



**Women's International League for Peace and  
Freedom  
UK WILPF Section**

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Rt Hon David Cameron, M.P.  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

September 2015

Dear David Cameron

I am writing to you on behalf of the UK Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), which has worked to achieve a peaceful world since 1915. We are asking you how HM Government can help to bring peace to the Middle East and North Africa.

We are concerned about the dangerous and volatile situation particularly in Syria, Iraq and Libya and the plight of civilians, especially women and children. Amnesty International reports that the air strike on a market near Damascus by Syrian Government aircraft on August 18th killed 100 civilians and injured nearly 500. This is just the most recent attack in a series on civilian locations, including the use of barrel bombs.

It is not surprising that the survivors put themselves into the hands of traffickers to try to save their families. Some end up seeking asylum in Europe, others die on the way.

British Governments have been too ready to take military action in this region in the recent past, leaving chaos, violence and displaced people in their wake. Yet there are still calls for more bombing and even further military intervention. Please assure us that:

- \* there will be no further bombing raids by British personnel and Parliament will not be invited to vote to extend military action in the Middle East region
  
- \* there will be an embargo on British arms sales to any country in the region - including Israel

Consultative Status with United Nations ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO; Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO and UNICEF

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- \* your government will work to persuade all Security Council members, (including Russia) to stop selling arms and equipment to all sides in the region.
  
- \* you will make personal diplomatic efforts to work with others and through the United Nations to bring the factions in the region to a conference table in an effort to broker a negotiated settlement
  
- \* UN Security Council Resolution 1325; 'Women Peace and Security' will be at the heart of any agreement

We must not let the situation in the Middle East escalate further while our attention is distracted elsewhere.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Scott

Secretary, UK WILPF