



Women in Black
London

Support Sudan & DRC
- send aid not arms!

Humanitarian crises are continuing in many areas of the world, but two in particular have disappeared from view, despite their huge impact. Today, we focus on the conflicts ongoing in the Sudan and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, both arising from and building on previous ethnic cleansing and genocides and having a devastating impact on civilian communities both within their own countries and their neighbours.

Sudan – is in its third year of civil war. Atrocities have been committed by both sides, but particularly by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Darfur. The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, has described the position of Sudanese civilians as “*a nightmare of violence, hunger, disease and displacement*”. Millions are displaced, both within and outside the country. Famine is blighting hundreds of thousands. Sexual violence is taking place on a “staggering” scale, according to the United Nations. In areas where RSF soldiers are reportedly raping women and girls, some victims have taken their own lives. The healthcare system has collapsed. The conflict is driving a maternal and child health crisis. In one hospital in Darfur, supported by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), one out of every 30 women died from complications in pregnancy or childbirth in July 2024. While the UK Government in November doubled the aid package for Sudan and neighbouring countries, there are questions about the UK’s ongoing ties to the United Arab Emirates who are one of the UK’s largest arms buyers, and who have been providing arms and support to the RSF.

Democratic Republic of Congo – there has been ongoing conflict in eastern DRC for 30 years, following the Rwandan Genocide, in which ethnic Hutu extremists killed an estimated million Tutsis. Despite peace agreements in 2002/3 and the establishment of a UN peacekeeping force, unrest and clashes persist in eastern DRC (bordering Rwanda). DRC has some of the world’s largest mineral reserves used to produce advanced electronics, making it a focus for external involvement and illegal exploitation. More than 7 million people have been internally displaced due to the constant threat of violence and atrocities, as well as extreme poverty and mining expansion. UN data shows a 30% increase in grave violations against children in eastern DRC. 23.4 million Congolese suffer from food insecurity; around 1.1 million nationals are seeking refuge abroad. On 2 February 2025 the G7 Foreign Ministers issued a strong condemnation of the Rwanda-backed M23 offensive in eastern DRC, called for the rapid, safe and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians and protection for humanitarian personnel and peacekeeping forces. However, there remain questions about the UK Government’s financial relationship with Rwanda.

Women in Black London express solidarity with the people of Sudan and DRC suffering from the impact of ongoing conflict. We urge the UK Government to review its relationships with the UAE and Rwanda, who are complicit in arming the rebels in Sudan and DRC respectively, and to increase humanitarian aid, rather than selling arms which simply reinforce the conflicts.



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 <http://london.womeninblack.org/>

Donations for leaflets most welcome

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