



Women in Black  
London

# Vote for policies that encourage sustainable security, equality and human rights

## Women Worldwide Suffer Injustice, Poverty and Violence WAR MAKES IT WORSE!

- War makes widows: Iraq, after decades of wars, sanctions and internal violence, has over one million widows today. In many cultures widows are maltreated and condemned to a life on the margins.
- War exacerbates sexual violence. Women and girls become victims of mass rapes that are now recognized as war crimes and acts of genocide. In DR Congo, more than 200,000 women have been raped in a decade of conflict. In the war in Bosnia (1992-5) an estimated 50,000 women were raped.
- The OCHA Colombia 2019 Report states that 1,164 crimes against sexual liberty and integrity were committed in the context of the armed conflict, of which 90 per cent were committed against women.
- Domestic violence spans peace and war. The UK police receive a call every minute about domestic abuse, 89% of which are women being abused a men. Each week on average two women are killed by a partner or former partner (*Home Office*).
- Wars create refugees. 70.8 million people million have been forcibly displaced, 41.3 million of these within their own country. 57% of current refugees come from Syria (6.7 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million) and South Sudan (2.3 million.)
- Four years of brutal conflict in Yemen has left millions of people without a home and on the brink of starvation. The UK is implicated through its sale of weapons to the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen

## Women in Black is an international network of women for peace with justice and against war, militarism and violence.

### We will vote for:

- **War on poverty – not “war on terror”**
- **Asylum for those uprooted by war**
- **An end to racist thinking that makes war possible and to sexism in peace and war**
- **More ££ for civilian peace work – less ££ for the military**
- **Ending the development and export of arms. Dismantling UK’s Trident nuclear weapons.**

**We will vote for real peace and security** For us, peace is not the mere absence of war. Real security means being able to live without fear from all forms of violence. For women, security means equality and independence, food and shelter, health and education.

### At this election time, take action:

**Question** your candidates and canvassers on the issues raised in this leaflet.

**Inform** yourself by looking at the websites below, or by reading *Peace News* and other literature.

**Organise** a local meeting for candidates and question them all on these issues.

**Write** on these issues to your local paper, and phone a radio ‘Phone-in’.

**Help** a local candidate who agrees with these policies.

**Stick** up a poster – make your own or use the websites below.

**Copy** this leaflet and give it to someone else. Spread it on ‘social media’.

### Useful websites – for information, tools for action, news and views

[www.peacenews.info](http://www.peacenews.info) [www.wilpf.org.uk](http://www.wilpf.org.uk) [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk) [www.stopwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwar.org.uk) [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk)  
[www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk) [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk) [widowsrights.org](http://widowsrights.org) [www.uk.icanw.org/](http://www.uk.icanw.org/) [www.medact.org](http://www.medact.org)

Women in Black, 24 Colvestone Crescent, London E8 2LH Donations for leaflets etc most welcome.

[www.london.womeninblack.org](http://www.london.womeninblack.org) Twitter: @WiB\_London [www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london](http://www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london)

Women in Black holds vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin’s Place, London WC2. The vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black.