

“From Displacement to Empowerment”
Conflict Textiles/Letterkenny Amnesty Exhibition
at The Regional Cultural Centre,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, Eire
11 June- 7 September 2024

Notes from the Workshop on 18 July 2024 by
Deborah Stockdale, Facilitator

After a tour of the exhibition and some background about Conflict Textiles and the collaboration between Amnesty Letterkenny, Conflict Textiles and the Regional Cultural Centre, I lead the group through the stages of the workshop.

First, we identified the topic of each individual's arpillera; as in any group there were people who had fully formed concepts they wanted to explore, and there were others that needed some time and conversation to realise their vision. I explained the sequence of construction, and the use of different fabrics, threads and colours for different effects. Working individually with each participant, we teased out the message as well as the means of construction.







The group then worked on their pieces, sometimes helping each other. The stories were diverse, dealing with personal issues to universal issues. A piece about disability access for the handicapped was created as well as one about police brutality in student demonstrations in Africa. Several pieces were very personal, such as a reflection of a loved one's absence and the steps taken to process grief. The group was

very convivial and when we were finishing each person had a chance to explain their handwork and to view it in the greater context of arpillera making.







