

Press release



Collective banner comprised of dolls made as part of the workshop programme "WE CANNOT WALK ALONE – Refugee week 2021". Photo Bebhinn Mc Kinley

WE CANNOT WALK ALONE – Flowerfield Arts Centre

A collective textile will be on display in Flowerfield Arts Centre from the 14th June 2021. This collective textile was produced through a series of online workshops commissioned by Causeway Coast and Glen's Borough Council's Good Relations Programme (CCGBC), supported by the Executive Office through the Together: Building a United Community Strategy, District Council Good Relations Programme.

It draws on the theme of UK Refugee week 2021, (14 -20th June) "We Cannot Walk Alone" Through a series of online workshops, participants created arpillera dolls responding to the theme "We Cannot Walk Alone" and through this were invited to extend their hand to someone new, someone outside our current circle, who has had an experience we haven't.

Curator Roberta Bacic said *"At a time when there are almost 26 million refugees globally, Conflict Textiles welcomed this opportunity to engage with refugees and the wider community through this hands-on, interactive workshop programme **WE CANNOT WALK ALONE – Refugee week 2021**. The collective banner - the outcome from the six workshops - is a very practical demonstration of the theme of Refugee week 2021 'We cannot walk*

alone', and it is complemented by transnational contributions from Germany, Argentina and Catalonia ."

The 'We Cannot Walk Alone' banner, together with the transnational contributions will also be part of Conflict Textiles' artist in residence programme "**Suitcases: Telling Textile Travels**" at the **Platforma** festival in Yorkshire in October. This festival for the arts by, with and about refugees is produced by Counterpoints Arts.

Bebhinn McKinley Good Relations Officer added. *"We were overwhelmed with the number of individuals and groups seeking to participate in the programme. In addition to the collective banner produced by adults; young people from the Roe Valley Residents Association, using cardboard doll silhouettes, made use of the available materials to dress and personalise their dolls and respond to the theme "We Cannot Walk Alone". Specifically for the young people it highlighted the importance of reaching out the hand of friendship to someone who may be different to them. Sincere thanks to all those who contributed including Hen's Shed Limavady, Roe Valley Residents Association and Threads Of Culture groups and all those individuals across the Borough".*

The textile will also available for community groups and organisations for display from July 2021. Should any groups wish to avail of the textile for display, please contact Bebhinn McKinley, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Good Relations.

In addition to this programme a small worlds café was hosted for a number of young people within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area in partnership with the Education Authority Youth Voice and Roe Valley Residents Association. A further small worlds café for adults is planned for September 2021. Should any one wish to find out more please contact Bebhinn McKinley.

For further information visit [Conflict Textiles](#)