

## HIGHLIGHTS 2022

2022 was a very important year for Conflict Textiles as it became the Conflict Textiles Trust. This is significant as we seek to secure the long-term sustainability of both the physical collection and the online archive. Another landmark was Ulster Museum acquiring 14 textiles into their collection. By the end of 2022 Conflict Textiles included documentation on 401 textiles and 261 events.

Conflict Textiles is run by a small, dedicated core team comprising curator Roberta Bacic, Conflict Textiles Archivist and Administrator Breege Doherty and Conflict Textiles Associate and Advisor Gillian Robinson.

This short paper records some of the highlights for the year – you can visit our website to see full details of all textiles and all events

<https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/>

### Developing the collection and associated activities

- The team has been working hard to secure the future of the collection and was pleased to complete the documentation and apply for Trust status this year. We are indebted to Clem McCartney for his work to this end.
- Over the years Conflict Textiles has developed strong links with the Ulster Museum. In 2022 this led to the Museum acquiring 14 important textiles from the collection that represent a cross section of the pieces held from various countries and on different themes. This important development was marked on 9th Dec 2022 as part of International Human Rights Day with an event at the Ulster Museum and the release of a specially commissioned short film.

### International Human Rights Day 2022: Embracing Human Rights

- Conflict Textiles work has continued in the key thematic programme areas: **The Disappeared; Human Rights; and Refugees.**
- **19 new textiles** have been documented in the collection including these two specially commissioned pieces.
  1. John Hume, Peacemaker
  2. Pat Hume

- **27 events took place** including exhibitions, workshops, webinars and more. These included:

[Narrativas textiles: Tramas de dolor y empatía en América Latina / Textile Narratives: Traces of pain and empathy in Latin America](#)

Universidad de Guadalajara, México in September 2022. This event is an example of the international work we are associated with.

Launch of John and Pat Hume Commemorative Textiles We were delighted to have members of the Hume family with us for that occasion and also to have Ulster University Chancellor the respected artist Colin Davidson do the launch.

As an example of our ongoing community based work we refer to Reflections on Refugees: Communicating through Art exhibition and events at the Old Church Centre in Cushendun. This initiative comprised of an exhibition of textiles and hands-on workshop garnered much positive engagement and participation. It seeded the beginnings of a collective textile on the experiences of refugees and culminated in its unveiling on 20th June, marking “UK Refugee Week 20 - 26 June 2022” and “World Refugee Day 20 June 2022”. The finished collective arpillera, attached to a hessian backing by Annie McKay, remained on display for the summer months at the Old Church Centre, Cushendun.

- **Working with Kavod Films.** We continued to develop short films to illustrate and explain new exhibitions and events. These have proved very popular with a total of 34 now in our UTube playlist and they have attracted 3521 views. (Note this is only those views from Conflict Textiles and does not include views from our partner sites). We have also endeavoured to make films with both English and Spanish subtitles where possible.
- During the year we received a very important donation of 14 Chilean arpilleras from a German donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The textiles were accompanied by an extensive variety of documentation and photographs. They are from the late 1970’s and will make a valuable addition to the collection as we had very few pieces from this period when the military became aware of the arpilleras and banned them. We are currently investigating how to resource their documentation and conservation.



## Developing the archive and website

- Monitoring of website statistics is ongoing. In 2022 the website attracted a total of 14046 visitors making 88648 visits. This averages to over 1000 visitors per month and 5500 visits.
- We continue to develop the website with some background additions to facilitate our documentation process and some minor redesign to facilitate the user's experience. Huge thanks to our colleagues at CAIN, Ulster University who host the site and work with us on all developments.

## Engaging with our audience and developing our networks

- To say that networking is KEY to our work is an understatement. The most visited event on the website in 2022 was [Abrazo Entramado \(Woven Hug\)](#) Textile Installation, by Tere Chad and Cordelia Rizzo, Mexico Feb – Mar 2022. In this Case one of the Conflict Textiles arpilleras was used to initiate the process and Roberta Bacic introduced Tere Chad to a number of people that led to other collaborations.
- Conflict Textiles values all our collaborations. In the past year two key partnerships have further advanced: the Ulster Museum, as noted above, has acquired 14 textiles and has invited Conflict Textiles to host a major exhibition in 2024. We have further strengthened our link with Ulster University through the permanent rotating exhibition and with Conflict Textiles Associate, Professor Brandon Hamber, John Hume and Thomas P. O'Neill Chair in Peace. Plans are underway to expand the rotating exhibitions at the Magee Library location to include the Belfast and Coleraine campuses.
- Our Twitter account <https://twitter.com/conflicttextil1> continues to grow and provides a valuable way to promote the collection and associated events. In 2022 we issued 566 tweets (average 47 per month) and now have 1136 followers (an increase of 221 people over the year).
- We have continued to give virtual guided tours and online workshops.
- Ana Zlatkes, textile artist from Argentina, Ambassador for Conflict Textiles continues to actively promote the collection in a range of ways. She has also produced several new arpilleras and got relevant prizes in Argentina for her art work.
- We are grateful to Helen Maguire who took on an internship with us in 2022 and we gained from her expertise and enthusiasm. The internship has also drawn the contents and experience into her art's practice. That lies at our core, disseminate, share and networking



