

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

UK Section

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Consultative
Status with
United Nations
ECOSOC,
UNCTAD and
UNESCO.

Special
Consultative
Relations
with
FAO, ILO
and UNICEF

Honorary Friends
of UK WILPF:

Bruce Kent
Jeremy Corbyn
MP

Rt Hon David Cameron MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

25 September 2014

Dear Mr Cameron

As UK Secretary I am writing to you on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to express our concern about the major air strikes launched by the USA on IS centres in Syria. We draw your attention to the fact that this military intervention is illegal under both US and international law, having no approval by Congress and no UN Resolution. It is wrong, killing many blameless civilians, including women and children.

Bombing IS may destroy some armed contingents locally, but we do not know to what extent it will increase support for its ideology. Our government also needs to be mindful of propaganda - for example, videos of beheadings - which may be intended to provoke reactions from the West.

We call upon Parliament and the UK Government to refrain from joining a military coalition in launching military attacks on Iraq and Syria but instead to do everything within their power to:

- Embargo all UK arms sales and transfers to and within the Middle East region.
- Broker peace negotiations that engage all countries in the region to bring diplomatic solutions to bear on a peaceful settlement.
- Ensure implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security in order to strengthen the peace building process.

- Ensure UN agencies for humanitarian aid have sufficient funds for immediate relief and repatriation purposes.
- Draw up reconstruction plans for the redevelopment of the devastated areas at grass roots level, providing local employment and thereby increasing stakeholder involvement in a lasting peace.

Yours sincerely

Anne Scott

UK Secretary Women's International League for Peace and Freedom