

**The SWAP Women's Refugee Group
remember.....**

**Remembering can be
painful.....**

And so it was as we gathered with our group of *women refugees and asylum seekers to remember.....*

We had made our own beautiful emblems of remembrance to wear, in memory of those beloved to us , lost in times of conflict and war around the globe- as well as creating a 'remembrance motif' that provided a reflective focal point for our thoughts and memories.

We shared our understanding of the significance of our nation's remembrance and considered the honour bestowed on The Fallen and our hopes for peace in our world.



Our women friends are representatives, witnesses, and victims of many conflicts, war zones and political repressions that currently exist throughout the world:

Syria, Iraq, Kurdistan, Palestine, Iran, Afghanistan, Yemen, Albania, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan.....

We learnt, through their voices, how the scars remain alive and vivid in their minds, emotions and lives.....

Women spoke with great love and pride of their countries, their beautiful countries, whose memory they cherish, whose fate led to broken lives and hearts. They remember lives before conflict and war, lives lived in peace and harmony with different peoples, different faiths, in a time where tolerance and peace, community and happiness were the norm.

With voices overflowing with emotion, they also painfully recalled the horror of lives destroyed, lands laid waste, brutal regimes, violence and fear- from which they have sought refuge, but cannot and will not forget. They long still for their lost brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, their homelands.....

Our candles lit, we supported each other with love and prayers.....

' We will remember Syria, We will remember Yemen, we will remember'all.

Lights in the darkness, blazing in our hearts and memories of a small group of women refugees and asylum seekers in Wigan, far from their homelands remembering.

With bonds of love we sang the timeless words of the anthem of remembering:

'Where have all the flowers gone'.....

Love and hope united us. Shared experiences enlightened and strengthened our understanding of each other.

Love given during our Act of Remembrance provided a healing balm for each and all in remembering.....

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