



**Women in  
Black London**

**International Women's Day  
2026**

8<sup>th</sup> March is International Women's Day, established by the United Nations in 1977. It celebrates women's contributions to society and inspires support for organizations that help women globally. The theme for 2026 is **Rights. Justice. Action.** As *Women in Black* we are especially concerned about violence towards women, whether through domestic, social, political or military violence. The UN report that 676 million women and girls are living within 50 km of active conflict zones. In those shifting zones, many are exposed to brutal rape and mutilation. At the same time, women are often the first responders in times of crisis and have to carry the burden of seeking security for families.

*“Globally, women have only 64 per cent of the legal rights of men. No country has achieved full legal equality. We see this in the 54 per cent of countries that lack a consent-based legal definition of rape... And there are few more stark reflections of the denial of justice for women and girls than their treatment in conflict and crisis.”*  
*Sima Bahous, UN Women Executive Director Sima, January 2026*

### **We invite you to:**

**Look at the images** from the Russian feminist artist, Katya Muromtseva's entitled *“Women in Black Against the War”* (2022-2023). They help remind us of women's resistance to war around the globe.

**Remember** especially in these days women in Ukraine, Russia, Palestine, Israel, Iran, Afghanistan, and Sudan. Recall the women you know whose lives are impacted by violence and reach out to them.

**Think of** the brave women peacemakers, aid workers, medics, journalists, judges, and teachers, who speak up and act out for the rights and dignity of women in their own countries. Celebrate women in your own life who uphold the rights and dignity of women.

**Send a message of solidarity** to Women in Black members in Armenia, Israel, Belgium, Spain, Finland and to groups around the UK in Bradford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Leeds, Oxford and Shaftesbury. (Details here <https://womeninblack.org/>)

**Advocate for the inclusion** of women in decision making roles, especially UN Resolution 1325, introduced in 2000, reaffirms the key role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping. At present only 7 per cent of negotiators and 14 per cent of mediators in formal peace processes worldwide are women.



**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/>

**March 2026**

**Donations for leaflets most welcome**