



Women in Black
London

Prevent War on Iran - Restore International Law and Diplomacy

Pull back from the brink of war

Donald Trump's decision to assassinate Iran's General Soleimani at Baghdad Airport on 3 January also killed an Iraqi general and eight other people. The US has asserted that this extra-judicial killing by drone-strike was to deter further Iranian attacks on US diplomats and service personnel in the region. However, it seems likely that this assassination will increase aggression, terrorism and the risk of war.

The agreements negotiated between a group of world powers and Iran – to restrain the development of Iran's nuclear weapons capability in exchange for the lifting of punitive economic sanctions – had already been severely undermined by Trump in 2018. Now Iran has reacted to the fatal US drone attack on Soleimani by announcing that it will no longer abide by any of these nuclear restraints.

The dangers of war are increasing. We are concerned that the existing tensions in the region may escalate into full-blown military conflicts. We recognise that contemporary forms of terrorism and aggression include disabling cyber-warfare and the participation of unregulated non-state actors as well as military violence between armies.

Women in Black oppose all violence, terrorism and war. We condemn all human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law committed by governments and military officials and other actors. We emphasise the disturbing fact that the appalling consequences of modern warfare are borne most heavily by civilians, especially women and children, and create thousands of refugees. We use nonviolence to protest and act against all who promote and profit from war and violations of international law and human rights.

We urgently call on the British government to show leadership to prevent further military escalation and restore international law, human rights and diplomacy.

To Mr Boris Johnson, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1.

In view of the appalling humanitarian, environmental and health impacts of all forms of war, I urge you and the British government to work with the United Nations and all relevant parties in calling for US and Iranian leaders to exercise restraint, de-escalate their military and verbal threats and actions, refrain from further attacks against each other's people and places, and pull back from the brink of war.

Please make it clear to US and Iranian leaders that Britain prioritises human rights, diplomacy and the rule of law over the production and use of unlawful weapons and military attacks, and that the British people will not support dangerous, illegal and irresponsible military actions.

Signed.....Date.....

Name:

Address:

Women in Black 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, WC2. Our vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. See our website at www.london.womeninblack.org Contact us at: wibinfo@gn.apc.org
www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london Twitter: @WIB_London 07/01/2020

Donations for leaflets gratefully received. If you are a woman and agree with us, then do come and join us.