



THE FABRIC OF PROTEST

November 2020

**Migration + Textiles:
Garment workers' campaigns**



A monthly textile workshop by People's History Museum (PHM) and artist Helen Mather. Learn new techniques and discuss the issues that matter to you.

This resource is designed to help you get ready for the workshop, to provide inspiration and ideas for creativity online and at home.

Recommended for 11+
(under 18s must have an accompanying adult present during session)

[#fabricofprotest](https://twitter.com/fabricofprotest)

phm.org.uk



This month we are taking inspiration from the National Group on Homeworking (NGH) banner, 2006. This banner is on display at the museum in the 2020-2021 Banner Exhibition.



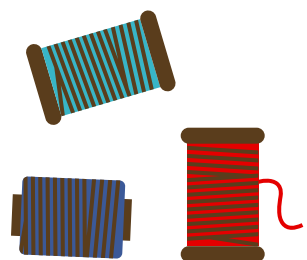
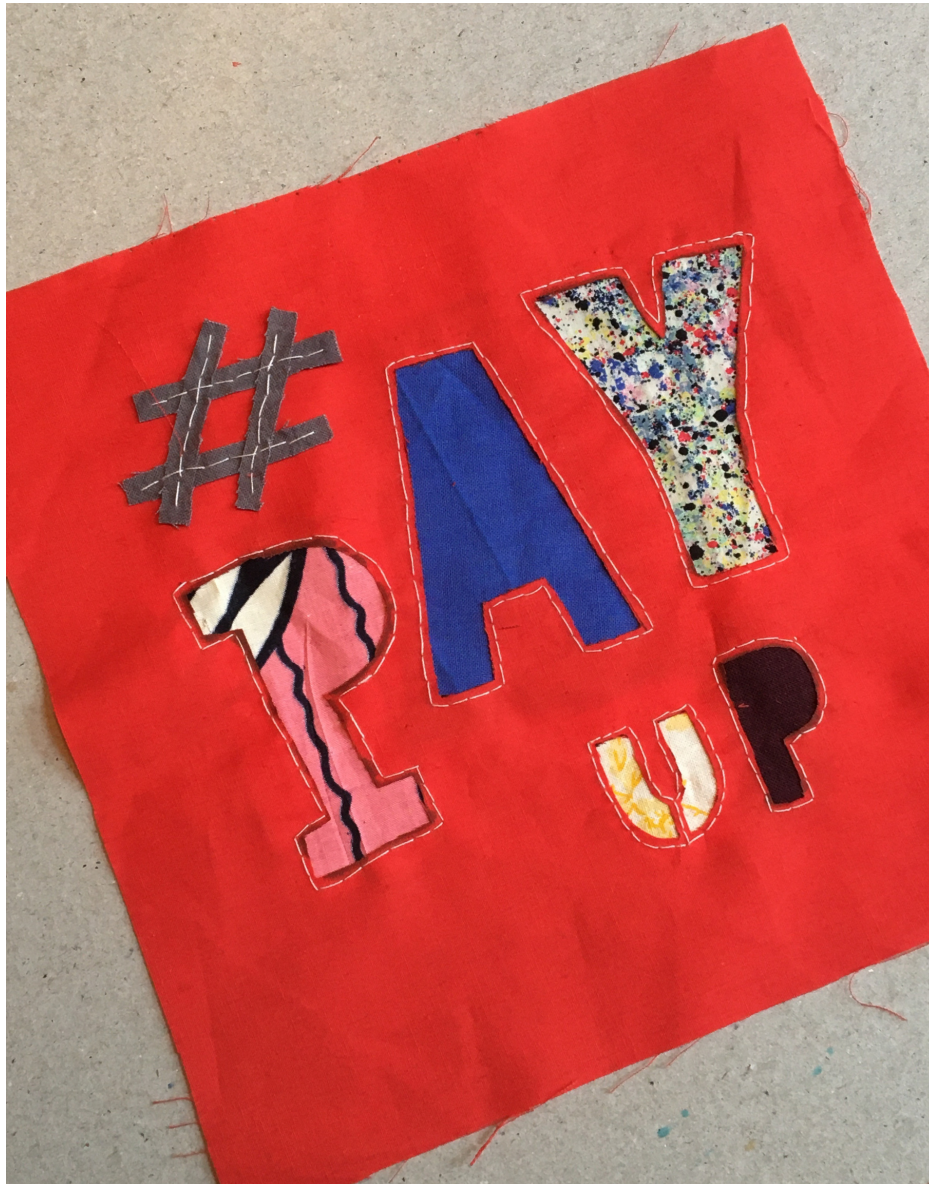
National Group on Homeworking (NGH) banner, 2006 © People's History Museum

