



## **Women in Black London**

## ***War cannot deliver liberation for the Iranian people***

In the last two weeks the world has witnessed a dramatic escalation of violence after the United States and Israel launched an unlawful military campaign against Iran, resulting so far in the assassination of Supreme Leader Aytollah Ali Khamenei, other Iranian officials, and hundreds of civilians. An airstrike on a girls' school in Minab alone killed more than 100 children and teachers.

In response, the Iranian government has launched missile and drone attacks on Israeli, Gulf and US military targets, and on other state territories. The conflict has expanded rapidly beyond Iran's borders, with casualties on all sides, marking a new chapter in US-Iran-Israel hostilities. Again, the US and Israel have disrupted attempts at negotiated agreements about Iran's nuclear programme.

International law is clear. Unilateral military offensives of this scale amount to an unlawful act of aggression. This fuels wider conflict, further undermines regional stability and erodes the global rule of law. States should be speaking out urgently and clearly to condemn these acts. A failure or delay to act not only reinforces the current prevailing impunity, but also the global trend of accepting that chaos and violence, fuelled by militarism and imperialism, is inevitable.

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe is among three of Iran's former political prisoners and more than 100 Iranians living in the UK who have urged the British Prime Minister<sup>1</sup> not to get drawn further into the Iran conflict, whatever pressure is put upon him by the US. Their letter says "*Nobody can claim to want the end of the Islamic republic more than we do. But attacking the country in this way will have the opposite effect. It will entrench the authoritarians and give life to the fiction that has sustained them internally for decades: that they are fighting western imperialism.*"

In their letter the group set out a series of peaceful and practical steps to help the internal opposition. They write: "*A pro-democracy policy would protect political prisoners and ensure that Israel and the US do not bomb prisons. A pro-democracy policy would smuggle internet devices – not weapons – across the border and break the blackout that is blanketing the country. A pro-democracy policy would call out Israel's assassination policy even when it targets leaders we despise. There is so much that can be done in solidarity with Iranians. But joining in with Netanyahu's forever wars is not it.*"

Women in Black supports those calling for all parties to:

- Immediately halt military attacks; Prioritise diplomatic channels and regional de-escalation measures; Uphold their obligations under the UN Charter, international humanitarian and human rights law

Women in Black urges the UK Government to:

- Immediately condemn all violations of international law; refuse to provide any logistical support for attacks on Iran; hold Israel and the US to account; support diplomatic negotiations

Women in Black stands in solidarity with all civilians affected by this violence.

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<sup>1</sup> Reported in the Guardian 10 March 2026



**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.

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**Donations for leaflets most welcome**

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