



**Women in Black
London**

***Divest from War
Invest in a just transition***

Global Week of Action for Peace and Climate Justice 21-27 September 2026

War and militarism are causing climate breakdown and consuming essential resources needed to address social, climate and ecological crises. Next to taking lives and devastating whole communities, the build-up and use of armed force destroys lands and ecosystems, polluting waters, soils and air and leaving behind toxic remnants and unexploded weapons that cause harm to generations long after conflicts end.

The world's militaries account for 5.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions: if they were a country, they would be the world's fourth largest national emitter. Yet still militaries remain exempt from global reporting and reduction agreements. Further, military industries depend on vast amounts of metals, minerals and fossil fuels; the US military is the single largest institutional fossil fuel consumer in the world. Indeed, **fossil energy fuels both wars and climate disaster** – and the shareholders profiting from fossil fuel extraction are closely linked with those profiting from global arms, mining and tech industries. Together, they drive global violence and injustice.

Meanwhile, there always seems to be money for war. In 2025 global military spending rose for the 11th year in a row, reaching a record high of \$2.88 trillion. NATO states are responsible for more than half of this spending – while the five biggest spenders globally include the US, China, Russia, Germany and India. Military spending is a significant driver of resource and energy use, and thus of carbon emissions.

2024 was then the hottest year on record but followed by more record temperatures and unprecedented forest fires, floods and extreme weather events in 2025 and 2026. Experts agree that we are looking to breach the 1.5° Celsius increase in global temperatures from pre-industrial levels by 2030. And yet, **amid escalating climate change effects and their disastrous toll on social and economic well-being, governments across the globe are militarising at pace/speed.**

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. It is time to break the ties with military and fossil power, for the world's wealthiest to reckon with colonialism and make progress on reparations for loss and damage. A just transition leaves no one behind – including those caught up in polluting industries, from arms to fossil fuels.

Women in Black urges the UK Government to:

- Reduce and redirect military spending to meet social and climate needs**
- Reinforce multilateral cooperation and promote disarmament and diplomacy over deterrence**
- Deliver a just transition away from armed, social and ecological violence**



For more information on actions taking place across the country see:

<https://climatejustice.uk/better-future/>

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.

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

Donations for leaflets most welcome

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