Homeworkers are rarely unionised. This banner was designed to increase awareness of home working within the trade union and wider labour movement.

The main focus of the NGH's campaign was securing equal treatment for home workers on a par with onsite workers.

In this month's session we will be looking at campaigns to support homeworkers and migrant workers in the fashion and garment industry.

This resource highlights some of the ideas and techniques that will be explored during the online Zoom session, to help you prepare and think about your creation.



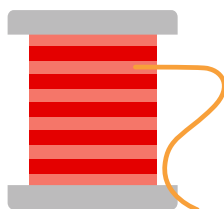
On a fabric patch you will applique a slogan for your own or an existing campaign relating to migrant workers and garment workers' rights.



Materials

Gather some materials from around your home. Here are some suggestions:

- Fabrics: one piece of fabric 20cm x 20cm and smaller pieces for your design
- Threads: sewing thread
- Sewing needle & pins
- Scissors: fabric, paper and small embroidery
- Masking tape
- Magazines/newspapers: to cut out lettering templates
- Pencil or marker and ruler: for drawing





Campaigns in the fashion and garment industry

In the October 2020 workshop we looked at the National Group on Homeworking (NGH) banner, 2006 in relation to homeworkers and the hidden hands in the fashion supply chain.

This month we are looking again at this banner and thinking about campaigns that are helping to raise awareness and responsibility for workers in the fashion and garment industry.

The campaigns are about holding fashion labels responsible for knowing their supply chains, and improving the conditions for workers in the whole supply chain.

If you'd like to learn more about issues in the garment industry and what people are campaigning for you might find these links useful starting points for your own research:

- [Clean Clothes Campaign](#)
- [Fashion Revolution](#) #whomademyclothes
- [Labour Behind the Label](#)
- [HomeWorkers Worldwide](#)



Prepare

What issues in the fashion and garment industry matter to you?



Before the session you could consider:

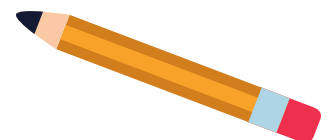
What do you think are the biggest issues for garment industry workers?

Do you know of any current or past campaigns that are helping to raise awareness or make changes in this area?

What slogans would you use to raise awareness of these issues? You could think about:

- What do you want to address?
- Who to?
- What can we do?
- How can we address this as consumers?
- Think about the industry and jobs for people, the environment, poverty, rights and health.

You may want to start sketching out some of these ideas; if that helps you develop your thoughts.



Starting off



Gather your materials as listed on page 3. This will include cutting out a square for your fabric patch or marking it out to cut later.

If you have thought of the slogan for your piece, you could start to cut out letters which can then be used as templates.



Look for interesting fonts for letters in newspapers, magazines, packaging, albums and books. Make sure the letters are chunky enough to cut out of fabric.

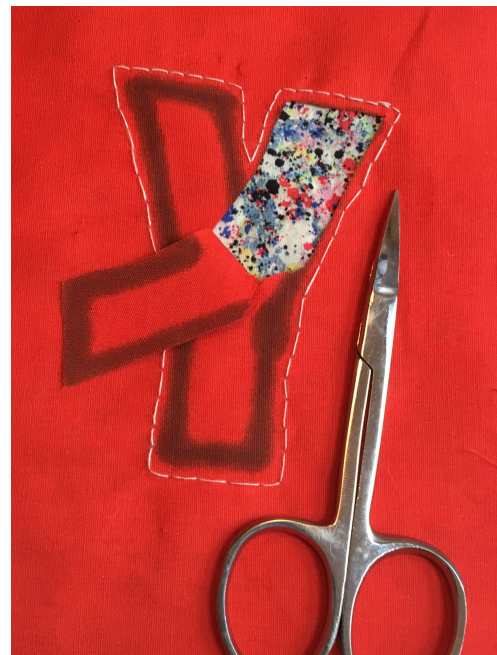


What we'll be stitching

First we will use a felt tip to copy the shape onto the fabric.



