaceful relations on all levels: local, regional, national and international. Most of the women doing this vital peace work are completely unknown except to those they help.

This week, Women in Black in Israel and around the world are organising nonviolent protests to end the continuing Israeli Occupation of Palestinian lands, the construction of illegal settlements, the military blockade of the Gaza Strip and the shooting and imprisonment of unarmed demonstrators.

This week the network 'Women Cross the DMZ' are bringing Korean women from South and North together with women peace-makers from around the world to build peace together, working for the whole Korean Peninsula to be demilitarized and made nuclear free.

Women in Black say:

- **Militarism and war are being made to seem a reasonable solution for dealing with conflict and those who disagree with armed governments. But violence, weapons and war cannot be the solution as they are the major problem. We believe the UK government should work for nonviolent political and diplomatic solutions to national and international problems.**
- **Women and children suffer in specific ways in war: rape, forced prostitution, sexual trafficking and abuse of women and children increase during and after war. Their burden of nurture, care and vulnerability is made heavier. 80% of refugees fleeing war are women and children.**
- **Militarism diverts resources from health, education and development. Arms dealers profit while people die in need of clean water and food. The UK exports weapons and military equipment to over 150 countries. All arms increase the dangers and burdens for women.**

For further information and to become active:

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
www.icanw.org and www.acronym.org.uk;
WomenCrossTheDMZ <https://www.womencrossdmz.org/>
Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT), www.caat.org
Femmes Africa Solidarité, www.fasngo.org
IFOR Women Peacemakers Program (WPP),
www.ifor.org/WPP

International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA),
www.iansa.org
Ruta Pacifica de las mujeres, www.rutapacifico.org.co
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), www.peacewomen.org, www.reachingcriticalwill.org
Women Waging Peace, www.womenwagingpeace.net
UN Development Fund for Women, www.womenwarpeace.org

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 exploitation or personal control. We work to build bridges in situations of conflict, and choose non-violence in our actions. We believe a more respectful, just, co-operative and caring way of life is possible.

Women in Black hold vigils every Wednesday from 6 till 7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, St.Martin's Place, London WC2. The vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. Contact us at wibinfo@gn.apc.org or Twitter: @WiB_London or www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london or <http://london.womeninblack.org/> Donations for leaflets most welcome. Do join us.