



**Women in
Black
London**

**Don't Bomb Yemen
Don't Escalate War**

UK AND US AIR STRIKES IN YEMEN: A DANGEROUS ESCALATION OF THE GAZA CONFLICT

Last week (11-12 January), the UK government and its US allies unilaterally conducted unauthorised military strikes in the sovereign territory of Yemen in retaliation for Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.

The UK and US not only stand isolated due to their steadfast refusal to heed international calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, but are recklessly jeopardising stability and peace endeavours in the wider Middle East, in line with their deplorable historic record of military intervention in the region (starting with the 1917 Balfour Declaration and continuing right up to the recent wars in Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan), entailing long-lasting and tragic consequences for the people there.

And today, the UK government continues to supply weapons to Israel for use against the Palestinians, now compounded by its strikes in Yemen, making a mockery of widespread calls for de-escalation and leaving any reputation it may still have for moral decency in tatters.

Women in Black (a worldwide association of women in favour of peace and justice and against war and militarism, originally established in Jerusalem in 1988) supports the position of its sister organisation the **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)**, which dates back over a hundred years, and calls for:

- an end to hostilities on the part of all the parties to the conflict in Palestine;
- an immediate ceasefire in Gaza to allow the requisite humanitarian assistance to reach the people of Palestine;
- an end to bombing in Yemen and international support for peace efforts there, putting Yemen's interests and those of its people above all other considerations;
- the immediate safe return of all Israeli hostages held in Gaza;
- the immediate safe return of all shipping crews abducted and held in Yemen;
- an end to UK arms sales to Israel and other regimes carrying out violations of humanitarian law and human rights;
- an end to Israeli apartheid and occupation in Palestine, with women's full and effective involvement in serious peace negotiations based on justice and equality for all;
- a return to our common humanity, as expressed by the WILPF in its 1915 congress, a statement as true today as it was 109 years ago:

"The people in each of the countries labouring under the burden of the war believe themselves to be fighting, not as aggressors but in self-defence. There can be no irreconcilable differences between them, and their common ideals afford a basis upon which a magnanimous and honourable peace might be established. The governments of all nations must refer international disputes to arbitration or conciliation, and we can bring social, moral and economic pressure to bear upon any country which resorts to arms."

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](#)

Donations for leaflets most welcome

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Action: Write to your MP and ask them to press for a ceasefire in Gaza and challenge UK aggression in Yemen