

## International Women's Day 2009

### 'Women's Real Lives'

This year's exhibition for International Women's Day 2009, entitled '**Women's Real Lives**', will showcase various creative art pieces by individuals, artists and groups of women from the Derry City Council area and beyond.

The origin of this project is found in the annual event run by Eden Place Arts Centre to celebrate International Women's Day. In 2007 the then Mayor, Councillor Helen Quigley, initiated a project hosted by Derry City Council's Heritage and Museum Service, and Derry City Council's Women's Officer, which culminated in a day of celebration to mark International Women's Day 2008.

This sparked a partnership with Roberta Bacic, who curated a city-wide exhibition titled 'Art of Survival - International & Irish Quilts'. This was a display of Chilean Arpilleras and quilts from women in Ireland, Germany, Zimbabwe, Peru and Croatia amongst others.

A group of young women from the IPOD project at the Women's Centre - **in collaboration with Eden Place Arts Centre** - were inspired by this exhibition and a further quilt 'A Piece of Me, A Piece of Us', was completed.

A further outcome is a rotating display of quilts at the Verbal Arts Centre. It allows individual women and groups to exhibit their work.

Building on the energy and momentum from the exhibitions and events during 2008, a coalition of individuals and organisations have come together to organise the activities for International Women's Day 2009. Creative art pieces will be on display at the Tower Museum, the Women's Centre, Eden Place Arts Centre and the Verbal Arts Centre.

The coalition consists of: Roberta Bacic, Eden Place Arts Centre, the Women's Centre, Derry City Council's Heritage and Museum Service, Derry City Council's Women's Officer, the Verbal Arts Centre, the Shared City Project, Waterside Women's Centre, Strathfoyle Women's Centre and Children in Crossfire.