

Somerset Interfaith & Belief Network

The Talking Cloth

CONNECT with each other through activity

This versatile craft activity workshop uses Adinkra symbols from Ghana, and while being an enjoyable craft activity, we have used this as a route into a more sophisticated workshop for adults using dye and fabric and producing a permanently printed cloth that has come about from conversations, sharing, listening and reflecting on one's own lived by values.



Adinkra are visual symbols with historical and philosophical significance, they were originally printed on cloth which royals wore to important ceremonies. Saturated with meaning, these symbols have come to symbolize the richness of Akan culture and serve as a shorthand for communicating deep truths in visual form. Used for a range of fabrics, household items and jewellery, these symbols have a place in 21st century society, and can hold within them, heritage, culture and values.

The symbols and background materials in the GLADE Centre's Adinkra Printing Workshop Box and the Talking Cloth Collection provides inspiration for conversation starters on heritage, culture, migration, faith and belief. Talking can lead into traditions, good luck charms, stories, folklore, human values, the list is endless!

During the workshop, participants will learn a bit about the symbols, their meanings and choose some they feel a connection with. Practise prints on card or paper before planning out and creating their own talking cloth /adinkra fabric to take away. Hopefully participants will share some of their thoughts and motivations whilst their prints are drying.

The GLADE Centre can run this as a practical workshop, with paint, dye and inks, please come prepared for craftwork, you are welcome to bring your own apron, craft overalls to protect your clothes. Should you have something you'd like to print on, please do bring that along, however you take responsibility for the suitability and end result.

Items we provide to use:-original Ghanaian printing blocks, unique and shaped foam printing stamps, explanations of the symbols, and background material including pieces of printed cloth, photos, and an easy read delightful story about a small girl who now lives in UK but wants to find out about her heritage

- small squares (approx 20cm x 20cm) of cotton cloth or thick paper to print and take away,
- paint brushes – three or four thick ones, plus finer ones for touching up printing
- poster paint, water, pots or fabric dyes and pens NB these are permanent
- plastic cover for tables.

Contact Lynn; lynn@glade.org or Liz; liz@glade.org to book

Convened by

<https://interfaithbelief.glade.org/>

Funded By Somerset Council



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You are welcome to borrow GLADE's Talking Cloth (Literacy) Collection and be inspired to create your own printing workshop. Check out GLADE's Literacy Collections at <https://glade.org/resources/global-resource-loans/themed-collections/>



Global Loans



Artefacts, photopacks, reading materials, books, posters grouped for your convenience by:-
global topics, SDG themes, countries & localities, curriculum subjects, literacy or numeracy focus, folkart & artisan crafts.

 [Loan booking enquiry form](https://is.gd/GGiYTW)
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