## The Future for Conflict Textiles

- The Conflict Textiles Trust is now established and will explore the future and long-term sustainability of the collection.
- We are excited to prepare for a major exhibition in 2024 at the Ulster Museum and to continue 2023 with a range of events across the sectors and geographies.
- An important publication with Professor Hamber has been submitted for publication and this together with a number of phd students working on the collection strengthens our academic links.
- Conflict Textiles runs on a very small budget supported by small payments from various exhibitions and workshops. Due to increased costs of everything (travel, maintaining and preserving the collection, printing, film making and so on) we have decided to be more systematic in our approach to funding.
- As the collection grows and becomes more recognised, so do the demands on our time. We are grateful to be invited to participate in many activities but regret that due to time and funding constraints and the small core team we are, we will have to be more strategic in our approach and will have to focus on a smaller number of events.





## Web Statistics Annual Report 2022






Conflict Textiles started collecting statistics on the usage of its website on 1 June 2020. The site runs in Word Press and the statistics package is the basic one so the statistics available are limited. This 2022 Annual Report notes key statistics.

Figure 1: Visitors and Visits to Conflict Textiles website 2022

	Visitors	Visits
TOTAL	14046	88684
Average per month (with spike removed)	1171	5530

The UK, the US and Germany are the countries where the highest percentage (61%) of our visitors come from. However, users come from around the world and include Ireland, Chile, Russian Federation and Canada.

Figure 2: Top 5 Countries for visitors to Conflict Textiles Website 2022

Rank	Flag	Country	Visitor Count	%
1		United Kingdom	4098	29
2		United States	2689	19
3		Germany	1637	10
4		Ireland	1000	7
5		France	750	5

All textiles documented in the collection and all events are important to us. However, it is interesting to note the most viewed pages in 2022.

Home page and general search pages' details are available but are excluded from this listing.

## 2022 Most visited events online

1. EVENT 264: **2272 visits** [Abrazo Entramado \(Woven Hug\)\(Woven Hug\) Textile Installation, Tere Chad & Cordelia Rizzo Mexico Feb – Apr 2022](#)
2. EVENT 220: **1933 visits** [Following the footsteps of the disappeared](#), August 2021 Northern Ireland Online exhibition and associated activities
3. EVENT 235: **1007 visits** [Tras las huellas de los/as desaparecidos/as Mexico, January -February 2022](#) **Exposición, talleres, proyección de documentales, conferencia**
4. EVENT 256: **734 visits** [Con-textualising Memory / Con-textualizando la memoria](#) Ulster University, Derry 2021 Exhibition launch and online seminar.
5. EVENT 219: **500 visits** [Conflict, Famine and Displacement: Then and Now](#), Newcastle University June 2020 Online Exhibition and associated activities.

## 2022 Most visited textiles online

1. TEXTILE 389: **3112 visits** [Nuestras Víctimas 2 de mayo 2002 / Our victims of 2nd May 2002; Bellavista - Bojayá - Chocó](#), (2016), Colombia
2. TEXTILE 321: **635 visits** [Día de Visita / Day of Visit](#), (1988), Victoria Diaz Caro, Chile
3. TEXTILE 82: **531 visits** [Mapa de Chile / Map of Chile](#), (2009) by Aurora Ortiz,
4. TEXTILE 296: **498 visits** [The Side of the Wall](#), (2013), Michele Connor, Ballymoney 2013
5. TEXTILE 255: **445 visits** [Shannonwatch \(Extraordinary rendition\)](#), by Deborah Stockdale, Ireland 2011.

Please note:

- Textile Artist Victoria Diaz Caro was viewed 1120 and Ana Zlatkes was viewed 840 times in 2022.
- Note: the spike in April visits is from Textile 424 with 23057 visits. As we do not know what caused this spike we have decided not to list this textile but it is [Legacy of Tyrants / El legado de los tiranos](#), (2018) by Lisa Rae Garlock.)