

Women

say

NO to N.A.T.O

**The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is**

**an aggressive pact that increases the risk of war**

**NATO was formed in 1949** by the USA, Canada, the UK and 9 other Western European countries aligned against the Soviet Union and East European communist states, soon to form the rival Warsaw Pact. Thus began the 40-year ‘Cold War’ stand-off. However, when the USSR disintegrated in 1991, instead of seizing the chance of peace, NATO continued to expand, enrolling Turkey, Greece and countries of Eastern Europe, a threatening presence ever closer to the borders of Russia. It has, in addition, enlisted up to 40 associated ‘partner states’ in Asia, Africa, the Mediterranean – and recently Latin America.

**NATO is nuclear-armed and ready for war....**The United States deploys 150 nuclear weapons across the region. NATO forbids its member states to sign the UN Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. It fosters militarization of the European Union. The Alliance has carried out actual war-fighting, aerial bombardments and armed drone operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, leaving these countries impoverished and unstable. This November in Norway NATO forces are mounting *Trident Juncture*, one of the largest ever joint ‘war games’, deploying 40,000 troops, 70 ships and 130 aircraft from 30 nations. In defiance, Russia recently carried out its biggest military exercise since the end of the Cold War.

**Women in Black say: abolish NATO and close all foreign military bases**

**Military spending is at the cost of health and wellbeing...** NATO requires its member states to spend massively on their armed forces. We argue that these high military budgets come at the cost of the social spending on health and welfare services that women especially need, due to their family responsibilities. Besides, military bases, of which the major powers deploy more than a thousand worldwide, are a burdensome and polluting intrusion in civilian areas. The presence of servicemen often leads to instances of gender-based violence against local women and girls, and to increased levels of prostitution to serve troops’ so-called ‘rest and relaxation’ needs.

**For facts about NATO see :** [**www.no-to-nato.org/2018/q-and-a-about-nato/**](http://www.no-to-nato.org/2018/q-and-a-about-nato/)

*To the Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Theresa May, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA:*

**We call on you to direct policy towards:**

(1) the closure of all foreign military bases in the UK and other countries;

(2) the closure of the UK’s sixteen military bases overseas;

(3) withdrawal of the UK from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(4) the closure of NATO itself.

Signed................................................................ Name (print)..............................................................................

Address ................................................................................................................................................................

**Women in Black London hold 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 WC2H OHE.**

Our vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. We welcome all women who support our call for an end to violence, militarism and war. Contact us at: wibinfo@gn.apc.org; www.london.womeninblack.org; www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london; Twitter@WIB\_London **Donations for leaflets very welcome.** Leaflet 10/10/18