



Women in Black London

***Divest from war –
Invest in a Just Transition***

21st September is the **United Nations International Day of Peace**. This is a **Week of Action for Peace and Climate Justice**. As the international community prepares for the climate conference COP30 in Brazil, in November, Women in Black London joins with other groups across the world to press for **divestment in war – investment in a just transition** (*support and training for environmental jobs for fossil fuel workers*)! We need to invest in building a safer and fairer world in the long-term, rather than in fuelling armed violence, social disaster and climate breakdown. It is time to **Move the Money** from militarisation to just forms of social security and climate action. A **Just Transition** leaves no one behind – including those caught up in polluting industries, from arms to fossil fuels.

In 2024 global military spending rose for the 10th year in a row reaching a record high of \$2.72 trillion. NATO states are responsible for more than half of this spending, totalling \$1.51 trillion in 2024. The five biggest spenders globally are the United States, China, Russia, Germany and India. Military spending is a significant driver of resource and energy use, and thus of carbon emissions.

2024 was also the hottest year on record, with more record temperatures and forest fires, floods and extreme weather events in 2025. Yet, amid escalating climate change effects and their disastrous toll on social and economic wellbeing, governments across the globe are militarising at pace. Over the course of 2024 and 2025, a majority of NATO and EU states have committed to historic increases in military spending while gutting public funds for real climate and biodiversity action, overseas aid, social welfare, migrant justice, civil society and peacebuilding. This trend is echoed globally and has global consequences for people and planetary health. If NATO states meet the spending target of 5% of GDP accepted by almost all members at the June 2025 NATO Summit, they would divert \$19 trillion to military build-up by 2030. Estimates suggest this would generate an extra 2,760 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂) over the next five years – more carbon emissions than the combined annual emissions of Brazil and Japan.

We urge the UK Government to think again about national security, reallocating resources towards building resilience and security in ways that genuinely protect people's lives. Investment in diplomacy, conflict resolution and sustainable development will provide long-term stability, as opposed to the short-term, profit-driven motives of the military-industrial complex.

If national security is about safeguarding the wellbeing of citizens, we need to measure access to healthcare, education, climate justice, and economic stability rather than the capacity to inflict mass destruction. Climate change, pandemics, cyber threats and economic inequality are the defining challenges of the 21st century. Redirecting military spending towards tackling these crises will not only strengthen domestic security but will also position the UK as a global leader in sustainable peacebuilding.

For more information: <https://climatemilitarism.org/weekofaction>

Saturday 20th September Draw the Line <https://actionnetwork.org/events/make-them-pay-national-demonstration/>

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



Donations for leaflets most welcome

September 2025