

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.

On Nov 19-21, at NATO's Summit Meeting in Lisbon, Heads of State will gather to decide NATO policy and endorse a new 'Strategic Concept' for the next decade....

Ever larger: NATO is recruiting new member states year by year. Its Eastward expansion menaces Russia's dialogue with 'the West'. Finland and Sweden are being courted, so as to control the resources opening up in a melting Arctic region. There is talk of Israel joining. 'Partners' are sought as far afield as the Pacific. NATO now accounts for three-quarters of global military spending and seeks to control the rest of the world in the economic interests of the USA and other rich states.

War-prone and worldwide: NATO's founding mission is 'defence' of the North Atlantic region. So why is it sponsored by the UN to fight an aggressive war in Afghanistan? Why does it need a Rapid Deployment force capable of despatching fighting units worldwide within days?

Militarizing the European Union: NATO desires an increasingly militarized European Union as its 'strategic partner'. Predicting 'cyber wars', it foresees greater involvement of the military in civilian life in the name of 'counter-insurgency'.

**Women's security is not military security.
Women call for the negotiated, non-violent
settlement of all conflicts, and the
inclusion of women in peace processes.**

We are women of Women in Black against War, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp and a women's affinity group of Trident Ploughshares. Our action is in solidarity with the NO-to-NATO movement protesting against the Summit in Lisbon, and women in nine Italian cities resisting NATO and its installations.

What can I do? For ideas and contact details visit <www.wloe.org>

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 nuclear-armed Trident submarines, should be retained and modernized. What's more, the USA is going ahead with its new-model 'missile defence' antiballistic space shield, despite popular resistance to its installations.

Women say '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 our neighbourhoods do not represent 'security' for women. On the contrary they are a source of social stress, toxic pollution, sexual exploitation and violence. But women are not just victims. They can and do play a key role in conflict prevention, conflict reconciliation and peace building.

Our message to David Cameron and other Heads of State assembled in Lisbon:

- 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'
- No 'space wars'
- Rid Europe of both tactical and strategic nuclear weapons
- Work for a binding international Convention to abolish nuclear weapons
- Recognize women's potential for peace-building worldwide.

NATO is not a source of security, but a growing threat to peace. We urge you to work towards replacing NATO with non-military co-operation for peace and justice.

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