



Women in Black
London

Armed conflict and sexual violence worldwide...

An ever-growing number of people are in flight from violence and persecution. The latest figures (for late 2018, source UNHCR) show there are more than 68 million forcibly displaced people worldwide – the highest level ever recorded. The majority are adrift within their own countries, but more than 25 million are refugees in neighbouring or distant countries. Developing countries carry 85% of the refugee burden.

Women and girls constitute half of the world’s forcibly displaced people

Women and girls are specially vulnerable. Even in peaceful times they are afflicted by male violence, burdened by care for young, old and disabled, and deprived of income, property and resources. War makes it worse. At the start of last year the UK was sheltering only 162,299 refugees. Relative to total population size, Germany, France and Italy house three times as many refugees, Sweden fifteen times as many. Figures for the last twelve months (to November 2018) show that 27,971 asylum applications were made here, 4,219 applicants were expelled from the country and 1,283 were placed into detention.

Women imprisoned while waiting removal

At any one time, around 400 women are held in the Immigration Removal Centre at Yarl’s Wood in Bedfordshire. Conditions there have been criticized by the government’s Inspector of Prisons, human rights bodies and women’s organizations. Women are under 24-hour surveillance, often sexually harassed by guards and driven to self harm. Some have been sustained long hunger strikes in protest at poor health conditions, maltreatment by staff and indefinite terms of detention.

Women in Black invite you to donate to the charity Women for Refugee Women
52 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT
Tel 020 7250 1239 <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/womenforrefugeewomen>
admin@refugeewomen.co.uk

To: The Prime Minister, Theresa May, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

We call on you urgently to:

- Increase the number of women and children asylum-seekers granted leave to remain in the UK
- Support women refugees with benefits, housing, education, health services and family reunification
- End detention and close Yarl’s Wood now

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

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.**
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