



Women in Black London

International Women's Day 2025

8th March is International Women's Day, established by the United Nations in 1977. It celebrates women's contributions to society, raises awareness about the struggle for gender parity, and inspires support for organizations that help women globally. The theme for 2025 is **“For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.”** As *Women in Black* we are especially concerned about the war on women, whether through domestic or military violence. Last year, 612 million women and girls lived amidst the brutal realities of armed conflict, a disturbing 50 percent increase in just a decade. 1 in 5 women experience sexual violence. At the same time, women are often the first responders in times of crisis and have to carry the burden of seeking security for families.

(<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/announcement/2024/12/international-womens-day-2025-for-all-women-and-girls-rights-equality-empowerment>)

“I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own.”

Audre Lorde, writer, academic, poet and feminist

We invite you to:

Remember especially the women in Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Israel, Palestine, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine and Yemen. Recall any women you know whose lives have been impacted by violence and reach out to them.

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 dignity of women.

Send a message of solidarity to Women in Black members in Armenia, Israel, Belgium, Spain, Finland and to groups around the UK in Bradford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Leeds, Oxford and Shaftesbury.

(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, peacekeeping. In 2023, despite rising conflict, less than 10% of negotiators in peace processes were women.



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/*

March 2025

Donations for leaflets most welcome