

The Fabric of Protest

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Online

**Create a mini banner to protest the
Nationality and Borders Bill**



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 introduces some of the ideas and techniques that were explored during the online workshop on Saturday 27 November 2021. You can use it as inspiration for your own textile projects.

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



#FabricOfProtest phm.org.uk
#TogetherWithRefugees #WhoWeAre

We are looking at the Revive Women's Group banner, 2019, from the museum's 2020 - 2021 Banner Exhibition.



Revive Women's Group banner, 2019, Image courtesy of People's History Museum

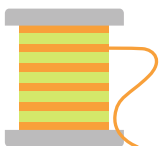
This banner was made in collaboration with artist Ibukun Baldwin and the Revive Women's Group during Refugee Week in 2019. The banner communicates issues faced by women in the asylum-seeking process, many of whom have experienced gender specific forms of persecution in their home countries or during their journey to the UK.

The Nationality and Borders Bill which is currently being proposed by the government will erode a number of protections available to women through the current asylum-seeking process. These include risks of abuse and violence at detention centres, access to safety for women who have been trafficked or trapped in modern day slavery and having a fair hearing in asylum claims.

The banner has a white cotton background, the words 'Treat Us With Respect And Dignity We Are Revive Women', are sewn onto the banner. Bright multi-coloured floral and bird motifs made from felt surround the words. It is 2,040mm wide and 1,475mm high.

Mini banner

Using the Revive banner as inspiration we made a mini banner to protest the Borders Bill and show solidarity with refugees. We used appliqué to stitch words and motifs onto the banners which can be hung in prominent places inside or outside the home.



Appliqué is a textile technique where fabrics are sewn or stuck on to a larger piece to form a picture or pattern.

Find out more about:

- Together With Refugee's [orange heart symbol](#)
- [Revive UK Women's Group](#)



Prepare



If you have time, use the links below to find out more about the collective concerns around the Nationality and Borders Bill and the devastating impact it will have on people's lives.

- [UNHCR The United Nations Refugee Agency - The Nationality and Borders Bill](#).
- Read [how the bill will affect women refugees](#).
- [The Refugee Council](#).
- [The gal-dem guide](#).
- [PHM's statement of support](#) for the #TogetherWithRefugees campaign against the Bill.
- [Where is the Bill up to now?](#)

You can read the [UK government factsheet](#) on the Bill.

Support the campaign

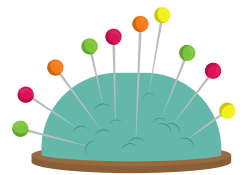
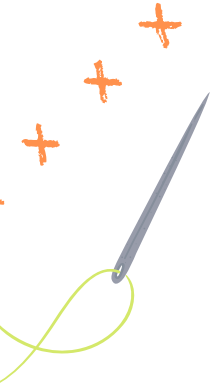


Join the [#TogetherWithRefugees](#) campaign in calling for the government to rethink its approach to the Nationality and Borders Bill.

- If you are in Manchester, complete a postcard at PHM voicing your concerns which we will send to the Home Secretary.
- Write to your MP [using the template letter](#) created by Together With Refugees.
- Let us know the action you take. Take a photo, use the hashtag #TogetherWithRefugees and tag @PHMMcr so we can share.
- Not on social media? Email your pictures to events@phm.org.uk.



Materials



Gather some materials from around your home.
You will need:

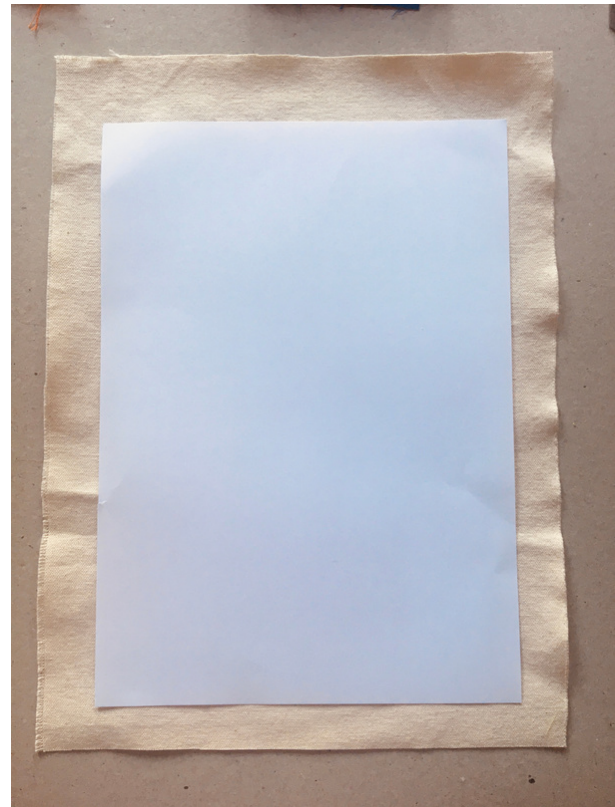
- Fabric: width 25cm and height 36cm
- Fabric scraps: for letters and motifs
- Ruler / pen / A4 paper
- Double sided sticky tape (not essential)
- Dowel / stick / garden stick
- Embroidery thread
- A small length of yarn or thick thread
- Needle
- Scissors



