



**Women in Black  
London**

**NO TO  
ALL  
VIOLENCE**

**No to the fist, no to the knife, no to the bomb  
*International Day of Nonviolence***

Today is an opportunity to celebrate and affirm the role of women in nonviolent work for peace and justice. We remember Berta Caceres, a human rights and environmental campaigner from Honduras who was assassinated in 2016. We think of the work of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani female education activist and Nobel Peace Laureate, who was shot while trying to attend school. We think of the women in war zones, especially those in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia and Sudan who use their skills and take risks for the nonviolent resolution of war and conflict.

We also remember that violence towards women is unabated. Sexual violence is a weapon of war. Domestic violence and coercive violence are everyday experiences for thousands of women globally, but violence is not inevitable. We seek nonviolent approaches to injustice and conflict and encourage civil society and governments to invest in projects to support this.

**NO TO VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN  
NO TO A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE**

According to REFUGE\*, (*women and children facing domestic violence*) The police receive a domestic abuse-related call every 30 seconds. Yet it is estimated that less than 24% of domestic abuse crime is reported to the police. 1 in 4 women in England and Wales will experience domestic abuse in her lifetime.

The support services for Refuges for women reveal a disturbing rise in domestic abuse among young women and girls aged 16 – 25, particularly involving psychological abuse, coercive control and physical violence

The National Police Chiefs' Council and College of Policing declared violence against women and girls a 'national emergency' in 2024.

53,047 knife-crime offences were recorded between March 2024 – 2025.

There has been a rise in far-right ideology globally (including riots taking place nationally across 2024 - 2025).

**WHAT WE CAN DO**

- We can speak up and put a stop to the violence, physical and psychological, that so many women in the world receive at the hands of their male partners and others.
- We can challenge the use of war as a means of settling disputes and solving problems.
- We can expose the myth that it is glamorous or offers kudos to use knives, fists or fear.

\* REFUGE, for women and children facing domestic violence <https://www.refuge.org.uk/>

**Ben Kinsella Trust** undertake advocacy work and education workshops to prevent knife violence.

<https://benkinsella.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.

Contact us: [FB @womeninblack.london](mailto:FB@womeninblack.london)

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

Donations for leaflets most welcome

October 2025