

# CONFLICT TEXTILES



**Stitched Voices exhibition, 29<sup>th</sup> August – 4th November 2018**

**Planning meeting in Uppsala, 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

## **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

On Sunday evening, shortly after checking in at Akademihotellet, we met Anna Andersmark and Jenny Zetterqvist, staff members with the Church of Sweden. Anna is Programme Officer for the Africa Unit. In this capacity, she has liaised with Shari Eppel, Solidarity Peace Trust Zimbabwe and is familiar with the arpilleras created by women's groups facilitated by Shari; many of which have been part of Conflict Textiles exhibitions.

Over a two hour meeting, we touched on various themes related to the process of making arpilleras with groups. Anna and Jenny viewed three arpilleras which Roberta had brought

- [Encadenamiento / Women Chained to Parliament Gates](#)
- [Blutspur / Blood trail](#)
- [Nie wieder! / Never again!](#)

We discussed their potential collaboration in the **Stitched Voices** exhibition, scheduled for August – November 2018.



**Roberta Bacic (right) explaining the textile [Nie wieder! / Never again!](#) to Jenny Zetterqvist and Anna Andersmark, Church of Sweden.**

## **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

On Monday morning, Roland Kostić, Senior Lecturer in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University called for us and we walked the short distance, through the snow-covered park, to his office.



**Roberta Bacic and Roland Kostić, enroute to the Hugo Valentin Centre.**

Roland gave us a brief overview of the faculty and his particular focus. We outlined the core elements of Conflict Textiles. Key points discussed at this stage in relation to the exhibition were:

- Emphasis on local ownership and partnerships
- Scoping the overall exhibition programme

Kerstin Öhman, from the Swedish knitters association, joined us briefly and expressed an interest in collaborating with the exhibition.



**Kerstin Öhman, Swedish knitters association (centre), in conversation with Roberta and Roland.**

Following an early lunch, we made our way to Fredens Hus, where we met Director Camilla Winter Jarlgård. Camilla showed us the available exhibition space. This enabled a conversation on the options for hanging pieces, use of space and incorporation of associated activities.



**Camilla Winter Jarlgård, Director of Fredens Hus explaining details of the exhibition space to Roberta and Roland.**



**Roberta Bacic and Breege Doherty outside Freden Hus.**

With a clear sense of the possibilities, we made our way back to the Hugo Valentin Centre. After a quick cup of tea and fruit snack (a welcome alternative to biscuits), Berit Bliesemann de Guevara from Aberystwyth University, Wales, unable to travel because of snow, joined us via Skype for the next stage of our meeting.



**(L-R) Camilla Winter Jarlgård, Fredens Hus; Breege Doherty & Roberta Bacic, Conflict Textiles; Roland Kostić, Hugo Valentin Centre, joined, via skype, by Berit Bliesemann de Guevara, Aberystwyth University.**

We worked through the broad selection of arpilleras exhibited in Aberstwyth and Birmingham and agreed which pieces best suited the focus of the exhibition in Uppsala. At intervals Berit was able to show us the pieces on screen that she had intended to bring.

#### **Key points emerging from this meeting were:**

- The exhibition programme will be developed in collaboration with several partners:
  - Freden Hus, Church of Sweden
  - Swedish knitters association
  - Living History.
- Roberta has access to films (at no cost) that could form part of the exhibition programme:
- **-Through the Eye of a Needle.** This film features interviews with Holocaust survivor Esther Nisenthal Krinitz and outlines how she chose to tell the story of her survival through a series of fabric art pieces.
- **- Retazos de Vida / Scraps of Life,** a documentary Film by Gayla Jamison.
- The use of posters to complement the arpillera [Digital Death](#) will be explored
- Performing the “Cueca” dance related to the arpillera [La Cueca Sola / Dancing Cueca alone](#) will be considered.

Overall, this series of meeting was invaluable in terms of putting faces to names; developing relationships with project partners; agreeing the list of arpilleras and beginning the process of shaping the exhibition programme.

Report and photos by Breege Doherty

19<sup>th</sup> March, 2018