



Concept note / keep the dates

Marking International Day of the Disappeared 2020 (30-31st August)

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

Following the footsteps of the disappeared: A two-day programme

- **Textile exhibition launch, 14.00 – 14.45 , 30th August**
- **Two online seminars, 14.00 - 17.30, 31st August**

Collaborating partners

John Hume & Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace based at the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) at Ulster University,
Represented by Professor Brandon Hamber

National Museums Northern Ireland, Belfast
Represented by Dr. Karen Logan, Senior Curator of History

Conflict Textiles

Represented by Roberta Bacic, collector and curator of the collection
<https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflicttextiles/>

Concept

A number of meetings took place in late 2019/early 2020 focusing on the relevance of marking **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances**, as observed by the United Nations General Assembly since 2011. This followed their adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in December 2010.

In light of COVID 19 restrictions it is envisaged that this programme will be predominantly online.

1. **An online exhibition of 20 textiles from the Conflict Textiles collection**, focusing on the topic of the disappeared, with a special emphasis on the search. This virtual exhibition, which will reside permanently on Conflict Textiles archive, will be hosted by **Ulster Museum, Belfast**, from **30th August 2020 – 30th August 2021**. A short video will complement the online exhibition.

The exhibition and seminar programme will be launched online on Sunday 30th August, 14.00-14.45 (UK time) and it will comprise:

- Introduction/overview by Karen Logan, Ulster Museum
- Greeting from Roberta Bacic, curator of the exhibition
- Input by **Rainer Huhle** / Germany - independent expert of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearance (2011-2019) – responding to the arpillera [Recuerdos de Guadalupe / Guadalupe's Longings](#), (1989)
- A short film on the exhibition textiles will be screened at 15.00

2. Two online Seminars hosted by Magee Campus, Monday 31st, 14.00 - 17.30.

Moderator: Professor Brandon Hamber, the John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace, Ulster University

The presentations will focus on reflection, practice and discussion on the topics of:

- Transnational Experiences of Enforced Disappearances** (14.00-15.30 UK time) *Inputs by:*
 - Shari Eppel**, Director of Ukuthula Trust, living and working in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe and part of the forensic anthropology team for Zimbabwe uncovering mass and single graves resulting from politically motivated killings.
 - Ram Kumar Bhandari**, a human rights activist from Nepal whose father was disappeared in 2001. Ram has led the struggle to secure justice for victims of Nepal's conflict and systematic disappearances for over a decade.

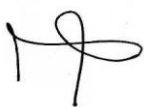
-Respondent: Professor Cath Collins of Transitional Justice Institute at Ulster University. Founder of the Transitional Justice Observatory in Chile that works closely with relatives' associations seeking truth during the Pinochet-era dictatorship.
- The Search for the Disappeared: textile and art expressions** (16.00-17.30 UK time) *Inputs by:*
 - Nicole Drouilly**, a human rights advocate who campaigns against impunity during the Pinochet dictatorship. She is a member of [Memoriaviva.com](#) and "Memoria del Sur Oral History Project", and is a textile artist.
 - Alit Ambara** is a poster artist from Singaraja, Bali, Indonesia. He established Nobodycorp as a graphic design studio in 1993. Nobodycorp combines Alit's experience as a human rights activist and his proficiency as an artist. Alit is a member of the Transformative Memory network.
 - Jaime Nuger**, Argentinean labour and human rights lawyer

-Respondent: Catherine Flood, Curator at Victoria & Albert Museum: co-curator of Disobedient Objects.

This 2020 event is a follow up to the exhibition [Tras lashuellas de los/as desaparecidos/as](#) / *Following the footsteps of the disappeared*, which took place in Osorno, Chile, 29th - 31st August 2019. It was done in collaboration between Conflict Textiles and the Association of Detained Disappeared and executed of Osorno, with the support of Chile's Museum of Memory and Human Rights.

This two-day day programme in Northern Ireland will lay the groundwork for the **'Following the footsteps of the disappeared'** display to be hosted by the Ulster Museum in 2021 in the reception area. This will mark the 10th anniversary of the inaugural observance of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances in 2011. It is planned to bring the exhibition to Mexico in December 2021 to mark International Human Rights Day.

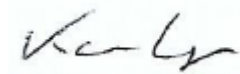
It is envisaged that the display in Ulster Museum in 2021 will be followed in future by a larger scale exhibition hosted at the Ulster Museum and based on our collaborative partnership.



Roberta Bacic



Brandon Hamber



Karen Logan

Northern Ireland
13th July 2020