



Women in Black
London

**Women in Black
remember the dead
and take action for
peace**

As we approach the time of 'Remembrance', more than 100 years since the 'war to end all wars', Women in Black London lament the ever rising death-toll from war in our world.

We remember the people of Democratic Republic of Congo where 7 million are internally displaced by war. We remember Sudan, which has the largest number of people displaced by war. We remember the people of Afghanistan, Yemen, Myanmar where wars continue but are all but forgotten. We remember those killed and displaced by the war between Ukraine and Russia. We remember the 1,400 Israeli's killed by Hamas. We remember the than 9,000 people, half of them children, killed in Gaza by the military actions of Israel and through the blockade and siege.

War is a failure for humanity and for the planet. It is fuelled by the immoral arms trade and by flawed policies that seek security through military might. We see a new arms race, with the import of arms to NATO states increasing by 65% since the war began between Ukraine and Russia. The UK Government is a major exporter of arms, to Israel, Ukraine and many other countries, and is committed to a nuclear weapon based defence policy.

Women in Black believe that the involvement of women in peacemaking processes are the way to end wars and conflicts.

"Without direct input from women, without the recognition of the gendered impact of armed conflict on women, and without the acknowledgement of women's roles in all aspects of their society, peace responses will fall short and therefore lack the prospect for truth, stability and security." ICRC

Many of us wear White Poppies in these days. They were the initiative of the Co-operative Women's Guild in 1933, to convey the message, '**war - never again**'. They are produced by the Peace Pledge Union.

WRITE to your local MP (<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>) urging the Government to help facilitate an immediate ceasefire by Hamas and & Israel and a negotiated settlement to the war between Ukraine & Russia.

Ask that the Government work to uphold international law and protect civilians and hostages in war zones. Ask that they facilitate independent monitoring of the abuse of women and children in all war zones.

WEAR a white poppy and start a conversation about the most authentic way to mark Remembrance Day and how we might abolish war forever. www.ppu.org.uk and www.abolishwar.net

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GLOBAL ARMS TRADE – find out about UK arms sales to Israel, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia and call for an end to this trade. Learn more from caat.org.uk



USEFUL WEBSITES — www.peacenews.info www.cnduk.org
www.stopwar.org.uk www.medact.org www.wilpf.org.uk

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. We welcome all women who support our call for an end to militarism and war.

Contact us: Twitter @WIB_London FB @womeninblack.london <http://london.womeninblack.org/>

Donations for leaflets/poppies most welcome

November 2023