

80 YEARS ON...

Prevent Nuclear Escalation

Remember All Victims of War

80 years ago 2 Nuclear Bombs killed 250,000 people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On August 6th and 9th 1945, US planes dropped new 'atomic bombs' on Hiroshima and Nagasaki – just before peace negotiations with Japan could be finalised. Today more than 11,000 nuclear weapons are stockpiled in the arsenals of 9 countries – US, Russia, UK, China, France, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea. Politicians invariably say they need nuclear weapons to deter others. That's the 'nukes keep us safe' PR spread in the 1950s by America, along with 'atoms for peace'. Today we must face reality – Nukes don't provide deterrence, safety or security. They are used to project power and status. **If actually fired, they could devastate all life on Earth.**

As we commemorate the appalling injuries and deaths caused by the first 2 atomic bombs we must also reflect on the devastation inflicted on Palestinians in Gaza, especially the impacts on vulnerable children who are being starved to death. **These human catastrophes – 80 years apart – are connected.**

Nuclear-possessing countries are the world's nuclear proliferators. Far from deterring war, nuclear arsenals actually serve as enablers for dangerous politicians to control domestic populations, defy international law, and commit crimes against humanity. Nuclear-armed politicians are at the forefront of arms sales to countries that violate human rights. As they escalate military-industrial production and profits, they are the biggest destroyers of our human security and the climate and precious ecosystems on which we all depend. They fuel invasions, armed conflicts, and attacks on civilians – from Ukraine to Gaza, DR Congo, the Middle East and beyond,

Not content with **squandering £205 billion on Trident warheads and missiles for more nuclear submarines**, the UK Government wants to **spend £25 billion more** for Aldermaston (UK's atomic bomb factory) to make new warheads for American F35A fighter jets to fly from RAF Marham. That adds to the US B61-mod12 nuclear bombs deployed at USAF Lakenheath for NATO use. **These bombs could start a nuclear war in Europe.**

UK needs to sign the multilateral Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Negotiated by the United Nations to fulfil the nuclear disarmament obligations of the 50 year old Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the 'Nuclear Ban Treaty' (aka TPNW) entered into international legal force on 22 January 2021. It bans the possession, deployment, proliferation and use of nuclear weapons, and outlaws nuclear attacks and threats. The TPNW requires and mandates the verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear arsenals. The clear security rationale for banning nuclear weapons includes: ***"the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons cannot be adequately addressed, transcend national borders, pose grave implications for human survival, the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations, and have a disproportionate impact on women and girls..."*** (TPNW PP4)

To the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 10 Downing Street, London SW1

Nuclear war and climate breakdown are existential threats to all life on Earth. We call on you to:

- **Build peace** and **prevent the use of nuclear weapons** anywhere in the world;
- **Rethink the UK Defence Review**, which is neither strategic nor useful for Britain's real defence and security needs;
- **Sign the UN Treaty** on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on behalf of the UK, and undertake steps to fully implement this Treaty and all of Britain's disarmament and international humanitarian law obligations;
- **Stop proliferating and escalating nuclear weapons**, halt the production, acquisition, deployment and delivery of nuclear bombs by airplanes, missiles or nuclear submarines. There is no such thing as a tactical nuke attack.
- **Redirect the billions** that denuclearising UK defence would free up – **Support our real security needs**, including sustainable energy priorities, poverty reduction, improved health and education services, preventing further environmental destruction, and building peaceful, resilient relations with other nations and peoples.

Signed.....Date.....

Name:



Address:

Postcode

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/>

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Donations for leaflets most welcome