



## Women in Black

# Support women fleeing war and conflict

**The theme for 2024 Refugee Week, 17 – 23 June is “Our Home”**

*“To me, a home is where you feel loved, safe, and cherished.” Malala Yousafzai*

Women in Black are especially concerned about the vulnerability of women and children refugees and asylum seekers. . Everyone has a right to be safe. The hostile environment and cruel asylum system mean many women are separated from their children and loved ones, by strict borders, through detention, and difficult family reunion processes. [\[2\]](#)

### Some basic facts

- UN Refugee Agency report that by the end of 2023 there were 117.3 million forcibly displaced people. They estimate that more than 2.9 million refugees worldwide will need resettlement in 2025. These are people driven by the ongoing of mass displacement related to new wars and conflicts and the impacts of climate change.
- Turkey is the largest refugee-hosting country worldwide, with 3.6 million refugees by end-2022. Germany is the second largest refugee-hosting country in the Europe region, hosting nearly 2.1 million refugees by the end of 2022 (*More here <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/>*)
- In the UK 67,337 people are making asylum applications and 128,786 are awaiting an initial decision.
- The Illegal Migration Bill was introduced in March of this year. If and when it comes into full force an estimated 190K people could be locked up or forced into destitution. The estimated cost of this process, over a 3 year period, is £9 billion. (*More here <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/>*)

*When you come here to seek protection from abuse, exploitation and persecution but instead the Home Office locks you up, you wonder if you are in a good country or in hell. I am still living with the trauma of detention and I don't want other women to go through this pain.”*

Agnes Tanoh, our Spokesperson, Refugee Women

### What you can do:

**Sign the pledge** *Every Women Welcome*, a project of Refugee Women.

<https://www.refugeewomen.co.uk/welcome-every-woman/welcomeeverywoman/>

**Contact your local candidates** in the General Election and raise these questions. Would they be prepared to support an end to the detention of immigrants – an inhumane system which causes great distress? Would they support measures to allow asylum seekers to work and so feel part of society and earn much needed income? Would they call for an end to British arms sales which contribute to the wars and displacement of thousands of people?

**Support and sign** the campaign petition for a fair and humane asylum system.

<https://act.refugeecouncil.org.uk/campaign/join-campaign-fair-and-humane-asylum-system>



**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, and 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 most welcome**