

THE
PEACE
BY

PIECE
PROJECT

INTRODUCTION BY WAGING PEACE CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, SONJA MILEY AND MADDY CROWTHER

After more than two years of planning, co-creating, peacebuilding, lifting each other, and collaborating with Sudanese women in the UK, alongside Waging Peace staff and volunteers, our Peace by Piece project (aka the 'giant toub*') reached its completed form as of November 2024.

This booklet is our effort to document the process of peacebuilding, from our first workshop launch in November 2022, to the journey of the giant toub over the past two years. The Peace by Piece project is evidence of what can be achieved when women come together.

Let us take a moment to remember the beginning, at our first workshop in November 2022, when we introduced the concept of Peace by Piece. The images of many women working together at the Stowe Centre in London, creating the first pieces, was nothing less than magical. 25 Sudanese women from all over the UK, from various regions of Sudan originally, believed in the idea and travelled near and far to take part. At the end of the workshop the first nine 'pieces' were born. Passion, peacebuilding, and perseverance has grown the giant toub into its final size which is now 6 metres (width) by 3 metres (height), with over 75 individual pieces and a banner at the top!

***A 'toub' is a style of Sudanese women's clothing.**



The giant toub is a stunning piece of artwork as well as an influential advocacy tool highlighting the powerful voices of Sudanese women calling for more light and attention to be shined on Sudan. Each piece calls for courage, unity, equity for all Sudanese, love of country, sisterhood, bridging divides, visibility, hope; all firmly embedded in the understanding that each voice is unique and carries its own compelling story of struggle and pain.

In each distinct form, every piece of fabric was lovingly and meticulously stitched together by Liela Musa Medani. Every stitch binding one piece to another, creating this rich tapestry full of diversity. In binding pieces together, the essence of the Peace by Piece project took clearer form, symbolising re-connection, rebuilding, claiming oneself, and understanding one another.

This is a gift to Sudanese women from Sudanese women, a tribute to each other and the sacrifices made to stand up courageously in the name of peace throughout Sudan's history which includes revolutions and wars.

So far the giant toub has been seen in many media pieces, viewed by HM King Charles III, twice displayed in the Palace of Westminster, and seen by Parliamentarians and diplomats. It has attended Sudanese and other community events, Peace by Piece sewing circles and Sudanese women's groups, university talks about Sudan, and she has proudly shined her beauty through the streets of central London during a march on International Women's Day.

We will continue to celebrate the giant toub and ensure the voices of Sudanese women are heard by decision makers, included in exhibitions, cultural days, school assemblies, and more. For now, let us remember how far we have come, together.



THE CONCEPT

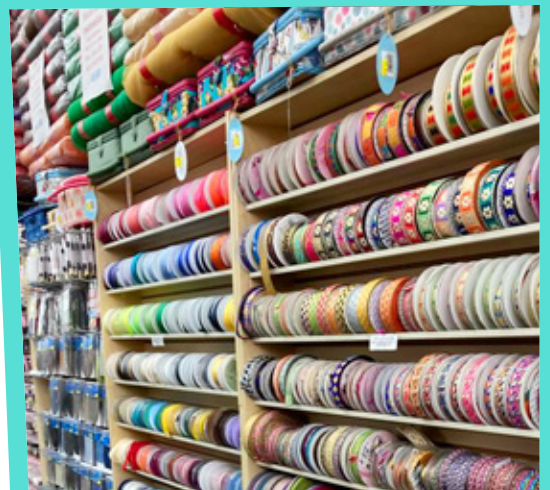
The objective of the project is to build a peacebuilding network of Sudanese women throughout the UK whose focus is empowerment, combating isolation and loneliness, creating and engaging in a safe space, encouragement towards new opportunities, and skills sharing. We aim to do this through peacebuilding exercises, discussion, mental health support, dancing!, challenging women to reach beyond the known by travelling outside their immediate environments, networking, and through working together to emphasise the uniqueness and power of Sudanese women, individually and collectively.

