



Women in Black
London

**SUPPORT
SYRIAN
WOMEN**

With the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Women in Black call for a new peace initiative for Syria and inclusion of women in negotiations

In Syria the conflict is coming to a climax with the current assault on Idlib province. If carried to conclusion this campaign will cost untold deaths and put to flight hundreds of thousands of residents. The Syrian Network for Human Rights report that 82,000 people were already ‘disappeared’ into state detention between 2011 and 2018, of whom an estimated 13,000 have died under torture. The assault on Idlib will result in many more.

Women have been a large proportion of Syrian refugees to the UK and from them we have been alerted to the condition of women remaining in the conflict zone.

They tell us that a considerable proportion of state detainees have been women. Often they are subjected to gender-based violence while in detention and, even if eventually released, face stigma and isolation. While men are usually the state’s primary targets for detention, women are left to bear the social and economic impact of the disappearance of the family’s main breadwinner. They also suffer the mental distress of not knowing the fate of their loved ones. Women often exhaust their savings to bribe security officials in the hope of receiving information about family members, and thereby expose themselves to additional risks of sexual harassment and exploitation by the authorities. Syrian women’s limited legal rights, including the need for male guardians’ approval to make decisions about their children’s lives, significantly amplify the burden that falls on them when a male family member is detained or disappeared. When an individual dies in detention their family are given no chance to receive their remains and afford them a dignified burial.

Women in Black invite you to support Syrian women by donating to Women Now for Development <<https://women-now.org/donate/>>

To the Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA:

With Women in Black I appeal to the British Government to welcome Syrian refugees, particularly women and children, to expand the Syrian Vulnerable Person Scheme, and use all means in its power to influence the international community and the parties to the Syrian conflict to:

- Renew efforts towards an immediate ceasefire in the Syrian conflict;
- Ensure the inclusion of women in a renewed peace process;
- End forthwith the Syrian state practice of detention and torture of its citizens;
- And allow international humanitarian organizations unfettered access to detention facilities.

Signature..... 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](https://twitter.com/WIB_London). Donations for leaflets very welcome