

Feminist activist group crash 'Suffragette' film premiere

For immediate release: 7/10/2015

- **Sisters Uncut** are a leading **feminist** direct action group
- **500 women** attended the disruptive central London protest, **14** stormed the red carpet
- Protesters used **Suffragette-style action** to demand an end to cuts to domestic violence services

Carey Mulligan and Helena Bonham-Carter say protests at premiere of 'Suffragette' is the 'perfect response'

However - We aren't responding to the film, we are responding to lethal austerity cuts to domestic violence support services.



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The suffragettes won the vote through disruptive civil disobedience. Today, feminist activists Sisters Uncut used suffragette methods to declare that, as long as violence against women continues, the battle for women's liberation has not yet been won. **Dead women can't vote.**

Sisters Uncut stormed the red carpet at the premiere of the film 'Suffragette' to highlight the damage caused by cuts to domestic violence support in the UK. Two women a week die at the hands of violent men, yet the government continues to remove vital funding for domestic violence support.

Over 500 women attended the demonstration at the premiere of the film on Wednesday 7th October to bring attention to the devastating cuts to domestic violence services. **14 members of the group invaded the red carpet in a Suffragette style 'die-in' protest, locking arms and refusing to move.**

Austerity has reduced the availability of refuges, benefits, social housing and legal aid. This makes it harder for women to flee violence. (1)

The most drastic cuts have been to specialist services who provide vital support for LGBTQ+ and BAME people. Between 2010 and 2014, 32 specialist refuges were closed. (2)

Austerity is sexist. Austerity is racist. With the astronomical rate of domestic violence in the UK, we need guaranteed funding for services that help women to live freely and safely. The story of the Suffragettes was only one part of the struggle for women's liberation – **the time is now!**

Quotes:

Janelle Brown from Sisters Uncut said: "We believe that all women facing domestic violence should be able to access support and safety. Clearly the government do not share this belief, as they are removing funding for life-saving support services."

Shantha Masters, a support worker from a specialist South Asian Refuge, said: 'I am here because I am angry about cuts to specialist services. But I am also here to represent – to show that all women of all backgrounds have rights and if they are not met we will take action until they are.'

Domestic Violence survivor and Sisters Uncut activist Angie Johnson said: 'My life was saved by specialist services and we must fight every step of the way to make sure all women can access them.'

(1) http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/louise-pennington/sos-save-our-specialist-r_b_6181818.html

(2) <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=0001000100100022>