

Showcasing Brighter Days Ahead

Four collective textile banners, three of which were produced during workshops commissioned by **Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Good Relations team** will be on display in the Museum Exhibition space of Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre, from the 26th August until 26th September to mark Good Relations Week 2021.

The three local pieces were originally produced in response to the theme of **Refugee Week 2021 'We Cannot Walk Alone.'** A fourth piece, created by **Fundació Ateneu Sant Roc** arpilleristas in Catalonia for **World Refugee Day, 20th June**, brings a transnational dimension to the display.

Workshop participants who created arpillera dolls were invited to consider the experiences of someone who has come here to seek sanctuary and to extend their hand to someone outside of their current circle with a different experience to their own.

Curator Roberta Bacic from [Conflict Textiles](#) said: *"At a time when there are almost 26 million refugees globally, we welcomed this opportunity to engage with refugees and the wider community through this hands-on, interactive workshop programme. The collective banners are the outcome from the six workshops."*

Two of the banners produced were created by young people from the Roe Valley Residents Association. The exhibition in the Museum exhibition space of Roe Valley Arts and Culture Centre is particularly timely given that this year's **Good Relations Week**, coordinated by Community Relations Council showcases **'Brighter Days Ahead'** and celebrates the efforts of young people in their everyday lives to break down barriers, unite communities and act as a catalyst for meaningful change in our society.

Later this year, the banner created in Causeway Coast and Glens [We cannot walk alone – Refugee week 2021 outcome banner](#) and the Catalanian arpillera made for World Refugee Day [Caminemos juntos / Let us walk together](#) will travel to the **Platforma Festival** in Yorkshire to be part of the Conflict Textiles artist-in-residence exhibition programme **'Suitcases: Telling Textile Travels'**. This festival for the arts by, with and about refugees is produced by Counterpoints Arts.

Welcoming this, the Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Councillor Richard Holmes, commented: *"We want our communities to be welcoming places of mutual respect where people feel safe, valued and know that they can depend upon one another. The past year has certainly shown us that we cannot walk alone and I am proud of the sense of community spirit that we have witnessed here and in other projects."*

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Good Relations Officer Bebhinn McKinley added: *"We were overwhelmed with the interest and in addition to the collective banner, young people from Roe Valley Residents Association, using cardboard silhouettes, used materials to personalise their dolls and respond to the Refugee Week theme."*

It highlighted to them the importance of reaching out the hand of friendship to someone who may be different. Sincere thanks to all those who contributed including Limavady Hen's

Shed, Roe Valley Residents Association, Threads of Culture group and other individuals across the Borough.”

The collective textile banner will be available for community groups and organisations to display at their own premises in 2022

This project received support from The Executive Office through the Together: Building a United Community Strategy, District Council Good Relations Programme.

Please visit [Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre](#) website for current opening times.