

# END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Genocide and dehumanisation are the results of violence perpetuated by armed groups sponsored by UK based Multinational Corporations for illegal exploitations of natural resources in the DR Congo.

The United Kingdom tax payer's money has been funding dictators who are perpetuating instability, hunger, human right abuses and deaths in the DR Congo. Since 1996, approximately 5.4 million people have been killed; over 2 million internally displaced, hundreds of thousands of women and girls raped, women buried alive, thousands of children kidnapped, enslaved to serve as child soldiers.

We stand for peace and Justice, in solidarity with Congolese women and girls who are courageously opposing and denouncing the militarization, dehumanisation and balkanisation of the DR Congo.



The East of the DR Congo is a very rich region in strategic minerals such as the Columbite-Tantalite, called COLTAN, used for the manufacture of micro-chips devices, mobile telephones, computers, Ipods, MP3s as well as GPS, electronic devices used in airplanes, rockets, satellite and military or hospital equipments. The DR Congo is also rich also in diamonds, gold, uranium, copper,



rain forest and many other natural resources with exceptional biodiversity.

In 1994, following the United Nations Security Council's Operation Turquoise, over 1 Million Rwandan Refugees, including armed soldiers, fled to the DR Congo. Since 1996, the DR Congo has been invaded by the armies of Uganda and

Rwanda, sponsored by UK based Multinational Corporations. They have set up different armed groups who loot, steal, torture, kill and used sexual violence to force civilians to mine minerals such as Coltan and Gold in total international impunity and despite the presence of a UN peacekeeping mission. This barbaric war has been imposed on the Congolese populations for economic reasons. Armed militias groups and armies have violently victimised and dehumanised men, women, elderly, young and children, in an attempt to dismember the DR Congo to control lands rich in mineral resources.

The United Kingdom must demonstrate a political will to end the armed conflicts, dehumanisation and Balkanisation in the DR Congo. The UK must end financial support for repressive regimes in the Great Lakes region of Africa including Rwanda and Uganda, involved in the war for the control and pillage of DR Congo's mineral resources. The UK must implement sanctions that will ensure that UK based companies buying minerals from the DR Congo should carry out due diligence to international standards to ensure they aren't supporting armed militia and oppressive regimes

**Million Women Rise, Common Cause UK  
and Women Together for Peace**

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For further information about the DR Congo:  
[www.friendsofthecongo.org/](http://www.friendsofthecongo.org/)

**COMMON CAUSE UK**  
Platform of Congolese Women in the UK

