

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK asks you to take a moment from "business as usual" to consider places in the world where suffering and fear, rather than the joy of the holidays, dominate the lives of mothers, children and families.

Please join us on this busiest shopping day of the year as **we give thanks** for those women and men who are committed to an end to suffering and a restoration of human dignity and security around the world. **We challenge** ourselves and one another to act in the name of our values, beliefs and faith in the future for peace and justice in our country and our world.

We give thanks to the tens of thousands of citizens who are engaged in the efforts to bring our troops home now in order to end the U.S. war in Iraq, a war which has caused hundreds of thousands of deaths and continues to inflame the volatile situation in the Middle East. **We challenge** the influence of militarism and the US administration's decision to wage a permanent war around the world as the only approach to conflict resolution.

We give thanks for the Israeli and Palestinian peace and justice activists who work collaboratively to bring about an end to the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian resources and land. **We challenge** ourselves to find creative non-violent forms of protest during this international month-long protest against the on-going siege of Gaza because of the growing effects of the sanctions imposed by the international community against the democratically elected government of Palestine and the attacks by the Israeli armies, which have resulted in the spreading of disease, malnutrition and chaos.

We give thanks to you, community healthcare organizers, teachers, doctors, nurses and union members who work tirelessly to end to poverty and provide healthcare and quality education for all people. **We challenge** our elected and public officials to support policies that create life-affirming domestic, national and international possibilities and support freedom and justice. We urge your persistence, determination and commitment in these polarized and nationalistic times.

We are all allies in this effort to create the world we want to leave for our children and grandchildren. A world of safety, shelter, work, education, freedom and security. A world for which we can all **give thanks**.

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK, a group of Jewish feminists and allies, stands in solidarity with the nearly 300 Women in Black chapters around the globe who stand against militarism, violence, oppression, anti-Semitism, and racism, wherever it occurs. We oppose unquestioned patriotic, militaristic, and fundamentalist leadership in all countries around the globe, including our own, and are committed to nonviolent resistance against tyranny. Our silence and black dress are designed to evoke our protest and mourning for all the lives that have been lost in religious, political and nationalistic conflicts around the world. To join our work, please contact us through our website. Or write us at PO Box 8003, Berkeley, CA 94707