Design your banner

1

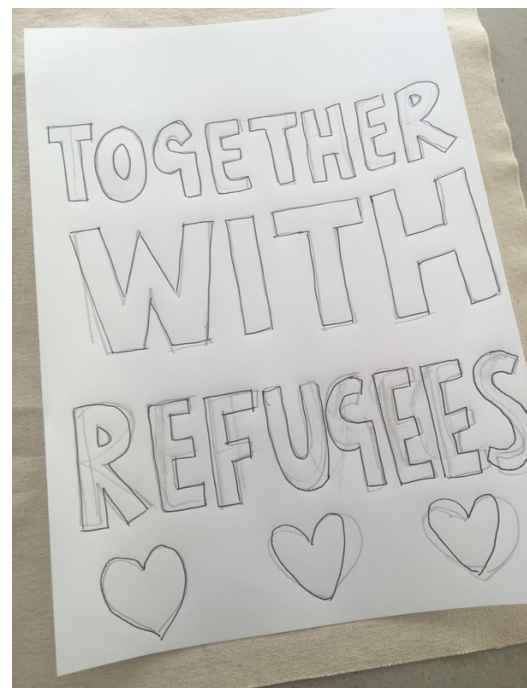
Lay a piece of A4 paper on your fabric. Make sure the fabric is at least 2cm bigger than the paper, with at least 4cm extra at the top. Cut to size.



2

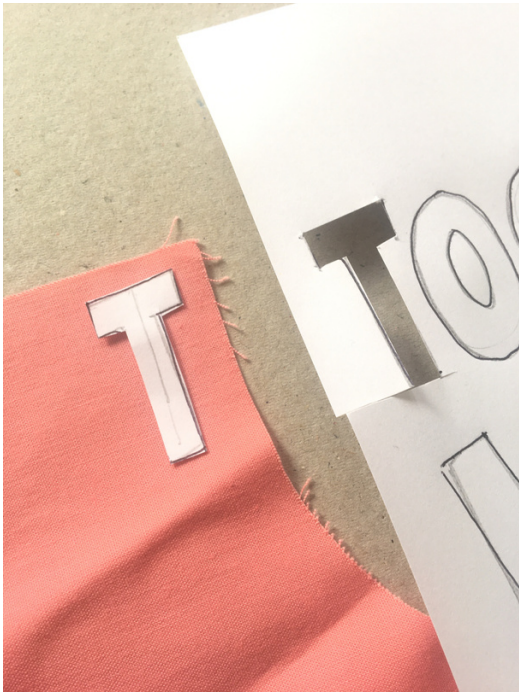
Think about what message you would like to put on your mini banner – this could be something specific about the proposed Nationality and Borders Bill or something more general about showing solidarity with refugees. Think about motifs you might like to use that link to your message.

Design your banner on the full sheet of A4 paper which can then be used as a template. Make your letters chunky so that you can cut them out in fabric to appliqué onto your banner.



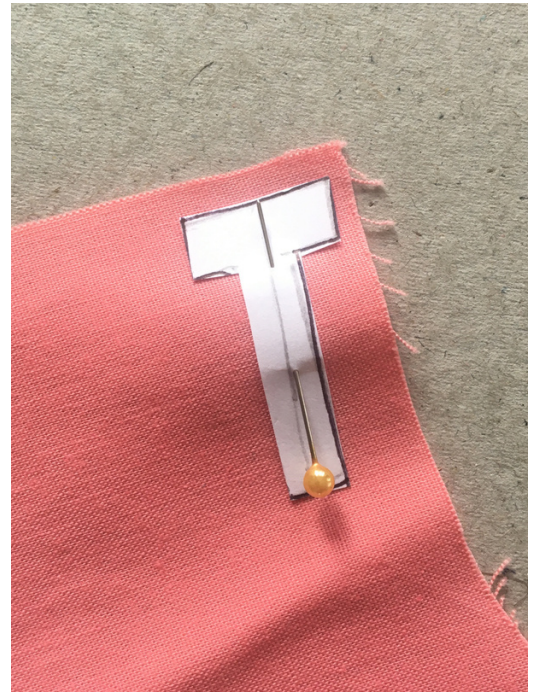
Cut out design and lay out

3



Start to cut out your letters from the paper to use as templates for your fabric letters.

