

The Poverty Truth Community Digital Quilt

Capturing voices, contributions, and legacy through art, sound, and story



The Poverty Truth Community

2025: Our year of re-imagining



The Poverty Truth Community brings people with lived experience of poverty together with allies, to create change through relationships and collective voice.

Over the last 15 years the community has completed many different things. It can feel hard to keep a hold of it all.

Working with the Binks Hub, the Poverty Truth Community has been working to create a digital archive that will hold stories about this work and its impact.

Why a quilt?

A quilt holds many individual pieces, each with its own story, stitched together into a larger whole.



In our project we have used the idea of patchwork quilt to help us. This is because the Poverty Truth Community is a movement for many, and it has meant something different to every person involved.

A quilt has patches. It was a good way of helping to show individual *and* collective experiences together.

Our quilt isn't for hanging. It isn't perfectly stitched. Its messy, and perhaps a little worn in places. But it's a source of warmth, about being useful and being used.

It reflects both personal experience and the strength of collective voice. Like community itself, our quilt is layered, connected, and greater than the sum of its parts.

The process

Workshops, conversations, and donated materials created a patchwork of voices: images, artefacts, texts, oral accounts



Quilt in Development

The quilt grew through different versions, shaped by community input, discussion, and creativity, before the final outputs were agreed.



Our outputs

A quilt image, created from community collages

Like the banner, the quilt image presents the collage pieces designed by members of the Poverty Truth Community.

Here the collage pieces have been designed into the pattern of a traditional patchwork quilt.



Our outputs

The Omeka Archive: An online home for the quilt

The digital quilt lives in **Omeka**, a platform that brings together images, text, sound, and artefacts in one accessible, interactive space.

In it you will be able to find written and recorded stories, and images of memorable photos and objects collated by community members. It also houses the individual collage pieces and images of the banner and quilt.

Our archive is still in development. We plan to have it open to the public by the end of the year – for use by activists, students, scholars, and decision-makers.



About the Poverty Truth Community

The Poverty Truth Community (PTC) - originally launched as Scotland's first Poverty Truth Commission - is a movement for change led by people poverty. Incubated within Faith in Community Scotland, the PTC believes firmly that people living with poverty are the true experts, and that the spaces where decisions about poverty are made.

As the heartbeat of their work states: *"Nothing about us, without us, is for us."*

Over the last 15 years, the PTC has brought people experiencing poverty together with decision-makers - forming relationships, opening doors to work has included time-limited commissions, campaigns, vital conversations, mutual mentoring projects and the creative arts. They have built relationships with the Scottish Government, NHS and others, opening channels for real democratic engagement. Through this approach, the PTC policy in areas such as kinship care, school clothing grants, asylum and food poverty – improving lives at policy, community and individual level long-term view, its commitment to supportive relationships, and its ethic of love and understanding. Having nurtured this community for over a decade alongside ever-shifting issues of poverty and policy - ensuring all are welcome and no one is left behind.



Our outputs

The Omeka Archive: more than a website

Within Omeka, each item is carefully described and categorised by contributor, theme, sub-theme, and data type.

This ensures the quilt is not only visible but also searchable, preserved, and reusable as evidence.

It is a living archive that protects community knowledge, honours contributors, and ensures their voices can continue to shape research, practice, and policy.



Browse archive

Community members have contributed photographs and images to this archive, each representing an experience, or symbol of their time with the Poverty Truth Community. Many of these images are or written reflections shared by the contributors.

This page allows you to browse the images on their own – to take time with the visual stories.

What these outputs represent

The quilt celebrates stories of resilience and connection, against a backdrop of persistent hardships



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Browse archive



Collective voice

Alternative evidence

Community and individual memory

Legacy and hope

Impact for the future

Preserving legacy. Strengthening community. Inspiring new ways of co-producing policy and practice



Scotland faces uncertain economic and social challenges. The quilt reminds us of the importance of sustaining community support systems and ensuring lived experience and grassroots knowledge remain central to policy and services.

Our quilt is not finished. Others will continue to add new patches, stitches, and embroidery. We hope its warmth will be felt for many years to come as a record of resilience, a symbol of hope, and a reminder that change is stitched together, through community.

With thanks

Like a quilt, this project has been a collective effort

Carol Alexander, Poverty Truth Community

Helen Berry, Researcher, University of Edinburgh

Nel Coleman, University of Edinburgh Library Services

Emma Davidson, Researcher, University of Edinburgh

Elaine Downie, Poverty Truth Community

Ed MacKenzie, Research Technologist, University of Edinburgh

Marie-Therese Martin, PTC Community researcher

Jean McEwan, Artist

Caroline Mockford, PTC Community researcher

Carole Turner, PTC Community researcher

Laura Boomer, Centre for Advanced Textiles, The Glasgow School of Art

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