

# Women in Black London

## International Women's Day 2024



8<sup>th</sup> March is International Women's Day, established by the United Nations in 1977. It celebrates women's contributions to society, raises awareness about the fight for gender parity, and inspires support for organisations that help women globally.

On display around the statue of Edith Cavell is an artist's exhibition of Russian Women in Black who were photographed opposing the war in Ukraine. If caught by the authorities, they risk being sentenced to up to 10 years hard labour in prison. These women remind us of the thousands of women around the world who oppose their government's military - as well as all military action - risking violence, prison, rape and death.

In these days, we remember women and girls around the world whose lives are damaged by war, violence and disaster. Of the 35 million refugees worldwide, half are women and this figure is rising now with the war in Ukraine. There have been over 27,000 deaths in Gaza, the majority of them women and children.

We invite you to:

**Remember** especially the women in Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iran, Afghanistan, DR Congo, Eritrea, and Yemen. Support any women you know whose lives have been impacted by violence.

**Think of** the brave women peacemakers, aid workers, medics, journalists, judges and teachers, who speak up and act out for the rights and dignity of women in their own countries. Celebrate women in your own life who uphold the rights and safety of women.

**Offer solidarity** to Women in Black in Russia, Armenia, Israel Palestine, India, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Denmark, Finland, South Africa, and to groups around the UK in Bradford, Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Leeds, Oxford and Plymouth. (Details here <https://womeninblack.org/>)

**Advocate for the inclusion** of women in decision making roles, especially UN Resolution 1325. This resolution of 2000 reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping.

**Join us: Women in Black** hold vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, and beside Page 8 Hotel, 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/> March 2024*



**Donations for leaflets most welcome**