Sudanese women are encouraged to artistically design and decorate a piece of fabric in small groups. When finished, each piece is sewn together into one giant piece, as a symbol of solidarity and unity. This giant piece of fabric can then tour different sites in the UK such as Sudanese community gatherings,

and it can be used as a tool for advocacy on Sudan via displays in British Parliament or arts venues. The Peace by Piece project enables Sudanese women's voices to be heard, and challenges policymakers to actively and meaningfully include Sudanese women as stakeholders for change in Sudan.

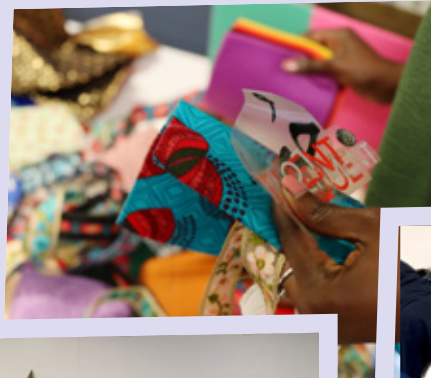
2022 PREPARATION

Preparation begins! Getting started: planning, visiting haberdashery shops, buying materials, purchasing supplies, cutting pieces of material, finding a venue, communicating the concept and logistics.



12 NOV 2022 THE WORKSHOP

Sudanese women's empowerment workshop and
the Peace by Piece project concept launch.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP AND CONCEPT LAUNCH





THE TOUB'S JOURNEY

2022

Preparation! Waging Peace starts scoping a venue for the workshop and buying materials

12 NOV 2022

Women's empowerment workshop and giant toub/Peace by Piece concept launch

19 FEB 2023

Cardiff women's Peace by Piece gathering

15 MAR 2023

Event with HM King Charles III at Abrar House in London

16 SEP 2023

Society for the Study of the Sudans UK (SSSUK) Symposium and AGM, London

17 OCT 2023

Presentation at Parliament

2 DEC 2023

Birmingham women's Peace by Piece sewing circle

5 DEC 2023

Collaborative event with Waging Peace, The Wiener Holocaust Library and the Darfur Diaspora Association (DDA) with Senior Trial Lawyer from the International Criminal Court (ICC) *'Darfur groups in conversation with the ICC speaking on justice and accountability'*

5 MAR 2024

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) talk and toub presentation

8 MAR 2024

International Women's Day march through central London

29 APR 2024

Waging Peace and Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID) sewing circle

19 MAY 2024

Bristol women's Peace by Piece sewing circle

19 OCT 2024

Used during community dialogue event *Shay al Maghreb*, tea at sunset, to aid peace and reconciliation efforts

2022-2024

Displayed at various Sudanese community events and functions in the UK

2025 ONWARDS

**Available for future events
Contact:
info@wagingpeace.info**

THE TOUB MEETS THE KING



SOAS TALK



COLLABORATIVE EVENT WITH THE WIENER HOLZHAUS LIBRARY

VISIT TO PARLIAMENT



Lord (David) Alton @DavidAltonHL · 1d ...
Moving & harrowing testimony today to from Liela Medani who fled Sudan's appalling war. Her plea: "Don't forget us". In Westminster Hall with APPG chair @vickyford & Duke of Montrose we saw Liela's tapestry for peace @WagingPeaceUK @AndrewmitchMP @tariqahmadbt @UKinSudan



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH IN LONDON





WOMEN ON OUR WORKSHOP

The vision is great. On reflection , it is not only about bringing women and the community group in the UK together, taking ideas of this kind to use in the reconciliation process, will make a great difference.

Thank you, thank you sisters for all the welcome and all the joy you brought with you and for your presence, lots of love

What a fabulous day!!! I'm speechless.

It was a privilege to have had the opportunity to unite with all the amazing ladies – you are inspirational

Thank you WP for this great idea, it made a huge difference to me following the period of isolation & lockdown. Very honoured to have met these wonderful ladies yesterday.

It was amazing time and people to be with. Thank you to every and each one of you who makes it that beautiful.