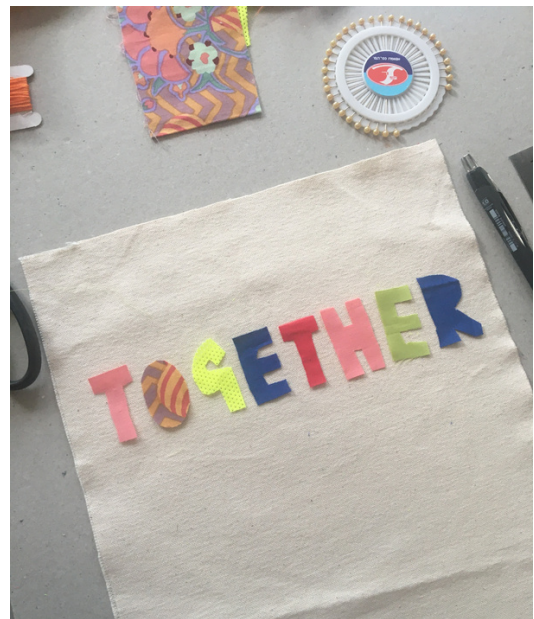
4



Pin the letter onto fabric and either draw round and cut out or just cut round the letter. Do this with all of your letters and motifs if you have them.

5

Lay out your letters and motifs on your banner and pin them in place before stitching to attach.

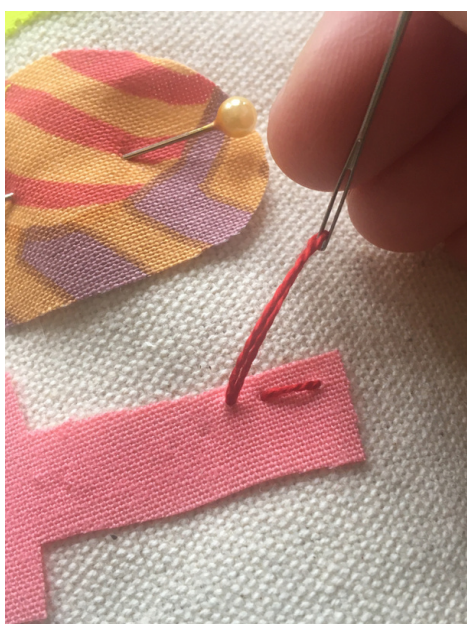


Stitch your letters and motifs

6 You can use any stitch you like to attach your designs. Here we have used a simple basic stitch along the edges of the letters.



Bring your needle up through the fabric and fabric letter. Then bring the needle back through the layers of the fabric making a stitch, continuing this all the way around the letter. Knot at the back to secure.



Finish the edges

7

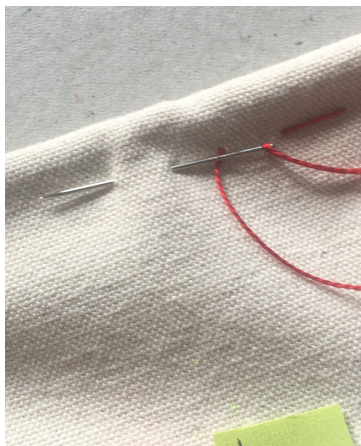
When you are finished sewing on your letters and motifs, you could stitch braid or fringing on the edges of the banner, or even fray the fabric edges before attaching the banner to the stick.



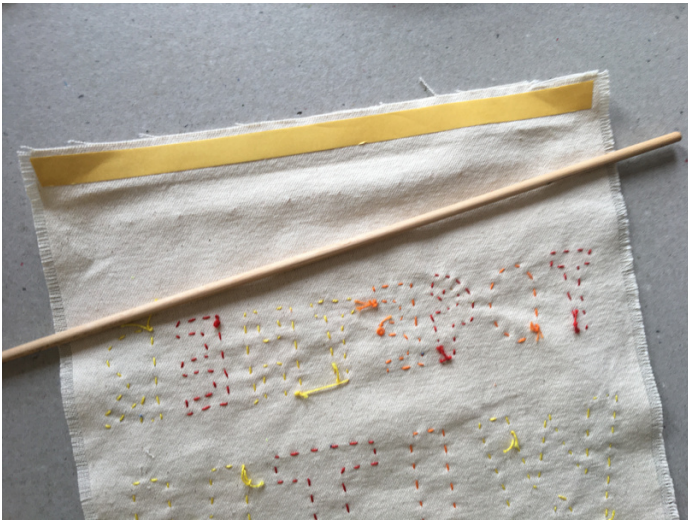
Hang your banner

8

There are a couple of ways to attach the banner to the stick. Turn the banner over so the back is facing up. Place the stick at the top and fold the edge over it. Pin in place and stitch.



Or you can use double sided tape along the top edge of the back of the fabric, folding it over the stick in place.



9

Tie a length of yarn or thread onto each end of the stick to hang your banner up in your window, your workplace or outside for people to see.



Join us on Zoom to get creative!

If you would like to join artist Helen Mather and others to stitch, chat and share ideas inspired by this resource, book onto the online Zoom workshop.

Explore The Fabric of Protest resources created for other sessions.

Be inspired by the textile creations of participants who have taken part in our monthly public workshops.



Share what you have created

We would love to see what you have created!

If you use social media, please share photos of your creations using #FabricOfProtest #TogetherWithRefugees



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



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