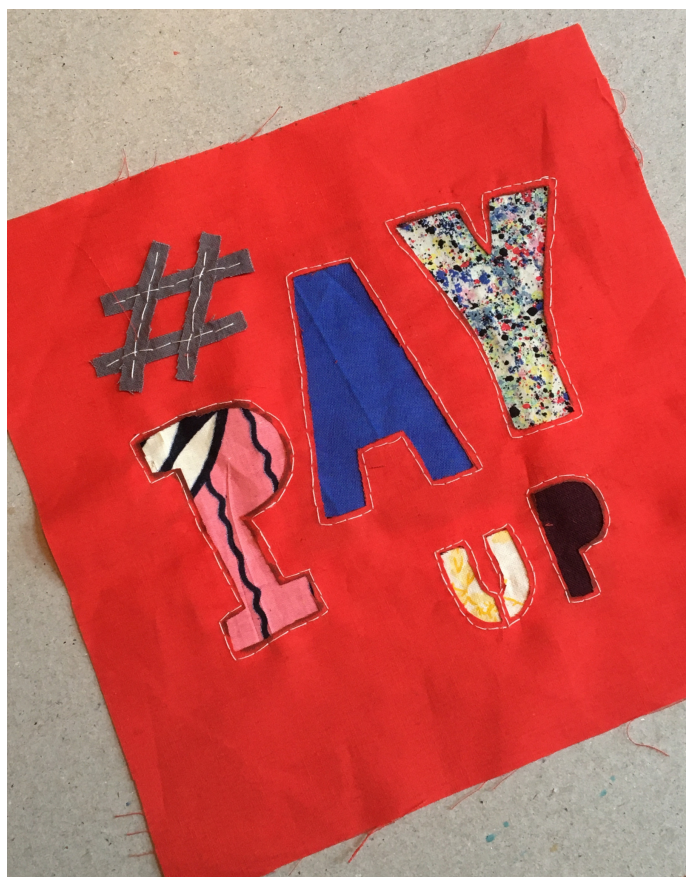
Pin a piece of contrasting fabric behind the letter on the fabric square (pattern facing the front). Use a sewing thread to stitch around the letter, leaving a small gap.



Carefully, using small snips or embroidery scissors, cut away the top layer of fabric, using the felt tip marks as a guide.

Stitching your words

We will use reverse applique to stitch the text onto the patch. During the session Helen will give a live demonstration and sew along and you can follow the steps.



Join us on Zoom to get creative

All you need to do now is [book onto the online Zoom session](#), bring a cuppa and join artist Helen Mather for an hour of stitching, chatting and sharing inspired by the ideas in this resource.

This month we'll be online on **Saturday 21 November, 2.00pm - 3.00pm.**



Share what you have created!

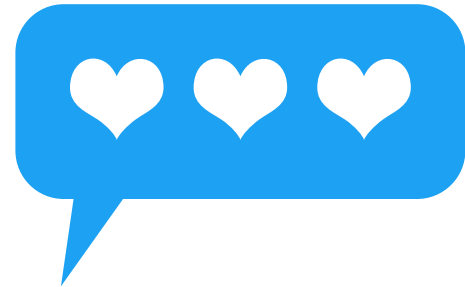
We would love to see what you have created!

We plan to bring together photos of participants' creations to make a digital patchwork banner.

If you use social media, please share photos of your creations using #fabricofprotest.



Or if you prefer you can email a photo of your creation to learning@phm.org.uk.



@PHMMcr



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Find out more

Sign up to the [PHM blog](#) and read writer Emily Oldfield's [review of PHM's 2020-2021 Banner Exhibition](#). Emily is the Editor of Haunt Manchester, seeking to celebrate alternative angles of the region.

