

WOMEN SAY NO TO NATO



The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance of the USA, Canada, the UK and other states, set up after the Second World War to oppose the USSR. The 'Communist Bloc' disintegrated twenty years ago, but NATO lives on, a dangerous Cold War dinosaur. It accounts for 75% of global military spending.

On the occasion of NATO's Summit Meeting in Wales this week, we call for the disbanding of this aggressive alliance....

Pursuing the 'Cold War' into the 21st Century: NATO has responded to the conflict in Ukraine by an aggressive stance towards Russia, instead of the creative diplomacy that is needed. Recently it has announced new bases in northern Europe specifically to threaten Russia. Finland and Sweden are being courted as new members, to deprive Russia of oil resources opening up in the melting Arctic.

War-prone and worldwide: NATO seeks an increasingly militarized European Union as its 'strategic partner'. Predicting 'cyber wars', it foresees greater 'military-civilian co-operation' in the name of 'counter-insurgency', further threatening our civil liberties.

Nuclear weapons: Under NATO's 'nuclear sharing' agreement, US nuclear warheads are stationed in European member states. It is NATO policy that strategic nuclear weapons, including the UK's Trident system, be retained and modernized.

Women of NATO member states and others, gathering for a demonstration against the Summit in Newport this weekend, are saying 'No to NATO' for all these reasons, and more. Military expenditure squanders money needed for the education, health and housing services badly needed by women, who carry the main burden of domestic life. Women suffer displacement, rape, loss, injury and increased burdens due to war. NATO's military bases in many neighbourhoods are a source of social stress, toxic pollution, sexual exploitation and violence. Women call for human security not military security.

Dear Prime Minister,

At the time of the NATO meeting of Heads of State in Newport, Wales, on September 4-5, 2014, I urge you to press for the following policies:

- Work with Russia through creative diplomacy to resolve the crisis in the Ukraine.
- Halt NATO expansion, curb NATO's 'out-of-area' operations, and ensure its observance of international law.
- Reverse militarization of the European Union – the EU is for social and economic co-operation.
- No more erosion of our civil liberties in the name of 'counter-insurgency'.
- Rid Europe of both tactical and strategic nuclear weapons.
- Work for a binding international Convention to abolish nuclear weapons.
- Work towards replacing NATO with non-military co-operation for peace and justice.

Signature.....Name:.....

Address:

Women in Black against War; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and Women of No to War, No to NATO. Contact: < wibinfo@gn.apc.org>