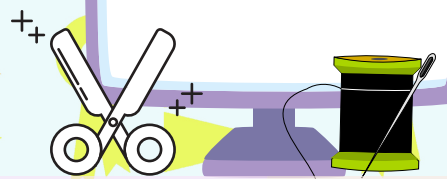


# THE FABRIC OF PROTEST

## Get ready

October 2020

Online



A monthly textile workshop by People's History Museum (PHM). 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.

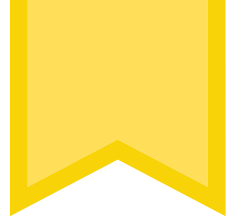
Recommended for 11+

(under 18s must have an accompanying adult present during session)

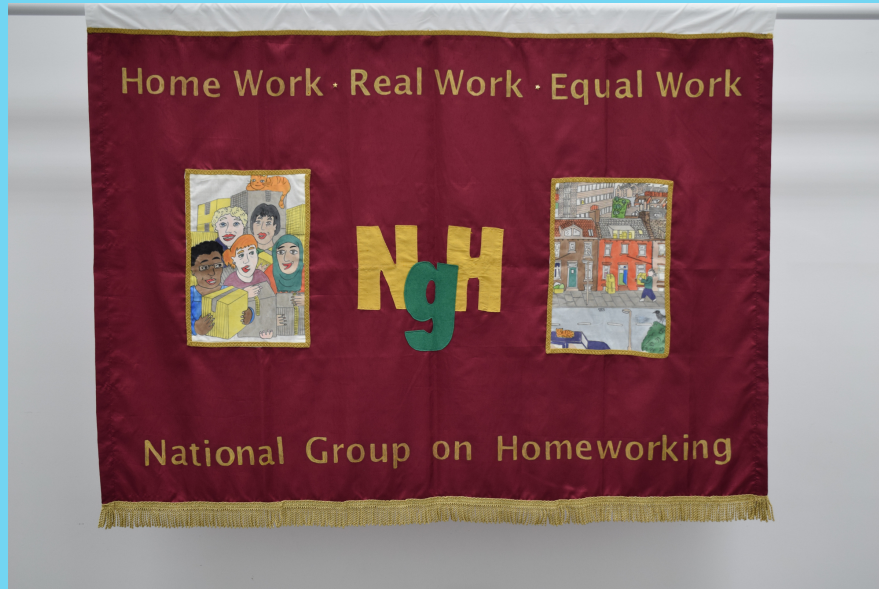
#fabricofprotest

[phm.org.uk](http://phm.org.uk)

# Inspiration



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.



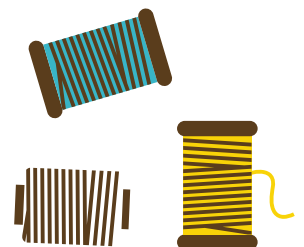
National Group on Homeworking (NGH) banner, 2006 © People's History Museum

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 think about hidden labour and exploitative practices in the UK and worldwide garment industry and we will consider stories such as the recent uncovering of exploitation of garment workers in Leicester.

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 stitch pieces of old clothes and fabrics, highlighting the underside of garments and work that we would not normally notice.

The piece will explore questions around the hidden hands of the garment industry.





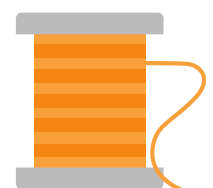
## Materials



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



- Fabrics: **one piece of fabric 20cm x 20cm**
- Some old clothes to cut up, if you don't have any you can use small pieces of fabric and buttons.
- Threads: **embroidery thread**
- Sewing needles & pins
- Fabric scissors
- Iron: **for pressing the materials**
- Pencil or marker and ruler: **for drawing**







## Hidden labour in fashion and textile production

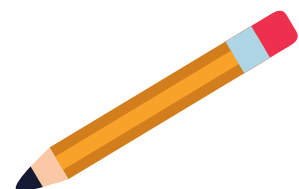


If you have time before the session you could consider:

- How often do you know or think about where your clothes come from, who makes them and how fairly are those people are treated? Do they receive the living wage? Have they got access to unions?
- Many people were shocked by the news story of factories in Leicester facing a modern slavery investigation and unaware that this mistreatment happens in the UK as well as elsewhere in the world. Consider what can we do to help stop and prevent this from happening?
- Think about words you might want to add to your piece – what is the message you would want to share with others about hidden labour in the garment industry?



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



# Starting off



Gather your materials as listed on page 3. Cut out a square for your fabric patch or mark it out to cut later.



Using old clothes, cut out details - inside out seams, stitching and button plackets; the small details that we might not always notice.

If you don't have any old clothes to cut up, use small pieces of fabric instead and any found buttons to add detail to the piece.



Press your materials flat, decide on your composition and position the materials where they fit best. The materials can be spaced out or fit together like a jigsaw. Consider where on the piece you will want to stitch your words.

Next pin your materials to the backing fabric. This will hold them in place before stitching.



# What we'll be stitching



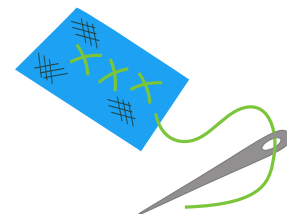
During the session we will demonstrate how to assemble your cut up pieces of clothing to create a patchwork design.



We will demonstrate how to stitch your pieces to your backing fabric using different decorative and utility stitching techniques. These will include the bar tack, whip, blanket, pad and running stitches.



# Stitching your words



When putting together your patchwork design, think about where you want to stitch words - on or around the design?

During the session you will be shown how to stitch your words onto your design.

Think about what statements or questions you might include related to the idea of hidden hands and the garment industry.



## Join us on Zoom to get creative

All you need to do now is find a comfortable space, 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 24 October.**  
**2.00pm - 3.00pm.**





# Share what you have created!

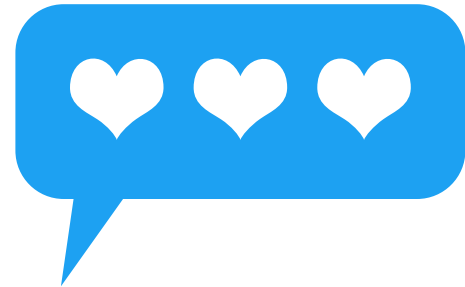
We would love to see what you have created!

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](mailto:learning@phm.org.uk).



@PHMMcr



@phmmcr



@PHMMcr

## 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.

