

# CONFLICT TEXTILES

Letterkenny Amnesty Group

## Workshop “Every Action Counts – Making arpillera dolls”

World Refugee Day 20th June 2021

### Photo gallery

In the spirit of [World Refugee Day](#) 2021, members of Letterkenny Amnesty group, people from the wider community and residents of the Direct Provision (DP) Centre, Letterkenny, gathered in the Famine Memorial on the eve of World Refugee Day, to make arpillera dolls as a welcome gift for the residents in the DP centre.

Guided by Deborah Stockdale, (Amnesty group member & Fabric Artist) and Roberta Bacic (Conflict Textiles curator) - who joined us from Limavady - the dolls took shape. Working with tights, felt, scraps of material and an assortment of thread, string, wool and ribbons, a diverse group of dolls emerged. The 34 finished dolls were mounted in frames with a welcome message and brought down to the centre on World Refugee day.



Deborah Stockdale (right) explains how to start the dolls using tights. (Photo: Anna Daly)



Absorbed in the process. (Photo: Anna Daly)



Mary Ryan (Amnesty group co-ordinator) with Irena and her children.  
(Photo: Breege Doherty)



Discussing which fabrics to use. (Photo: Anna Daly)



Carnita (right) and her daughters work on their dolls.  
(Photo: Breege Doherty)



Anna brings her doll to life. (Photo: Breege Doherty)



Catherine Rose Hannigan threads one of many needles for the doll makers. (Photo: Breege Doherty)



Finnola finds a quiet spot to concentrate: (Photo: Breege Doherty)



Enjoying the catch up while making the dolls. (Photo: Breege Doherty)



Kelly and Caroline take a break from the sewing. (Photo: Breege Doherty)



Soaking up the sun amid the buttercups. (Photo: Breege Doherty)



Some of the completed dolls, mounted in frames, ready for their journey to the Direct Provision Centre. (Photo: Anna Daly)



Final destination for the dolls: Some residents from the DP centre display the dolls brought by Kelly (right). (Photo: Mary Ryan)

There was great engagement in this workshop. The visibility and hands on nature of it fostered new connections and is a vital part of the process of facilitating integration between the local community and newly arrived refugees.

Compiled by Breege Doherty.  
28<sup>th</sup> June 2021.