The Women of The Community Cloth

where they came from & what they survived

Refugees from Bhutan

In 1990, the government of Bhutan began an initiative to create a unified society, which restricted freedom of religion, cultural expression, and language, along with other measures. Attempts by the Southern Bhutanese to protest measures were answered with violence, rape, groundless arrests, and forced migration. By the end of 1992, more than 120,000 Bhutanese fled to refugee camps in Nepal and India, where they lived for many years.

Refugees from Burma

The Karenni are one of several ethnic minorities indigenous to Burma (Myanmar) who have been facing systematic persecution by the military junta for decades. The army has a long record of human rights abuses, including imprisoning, torturing and killing minority group members. More than 400,000 Burmese refugees have fled to camps in Thailand and have languished there for 15 years or more.

Refugees from Somalia

The Somali Bantu are descended from six African tribes and have faced a history of enslavement. The outbreak of Civil War in Somalia in the early 1990's was particularly devastating for the Somali Bantu, with bandits and rogue militias raiding settlements. Because the Somali Bantu did not enjoy the protection of being part of a Somali Clan, they were regularly robbed, raped and murdered with impunity. They fled by the tens of thousands across the Somali border and into the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.