

Reflections on Refugees: Communicating through Art

March - June 2022

Photo gallery

This initiative, commissioned by [The Old Church Centre](#), Cushendun, focused on the experiences of refugees globally as well as in Northern Ireland. An exhibition of 11 textiles from Conflict Textiles collection themed on refugees was launched on 29th March. This provided the context for an inter-generational hands-on [Conflict Textiles workshop](#) on 1st May, facilitated by Roberta Bacic, assisted by Annie McKay, which began the process of working on a collective arpillera. The finished piece was unveiled on 20th June at The Old Church Centre, as part of their contribution to [UK Refugee Week 20 - 26 June 2022](#) and [World Refugee Day 20 June 2022](#), where it will remain on display for the summer months.



Poster on display outside The Old Church Centre, Cushendun, announcing the event on 29th March. (Photo: Maeve McAlister)

Conflict Textiles workshop, 1st May 2022



Workshop participants pictured with Conflict Textiles curator Roberta Bacic (front centre) and Aidan Mc Cartney and family. Some of these participants – refugees from the Middle East, Afghanistan, Iran and Somalia - travelled from Belfast via a bus organised by Aidan. (Photo: Clem McCartney)



Participants engrossed in the workshop activity. (Photo: Clem McCartney)



Focusing on the task of creating an arpillera doll. (Photo: Clem McCartney)



Participants engaging with some of the exhibition textiles. (Photo: Maeve McAlister)



Desima Connolly, Arts Service Development Manager, Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre (left) and Roberta Bacic, Conflict Textiles collection. Textile artist Eileen Harrisson (centre), is pictured donating one of her textiles [Her Pillow, the Earth](#) to the Conflict Textiles collection. (Photo: Clem McCartney)

Unveiling of collective arpillera, 20th June 2022



Preparing to unveil the collective arpillera. (Photo: Maeve McAlister)



Unveiling is almost complete! (Photo: Maeve McAlister)



Rachael Garrett (left) and Roberta Bacic (right) take a closer look at this completed arpillera as attendees sit back and absorb their finished work. (Photo: Maeve McAlister)



Participants who contributed to the creation of this piece, workshop facilitators, staff and volunteers of The Old Church Centre, proudly pose with the finished arpillera. (Photo: Maeve McAlister)

Compiled by Breege Doherty.
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