

# CONFLICT TEXTILES

Photo Gallery

## **Human Rights 2025 Programme**

9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December Derry-Londonderry

Conflict Textiles, Ulster University, INCORE, Queen's University Belfast, and the Tower Museum joined forces to create a three-day programme (8-10 December) to mark International Human Rights Day and bring awareness to the present flagrant human rights violations across the world, including in Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan.

The programme brought together film students, lecturers, human rights researchers, activists, curators and the wider community to explore how textiles and film can act as powerful carriers of memory, truth, and justice. Through screenings, workshops, exhibitions, and discussions, the joint programme highlighted creative responses to trauma and the disappeared across different global contexts

Photos by Ben Lundy, Gillian Robinson, Lauren Dempster, Selma Ćatović Huges, Roberta Bacic © Conflict Textiles

### **Tuesday 9th December, Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland**

Day 2 of the programme

International Guests left Belfast by train and Conflict Textiles trustees joined on their way at different stations to arrive into Derry-Londonderry at 10.20



TRANSLINK train Belfast – Derry/Londonderry line



Selfie by Selma Čatović Huges crossing Peace Bridge with RB

### **Searching Heleny (Cadê Heleny): Screening and Q&A**

- 11:15am - 1pm, Nerve Centre (7-8 Magazine St, Derry-Londonderry BT48 6HJ)
- Filmmaker Esther Vital presents her stop-motion animated documentary [Searching Heleny /Cadê Heleny? \(2022\)](#), which traces the life of Heleny Guariba, a philosopher, theatre director, and activist who was arrested and disappeared in 1971 during Brazil's dictatorship.
- Ulster University's BSc Cinematic Arts students engage in a Q&A with the filmmaker.



R to L: Laura Aguiar (lecturer), Esther Vital (filmmaker), Roberta Bacic curator welcome attendees



Filmmaker & curator introduce the arpillerera [Cadê Heleny? / Searching Heleny](#)

### **DIY Smartphone Filmmaking Workshop**

- 2pm - 5pm, Ulster University (Derry–Londonderry Campus, Mo Mowlan Studio, Foyle Arts Building, MQ)
- Hands-on workshop with Ulster University Cinematic Arts students and filmmaker TJ Harvey Kelly who will teach participants how to plan, shoot, and edit a short documentary using their smart-phones.
- No previous experience is required and the workshop is open to anyone over 18

**Note:** Due to bad weather and strong winds, this activity had to be cancelled as Ulster University, public buildings and transport were on red alert. The activity was fully booked.



A spell of extremely strong winds associated with Storm Bram may lead to significant disruption on Tuesday 9 December.

A Met Office Amber warning for strong winds was in place for Counties Fermanagh, Londonderry, Tyrone and western parts of County Antrim from 14.00 to 19.00 on Tuesday 09 December.

What was expected?

- Power cuts could occur and affect other services, such as mobile phone coverage
- Damage to buildings and homes is possible, with roofs blown off and power lines brought down

- Roads, bridges and railway lines may close, with delays and cancellations to bus, train, ferry services and flights
- Flying debris could result in a danger to life

### **Wednesday 10th December, Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland**

Day 3 of the programme

#### **Conflict Textiles and the Tower Museum**

- 12pm - 2pm, Tower Museum
- The Tower Museum team has worked with Roberta Bacic and the Conflict Textiles collection since 2007. In 2008 'The Art of Survival' exhibition featured a range of textiles, handcrafted by women from across the world. The textiles depicted the lived experiences of women from a wide variety of cultures and life situations conveying stories of conflict, struggle and survival. The Museum team have continued to work with Roberta over the years on countless exhibitions, programmes and workshops.
- Bernadette Walsh (Archivist Tower Museum), Roberta Bacic, Esther Vital Garcia will discuss the journey of the arpillera collection over the years, charting the growth of the collection and the future plans to exhibit selected pieces at DNA Museum



Bernadette Walsh refers to 1<sup>st</sup> exhibition in 2008 [The Art of Survival: International and Irish Quilts](#)



Esther Vital refers to her journey from 2008 until now and beyond



Professor Duncan Morrow, UU Regional & Community Engagement signs COMMITMENT TO CO-OPERATION agreement with Sarah Calvin Museum Services Development Manager Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, witnessed by curator Roberta Bacic

## **Truth, Memory, Justice**

### Short Films and Discussion

- 6pm- 8pm, Ulster University Derry–Londonderry Campus (MU011, MU Building)
- An evening to explore memory, human rights, and creative testimony.

