



# Women in Black London

Refugee Week  
16 to 22 June 2025

**Over 28% of UK asylum applications are from women**

## **Hostile environment is still here!**

Women seeking asylum in the UK face particular challenges:

- Access to healthcare
- Timely maternity care,
- Safe accommodation,
- Family reunification,
- Right to work.

## **It's time to #Lifttheban**

Most people seeking safety in the UK are banned from working. This is a waste of women's particular talents, skills, qualities, experience and knowledge.

The work ban means women become isolated and their

mental health suffers. The work ban means, in order to avoid destitution, women may resort to unregulated employment, in which they are at risk of sexual assault.

**'We need a change of attitude' Zara Sultana MP**

*Community is our superpower!*

**Women in Black stand in solidarity with women refugees. Many of our mothers, sisters, grandmothers were once refugees. Many were forced to leave their homes due to war, colonialist wars, colonialist extraction, climate change, extreme poverty caused by international debt crises, all caused by western nations. We all continue to benefit from the skills, qualities and experiences that women refugees bring to our country. We say end the hostile environment, lift the work ban and respect women's basic human rights.**

## **Further information, donations and campaigns**

Refugee Week, 16th- 25th June, <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/>

Refugee Council, page of top facts, <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/stay-informed/statistics-and-research/>

Women for Refugee Women, #lifttheban campaign <https://www.refugeewomen.co.uk/campaign/work-ban/>

The British Red Cross, <https://www.redcross.org.uk/>



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.

Twitter: @WIB\_London

Facebook: @womeninblack.london

Website: [london.womeninblack.org](https://london.womeninblack.org)

**Donations for leaflets welcome**

**June 2025**