

Women Say **NO TO NATO**



NATO and its member states participate in illegal wars and military interventions worldwide. They contribute massively to international instability, fueling the arms race and militarization. 2% of the GDP immediately has to be spent on the wish of Trump and the Leaders of the EU countries are following and enlarge the militarization of the European Union. The confrontation against Russia at the Russian border continues: more troops, more exercises, more military equipment and the Missiles defense System at the Russian border that is NATO politics. Under the auspices of the UN the world is negotiated about a ban treaty, the NATO and all nuclear weapons countries are continuing modernizing their nuclear arsenals and boycott the negotiations. More intensive arms export is the reality of the politics of quite all NATO-countries.

European anti-war movements have 2008 formed an alliance called 'No-To-NATO'. They have begun to protest at NATO Summit meetings, organizing mass demonstration and counter-conference, where women have offered a work-shop, developing a feminist case against NATO. Women are saying that military expenditure squanders money needed for the education, health and housing services badly needed by women, who carry the main burden of domestic life not only in NATO countries but elsewhere in the world. Women suffer displacement, rape, loss, injury and increased burdens due to war. Afghanistan and Syria is a case in point. Italian women are particularly disturbed by the way NATO's military bases in their neighbourhoods are sources of social stress, toxic pollution, sexual exploitation and violence. We are all saying: 'military security' is an oxymoron. Women ascribe a totally different meaning to the word security. We mean a decent livelihood, well-being and an end to violence in war and peace, and freedom from threat whether it comes from a bomb, a gun or a fist.

www.no-to-nato.org/women

Women around the world have celebrated UN Security Council Resolution 1325 of 2000 on *Women, Peace and Security*, welcoming it as a tool for peace, democracy and the prevention of war. In the years since its adoption the world has witnessed a massive increase in military spending, and more illegal and disastrous wars, with the 'protection' of women sometimes used as a pretext. We see NATO citing Resolution 1325 while, instead of peace-keeping, it fosters militarization, expands its machinery worldwide, and fights aggressive wars. We reject NATO's exploitation of Resolution 1325 to manipulate women, utilize their efforts for military purposes, and enrol more women into armed forces. With the new "Civil Society Advisory Panel on Women, Peace and Security" NATO involves also civil society in its dirty job and increases the militarisation of societies. We reassert that the militarist and masculinist meaning ascribed to 'security' by NATO is not the human safety and well-being envisioned by women in Resolution 1325.

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**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.**