



**Women in Black  
London**

**For Climate, Peace and  
Social Justice – end fossil  
fuel extraction**

From 11 – 22 November 2024, **COP29**, the next international conference on **Climate Change**, will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The choice of another oil-producing country that regularly violates human rights undermines the independence of the COPs and further encourages greenwashing and fossil fuel lobbies. We express our solidarity with the demands of vulnerable countries, citizens' movements, civil society organisations and scientists for a **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** based on three pillars: a halt to new fossil fuel exploitation, a gradual phase-out of current fossil fuel exploitation, and a just transition that respects workers and populations.

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. Military systems are dependent on fossil fuels, which exacerbate the climate crisis; fossil fuels are linked to colonial legacies, separatist movements, organised crime and human rights violations and have a significant role in climate change. At a time when so many countries are affected by inter-state and internal conflict, as well as increasing numbers of climate catastrophes, action is vital.

**Women in Black calls on the Government 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. Britain once again has a key role to play in the international arena as a leader on Climate Change and Peace, not only at the UN General Assembly and the Security Council but at the forthcoming COP 29 – described by the hosts as the COP of Peace – to present these critical links and promote the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty as a mechanism for a sustainable peace. Please write to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Net Zero.**

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

The COP29 Presidency has called 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, increasing climate finance and supporting and promoting the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty as a mechanism for sustainable peace.

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 **November 2024***