



**Women in Black
London**

**Divest from War
Invest in Climate Justice**

War and militarism have helped to cause climate breakdown. War destroys lands and ecosystems, polluting water, soil and air, while leaving behind toxic remnants and unexploded weapons that cause harm generations after a conflict ends. The world's militaries account for 5.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions; emissions which are still excluded from global climate agreements. Military industries depend on vast amounts of metals, minerals and fossil fuels; and military spending diverts resources from climate action.

The world's wealthiest countries have consistently failed to meet targets to provide \$100 billion in climate finance to help countries suffering the worst impacts of climate breakdown. Meanwhile, there always seems to be money for war: in 2023 global military spending rose for the ninth year in a row, reaching a record high of \$2.44 trillion (an increase of 6.8 per cent in real terms from 2022). 2023 also saw the hottest day – highest global temperatures – ever recorded.

We need to invest in building a safer and fairer world in the long-term, rather than in fuelling war and militarism, which are helping to drive climate and environmental harm. It is time to move the money from militarisation to just forms of climate action. It is time to break the ties with military and fossil power, for the world's wealthiest to reckon with colonialism and make progress on reparations for loss and damage. This September there is a Global Week of Action for Peace and Climate Justice to address the links between war, militarism and climate injustice. You can join in!

Women in Black calls on the Government to rethink its plans to increase spending on weapons and instead commit to moving toward Peace by decreasing military spending and increasing climate finance. Please write to the Prime Minister and copy your letter to your MP and to Ed Miliband, Environment Secretary.

To Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP, Prime Minister, Downing Street, SW1A 2AA

In May 2024, the COP29 Presidency announced steps to make the UN Climate Summit in Baku, the first COP of Peace. Please ensure that the UK shows leadership by taking steps to reduce military spending and increase climate finance in line with the Peace Dividend Campaign, launched in 2020 by 50 Nobel Prize Laureates, proposing to reduce military spending by 2 per cent per year, in all countries. Over five years, from 2025, this would liberate an estimated \$1.3 trillion and could be redirected to a global fund to tackle the climate crisis and other challenges such as pandemics.

Signed _____ Name _____ Date _____

Address _____



Women in Black hold vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite 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 **September 2024**