

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK



Who we are:

Bay Area Women in Black is part of the Women in Black international network of autonomous grassroots groups.

The first Women in Black were Israeli and Palestinian women who began holding weekly vigils in downtown Jerusalem in 1988 as visible opposition to Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine.

The Women in Black of today stand in cities and towns in about eighteen countries all over the world and in about twenty-one states in the U.S. plus the District of Columbia. Themes of Women in Black groups include violence against women, racism, children's rights, immigrants' rights, militarism, and nationalism.

Bay Area Women in Black welcomes men and other allies to join in our silent vigils, while respecting our feminist format.

What we do:

Our principal strategy is the silent vigil in public spaces. At our vigils we display signs and banners and distribute flyers and other materials.

In addition to our regular vigils, Bay Area Women in Black participates in the following actions:

- Organizing annual Black Friday (day after Thanksgiving) demonstrations in downtown San Francisco
- Organizing demonstrations at the annual "Israel in the Gardens" festival in San Francisco
- Presenting Tashlich ceremonies, stressing themes of social justice
- Visiting the offices of US Congresspeople and Senators and presenting them with informational materials
- Collaborating in actions of AROC, CAIR, Jewish Voice for Peace, IJAN, ISM, MECA, Sabeel, Students for Justice in Palestine, and many other local, national, and international allies
- Cosponsoring events in the Bay Area and abroad, such as speakers, films, the Gaza Flotilla and the Block the Boat Coalition
- Attending international Women in Black conferences (Israel, Colombia)
- Maintaining a Facebook page (by invitation through our website)

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Why we do what we do:

The actions of Bay Area Women in Black take inspiration from our founding mothers, who, rooted in the Jewish traditional valuing of human life, drew on their strength as women and mothers to face up to the brutality of military occupation and persecution of fellow human beings. We are also inspired daily by the heroism of all peoples who continue to struggle against dehumanizing and illegal occupation and persecution.

What you can do:

- **Join** Bay Area Women in Black at our silent vigils, every first and third Saturday from noon to 1pm in front of the Grand Lake Theater in Oakland. **Contact** other Women in Black groups as you travel around the country and the world.
- **Don't buy** products made in Israel or in occupied Palestine, such as Ahava, Arianna Skincare, Ben & Jerry's, Israeli couscous, Sabra, Soda Stream, generic drugs made by Teva...
- **Don't patronize** companies that aid in illegal occupation: Danone, Hewlett-Packard, L'Oréal, Motorola, Nestlé, Starbucks, Victoria's Secret. **Don't attend** cultural events sponsored by the Israeli government...
- **Divest** from Elbit Systems, Caterpillar, TIAA-CREF, Veolia...
- **Read** about our movement and the reasons for our actions:
http://www.gilasvirsky.com/wib_book.html
<http://www.womeninblack.org/en/vigil>
<http://www.whoprofits.org/>
<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/>
- **Contact** your elected representatives and let them know your views:
<http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
- **Watch and listen** to the experts:
Omar Barghouti <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w427xGoIT60>
Phyllis Bennis https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTXamD_MsBY
Henry Siegman <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzEwO5lO0z0>
- **Write** letters to local and national newspapers with your fact-based opinion.
- **Talk** to your friends and family about these issues.
- **Listen** to free-speech radio stations such as Pacifica.

