

One World Quilt Project

Creating awareness of sustainable development using environmental art

The One World Quilt project involved ethnic community groups from Glasgow in an environmental art project to create three unique community quilts. The subject of the quilts were to be based on how they are affected by issues in the environment, society and the economy in the context of sustainable development.



Making it happen

In partnership with *Black Environment Network (BEN)*, *One World Quilt 2000 (OWQ)* trained and advised each group on how to work on a quilt and how funding can be accessed to develop and manage their own projects.

During the spring of 2004, the ethnic community groups came together to design and produce the quilts. The groups were: *Glasgow Chinese Women's Association*, *Connectivities* – a training organisation working mainly with the Muslim community, and *Meridian* – a multicultural women's resource centre. They chose the following themes for their quilts: 'A Beautiful World', 'A Peaceful World' and 'Peace, Like Charity, Begins at Home'.

Linking indigenous skills and knowledge to employment opportunities

The workshops gave people a chance to try out environmental arts and crafts and to practice sewing skills or learn new skills. Quilt making is a good way to recognise women's creativity and to give value to how they have preserved their traditional home-based skills, which may be used in employment. The project also raised awareness of a wider range of employment opportunities available within the heritage and environment sectors.

Quilt making brought the women together to discuss a range of issues around sustainable development while they worked on their quilts. Global citizenship emerged as a major area of interest.



All three community quilts were exhibited at the Tramway Theatre in Glasgow. Exhibiting the quilts gave public recognition to the high standards of indigenous sewing skills within ethnic communities.





The Future

With appropriate support, members of ethnic communities can be brought together and stimulated to contribute their own ideas and energies. They can be supported to represent their concerns, undertake activities and consider new opportunities such as employment. Various other ethnic community groups in Edinburgh and Aberdeen are interested in developing similar projects.



FACTFILE

- **Funders:**

ESF EQUAL Theme B, Awards for All, Lloyds TSB Foundation Scotland, Communities Scotland.

- **Partners:**

Black Environment Network, One World Quilt 2000, Glasgow Chinese Women's Association, Connectivities, Meridian.

- **Target group:**

Women from Chinese, Bangladeshi, Angolan, Pakistani and Indian backgrounds.

- **Numbers:** Over 69 women took part.

- **Key points:**

- Organisations working in sustainable development should put ethnic communities on their agendas and be proactive in engaging them.
- BEN's role is to act as a catalyst and facilitator. Organisations can initially use BEN to forge contact with ethnic communities. The experience gained should be used to reach out further to more Black and ethnic minority communities.
- Arts activities can be used to bring people together to open out discussions while doing something enjoyable.
- BEN can support participating groups by introducing opportunities and linking them to resources or expertise for project development.



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