



Women in Black
London

The world is over-armed. Choose peace and disarmament

UN Disarmament Week - 24th to 30th October

October 24 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. It is 80 years since the horrors of WWII and first uses of nuclear weapons on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Disarmament Week was established in 1978 'to promote awareness and better understanding of disarmament issues and their cross-cutting importance' for peace and security. Today we mark Disarmament Week by putting a spotlight on the urgency to prevent nuclear use and eliminate nuclear weapons and war for good. We also call for controlling and reducing production and use of all inhumane weapons systems, from the explosive missiles that continue to bomb Ukraine and Gaza, to the M16s and AK47-type assault rifles used by militaries and armed gangs against civilians all over the world. Those weapons are mainly wielded by men. Women and children are invariably and disproportionately killed and injured. With nuclear weapons, nuclear war could be started by anyone with access and codes - by intent, electronic or military error, miscalculation - or because some leaders are mad.

In 2025 the British Government decided to spend an additional £17.5 billion of taxpayers money on new nuclear warheads and air-launched US nuclear weapons for RAF Marham and USAF-RAF Lakenheath. This adds to current costs of £205 billion for replacing nuclear-armed submarines and warheads for Trident. This is not deterrence, it's nuclear proliferation.

When the majority of people want the Labour Government to tackle climate breakdown and rebuild the NHS and crumbling education, food and housing infrastructures, we have to ask why the Prime Minister is violating the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and stealing resources from people's real, human security needs.

The UK has a vital opportunity to prevent nuclear war by joining the majority of UN Nations that have already signed the **UN-negotiated Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**. Becoming international law in 2021, the TPNW bans the use, testing, deployment, possession, transfer, and makes it illegal to assist anyone to acquire, develop or use nuclear weapons. It also requires countries that currently possess, deploy or host nuclear weapons to end those programmes safely and securely. To date, 95 states have signed the TPNW, and work is underway on verifying disarmament and remediating environments and communities harmed by decades of atomic weapons production and over 2000 nuclear tests.

By signing the TPNW the UK would greatly increase national and global security. Taking this step would also enhance Britain's international standing and influence, and create much-needed jobs in disarmament monitoring and verification. Pursuing nuclear disarmament in good faith through the NPT and TPNW would enable Britain to persuade others to prevent proliferation and focus more effectively on building human security and tackling climate breakdown, the deadly arms trade and violence against women and girls.

Today Women in Black invite you to tell the Prime Minister that Britain needs to pursue disarmament.

To Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, 10 Downing Street, London SW1.

As governments and citizens around the world mark the UN's Disarmament Week, I urge you to:

- Sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on behalf of the UK and implement this and all of Britain's international disarmament obligations, including the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Refuse to cooperate with nuclear war plans and proliferation, and cancel plans to deploy US nuclear weapons at RAF Marham, Lakenheath, or any other site in the UK.
- Redirect the billions of pounds allocated to Trident and other nuclear WMD towards our real security and resilience needs: to prevent nuclear war, tackle climate breakdown, environmental destruction and poverty, and build health, education and cooperative security to meet our human and humanitarian needs;

SignedDate.....

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 calls to end militarism and war and build international peace, justice and human security.

Contact us: Twitter @WIB_London FB @womeninblack.london

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

Donations for leaflets most welcome

(October 2025)