

# 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.

We advocate for thoughtful definitions of moral values in American society, especially today, on the busiest shopping day of the year.

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK, a group of Jewish feminists and allies, stands in solidarity with Israeli Women in Black who have held vigils weekly since 1988 to protest the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and to mourn the Israeli and Palestinian lives that have been lost.

It is a moral value to end the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian resources and land.

It is a moral value to work together to end poverty, provide healthcare and quality education for all people.

It is a moral value to protest the U.S. war in Iraq, which has inflamed the already volatile situation in the Middle East.

It is a moral value to redefine a foreign policy for all Americans who support freedom, justice and social policies supportive of family life—all our families, in all their forms.

We stand in solidarity with our Palestinian sisters who are mourning the loss of President Yassir Arafat. Although we do not support either Palestinian or Israeli violence, we recognize that Arafat symbolized Palestinian resistance to an unjust occupation by Israel.

We urge the Bush administration to engage the United Nations as a peacekeeping presence in Iraq, in Israel/Palestine and wherever nation-states are in religious, political, tribal or historic conflict.

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK wears black as a symbol of sorrow for all victims of war and as a way to join in spirit with the more than 150 other Women in Black groups around the world who protest 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. We believe all people must have the right to security, home, education and freedom.

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK creates public rituals that express the desire for a world free of war and violence. Through music, art, poetry, spoken word and silent protest, we provide a place for people to gather and communicate the depth of their concern about our shared world situation.

We also hold silent vigils through city streets, creating a visible presence as women in protest and mourning for all the lives that have been lost in religious, political and nationalistic struggles around the world.

*To join our work, please contact us through our website.*