The event begins with refreshments and displays of arpilleras, followed by a screening of short films on enforced disappearance and human rights, curated by Cinematic Arts student Jessica Buchanan and PhD researcher Tabassum Islam.

The evening concludes with a panel discussion featuring Esther Vital, Roberta Bacic (Conflict Textiles curator), Prof. Élise Féron and Prof. Brandon Hamber (INCORE), chaired by Tabassum Islam.



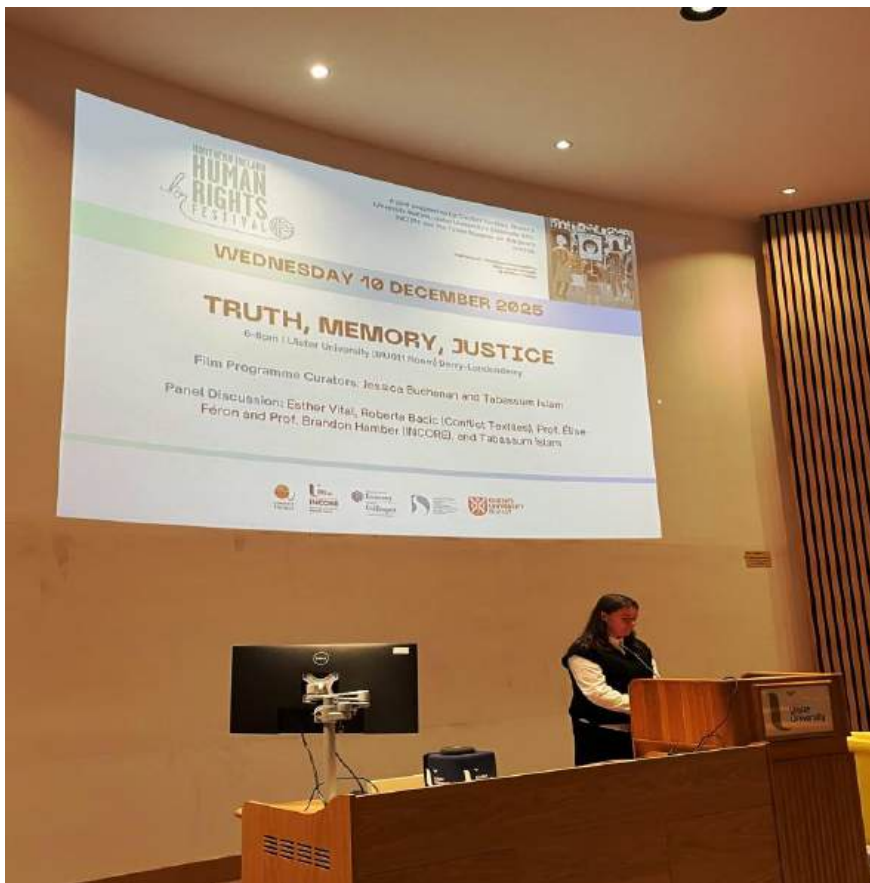
Marking International Human Rights Day, 10<sup>th</sup> December, AMNESTY Letterkenny lights vigil candles at reception of attendees at the start of the event



Mary Ryan, coordinator of the AMNESTY group addresses the attendees and refers to their campaigns



View of the theatre: panellists and audience



Cinematic Arts student, Jessica Buchanan explains the participants of the proceedings



Prof. Élise Féron, one of the 4 panellists, commenting after the screening of short films



PhD researcher Tabassum Islam in conversation with filmmaker Esther Vital

Photo gallery prepared by curator Roberta Bacic, 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025