

No-to-War : No-to-NATO  
Annual meeting  
Dublin  
15-17 April 2011.

### **Report from the Women's Pre-Meeting**

The meeting was attended by twelve women who discussed a range of matters concerned with the participation of women in No-to-War : No-to-NATO, and prepared for the working group meeting the following day. We wondered how the working group as listed in the programme had come to be given the bizarre name of 'Feminist Aspects of Militarization'. We stressed the theme to be feminist *critiques* of militarization, and particularly of NATO.

Three main problems were identified during the discussion. First was the difficulty encountered by women in No-to-NATO, the need to achieve a bigger and more visible presence for women in the Network, and to improve gender awareness in the way it functions. We committed ourselves to supporting each other and other women during the conference, and in general in No-to-NATO.

The second problem was that of getting women's experience of militarization and armed conflict, and the effects of NATO's wars on women (for instance in Afghanistan) taken seriously in the Network.

The third problem we perceived was that of getting a feminist analysis (viz. an understanding of the significance of the patriarchal power system, along with capitalism and nationalism, etc., in causing and sustaining militarism, militarization and war) made an integral part of the overall analysis of NATO as it is developing within the Network.