

Seminar

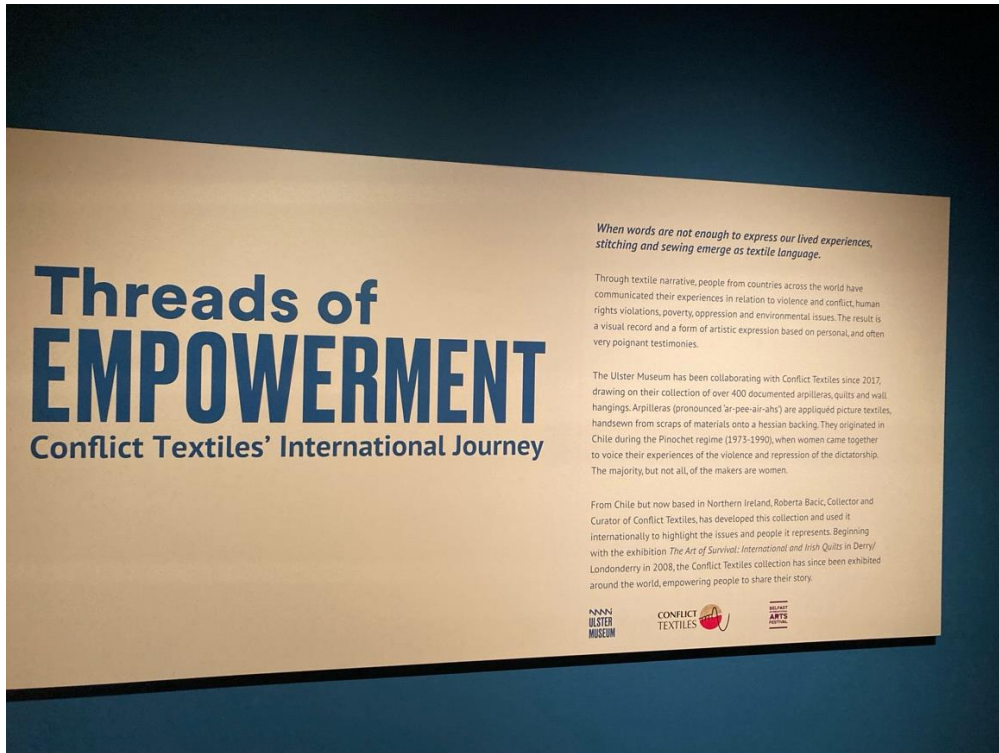
Conflict Textiles seminar with Year 3 students, School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences, Ulster University/ Ulster Museum, Northern Ireland
16th April 2025

Photo Gallery

The seminar, delivered by Roberta Bacic and facilitated by Claire Wright, brought to life the relevance of arts-based approaches to dealing with the past, a key topic within the Transforming Violence Module offered by the Politics Department at Ulster University. It follows on from a [seminar on the same topic, held in the previous academic year \(April 2024\)](#). A key aspect of this year's session– which was the last class of their degree programme for many of the students - was the fact that it offered a unique opportunity to learn *outside* the classroom. In the first half of the session, Roberta offered a guided tour of the [Threads of Empowerment Exhibition](#) at the Ulster Museum, with an extensive opportunity for Q&A. In the second half of the session, Roberta facilitated a hands-on activity, giving the students an opportunity to reflect upon their own experiences of the exhibition, and the threads that weave them together as classmates.



Roberta Bacic (C) offers students an overview of Conflict Textiles and the Threads of Empowerment Exhibition, in the Atrium of the Ulster Museum.



The Threads of Empowerment Exhibition at the Ulster Museum.



Students from Ulster University take some time to look through the exhibition individually, connecting with and reflecting on the pieces on display.



Roberta (L) discusses the theme of exile as depicted in a series of *arpilleras*, answering questions from the group.



Roberta (C) facilitates a hands-on activity with the students, where they passed a ball of wool around and across the group, with each person commenting on their experience of the exhibition. Students were invited to share oneword to sum up how they felt, and to explain their ideas further. The words they shared were as follows:

Courageous
Resourceful
Solidarity Expressive Accessible
Perspective Tangible Inspiring
Grateful Connected Intriguing
Eye-opening Emotional Brave
Lucky Powerful Thankful
Struggle Livedexperience
Uplifting Fascinating Reflective
Recognition Privilege
Thought-provoking



Roberta (L) leads a final discussion on the threads that weave us all together.

Photos and production of photo gallery by Dr. Claire Wright