

verbal arts centre

Women to Women for Peace quilts at the VAC (Formerly Mothers for Peace, 1981 – 2011)



Women to Women for Peace is a network of women whose work is about bridge-building between people from countries which have contrasting and often conflicting, political, philosophical, cultural and religious approaches.

Trust and understanding are fundamental conditions for peace and disarmament so that all children may grow up in a world free from the threat of war. We develop and maintain friendships across cultural divides, creating opportunities for communication and educational exchanges.

In their own words: “We wish to learn about the different values and attitudes women hold in other countries and believe that by building friendship between women, we may learn to understand one another and value our differences. We arrange reciprocal visits between people from the United Kingdom and around the world.” Through quilting and other means they state:

- 1) Women to Women for Peace questions war as a means of resolving conflict and supports peacemakers.
- 2) We foster personal contacts among women in order to promote intercultural understanding and to question stereotypes and prejudices.
- 3) We promote education for and about women’s role in peace, including the sharing of conflict resolution skills.

Over the years Women for Peace have made contact with and/or visited many countries, including Albania, Cuba, Japan, Palestine, Israel, Czech Republic, Iran, Romania, U.S.A., Northern Ireland and Ukraine and as a result of these visits several other groups have been established. We have also helped to develop conflict resolution training in workshops shared with women from other countries. In 2002 we celebrated our 21st birthday, which was marked by putting a seat in Tavistock Square, bearing the message:

“World peace will come through the will of ordinary people like yourself.”

In 2011 they celebrated their 30th anniversary with a travelling exhibition. They visited many areas in the UK and hosted 16 visitors from the above countries who spent some time staying as guests of our Members in the regions before we all gathered in London for three days. This visit has regenerated our enthusiasm for maintaining and developing peaceful relations with ordinary women internationally.

This exhibit will be on display at the VAC from Wednesday 7th December 2011 until 28th February 2012. It is part of a continuous series of artpillars and quilt exhibitions in the Verbal Arts Centre curated by Roberta Bacic, which started on the 8th March 2008 and led up to International Women’s Day 2009 and beyond.

<http://cain.ulst.ac.u/quilts/exhibit/vacquilts.html>

