Women in Black: Priorities for Government Action

At our vigils we invite members of the public to sign letters to the government. Each letter covers a specific issue of concern to Women in Black, which is a world-wide network for peace with justice, and against war and all other forms of violence.

In 2019 we received some replies from government departments, but very little action. So we thought we’d start 2020 with a few reminders to the new government.

- **Provide refugee protection to women fleeing war and gender-based violence**, and end the indefinite detention of women refugees and migrants at Yarl’s Wood Detention Centre;

- Continue to support projects abroad which aim to end **war crimes of sexual violence**, and take immediate measures to ensure the **effective prosecution of gender-based violence** – including rape and domestic violence - in the UK

- **Stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia**: fully implement the Appeal Court’s ruling suspending arms sales for use in Yemen, arising from the government’s failure to consider, when issuing export licences, whether violations of international humanitarian law had taken place.

- **Cancel the UK’s nuclear weapons programme**: sign and ratify the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, now signed by 80 countries worldwide.

- Recognise our military activity’s substantial contribution to the global climate emergency: **publish full and comprehensive details of the UK’s military carbon footprint**

- Use all diplomatic avenues to **end the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories**, renew negotiations for a just peace and affording statehood for Palestinians and equality of citizenship for all within the state of Israel.

**To the Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street. London, SW1**

I urge you to make a new start for the government by taking the measures towards ending violence, militarism and war, and supporting peace, with justice, including: ending violence against women in war and peace; providing refugee protection to victims of gender-based violence; Stop UK Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia and their allies in Yemen; sign and support the Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons and cancel the UK’s programme; publish full details of the UK’s military carbon footprint; work internationally to ensure peace and justice for Palestinians.

Name .................................................................................................................................................. Date ......................................................

Address ...............................................................................................................................................
Women in Black holds 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. The vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. **Donations for leaflets always most welcome.**

Jan 2020