

We stand for peace and tolerance...

In the aftermath of the terrible attack on New York and Washington on September 11, we urgently call on all those with responsibility and authority, in our national governments and international institutions, to step back from war. We mourn the dead and feel deep sympathy with the bereaved and injured. Those who perpetrated the violence must be brought to justice under international law.

But we strongly believe the urge to vengeance must be resisted. A war waged by the US and its allies will cause the death of many innocent people, will de-stabilize many governments and societies, and its long term effects on relations between countries and regions of the world will be disastrous. Terrorism cannot be defeated by such means. We have to ask why so many people around the world have felt mixed feelings in response to the suffering of the USA. While poverty and hunger, injustice and exploitation, are experienced by so many, and the policies of the super-powers are seen as contributing to them, genuine despair will sometimes turn to desperation, and will fuel terrorism.

We urge all political and military authorities, national and international, to turn away from strategies of war and combine their efforts in seeking strategies for an inclusive, just and equal global society. Without that, we will never see peace.

Signed by

Women in Black, London,

WLUML, Women living under the Muslim Law, France

Women In Black, Mendocino, California

Women for peace Switzerland

Peace Group, Denmark

Malta

Women in Black, Toronto, Canada

Spain

Mujeres de Negro, Madrid, Spain

Bologna, Italy

Sabrang Communication, Mumbai, India

Women in Black, Edinburgh, Scotland

Women in Black, New York

Women in Black, San Francisco, California

Grupos de Mujeres, Zaragoza, Spain

Inizjamed (Mediterranean Cultural Initiative)

Mujeres de Negro, Seville,

Donne in Nero,