

Women between Fabrics. The “arpilleras” for social inclusion

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The recognition of creativity as a basic factor for the development of attitudes which promote social inclusion is influencing society with the emergence of a number of methodologies that advocate the encounter between individual identities and cultures, through creative activities. To this end, in 2009 the Department of Social Services programmed a series of intercultural craft workshops for immigrant women. This article presents the research carried out during these workshops and sets this experience as an example of social intervention for further analysis. In the literature review, the importance of Chilean Arpilleras for women who lived under the dictatorship of General Pinochet, will be discussed. Furthermore, through a desk study and interviews with social educator Marian Ebragoui, the case of Arab women's' relationship with their culture through the fabric will be discussed. Finally, the last section of this article will examine the workshop as a meeting place in which to express fears and desires, feel the warmth of welcome, and as a platform to participate in public life.

Keywords: Creativity, “arpilleras”, women, immigration, identity and citizenship.

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