

Northern Ireland Peace quilt

Northern Ireland quilt by Women Together, 1994

Photograph: Colin Peck

Founded in 1970, at a time when violence and civil unrest from The Troubles were at their height, *Women Together* united Protestant and Catholic women in working for peace and a better life in Northern Ireland. Over the years it has tirelessly worked to end sectarian violence in Northern Ireland, give support to victims of violence, allow women a voice in society and create a society rooted in mutual understanding and respect for diversity.

Pat Campbell, Women Together's Life Vice-President, who has been involved with the group for over 30 years recalls the early days: "*Women Together really was 'Women Together' It was a great melting pot, where you could be Protestant, Catholic or no religion.*" She comments on the positive steps taken towards peace: "*We've come a long way since the riots,*" while cautioning against complacency: "*... there are still terrible things happening and still a certain amount of bigotry.*"

Over the years, Women Together made three quilts. This sixteen panel quilt on display, with the words justice, equality, solidarity and peace around the edges, is the product of the work of women and women's organisations all over Ireland, with one panel from Scotland.

Pat Campbell, who coordinated the quilt making process, comments on its significance: "*The patches on the quilt reflect the key elements of what is required for peace. We, as women directly affected, many of us bereaved, wish to have contributed to the peace process and stop the violence.*"

Courtesy of Pat Campbell.

Source:

Accounts of the Conflict (*archive*)

Bacic, Roberta. (*individual compiler*)

Conflict Textiles (*collection*)

<http://accounts.ulster.ac.uk/repo/collections/show/153>