



Ending Extreme Poverty, A Road to Peace

A worldwide campaign initiated by the International Movement ATD Fourth World



Jean Philippe, Fourth World youth group facilitator in Lille (France)

"I want to make young people see that it's not because someone is poor that they don't have the right to exist."



Suzelle and Nerline from the Rally Committee in Port-au-Prince (Haiti)

"We come up with ideas in relation to our situation, and that gives us courage."



Marilyn, full time volunteer in London (United Kingdom)

"For seven years, I was going regularly for a street library with families living under a bridge in Manila. What impressed me most was the courage they had in order to live out such solidarity."



Jean, active in the area of Thiaroye in the suburbs of Dakar (Senegal)

"Father Joseph said that poverty is man's work and man could be the remedy. Believing in that, it's my strength."



Rejeanne, from Solidarity Fourth World, Sherbrooke (Canada)

"Give your time to people who are too isolated or really in distress so that they can get their thoughts off their chest."

The ravages of extreme poverty and exclusion are becoming more and more violent and destructive on earth whilst technical progress and an increase in wealth have given mankind the means to confront it.

Working on an economic level is not enough. It is evident that the regulation of the world by the power of money is widening the gap between those who have too much of everything and those who have absolutely nothing. We need more sharing.

Working in the field of human rights is essential because as long as some people are condemned to live in extreme poverty, their human rights will be ignored. We need more justice.

But sharing and justice won't achieve their aims if actions undertaken are not based on a lasting encounter between those living in extreme poverty and exclusion and those who want to work with them. We can't work 'for' them, we must work 'with' them and to do that we need to meet each other, speak together.

Already across the world, many men, women, young people, children, poor or not, understand this and have been mobilized. They make up an informal social movement of people who meet to think and work together, and to encourage each other. When these meetings are ongoing, they produce a new intelligence, that can shed light on the struggle for a world without extreme poverty, question our ideals, strengthen each person's responsibilities, and create common commitments in a world in deep transformation. Such on-going encounters, a true meeting of the minds, create something new.

The objective of this worldwide campaign, "Ending Extreme Poverty, A Road to Peace", is to make this movement known and to invite many people from all backgrounds to join us. We have to seize the opportunity to transform our society by bringing together these experiences and new thinking, and contribute to "the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief, and freedom from fear and want".

Eugen Brand
Director General

¹ Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Ending Extreme Poverty, A Road to Peace... Ending Extreme Poverty, A Road to Peace... Er

The Aim of the Campaign

- **Support and put into contact** those who are taking action and those who wish to take action with people in extreme poverty across the world, to build a different way of fighting against poverty. That is to say, a way which respects everyone's dignity, which is firmly based on the thinking and suggestions of people in poverty, with the goal of ending poverty.

- **Show that people taking action** in this way are not isolated cases but already make up a social movement across the world. Certainly they are a minority, but a very dynamic one, creating real changes in all fields: access to housing, health care, education, work, training, new technologies, citizenship, culture, family life etc.

- **Encourage new individuals** to get involved to better understand the reality of extreme poverty and the ways of taking action, so that this social movement will develop. It is a matter of reaching all social circles and all age groups in as many countries as possible.

The Support needed for the Campaign

- **All citizens can** contribute to implementing one of the actions of this campaign. On a local level they can meet up to bring together their ideas and strength.

- **Personalities of the cultural, artistic, spiritual, sports, economic, scientific and political worlds, on a national or international level**, can show their support for this campaign by signing the Call to Action, by taking part in the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty on October 17, and by talking publicly about why they are doing so.

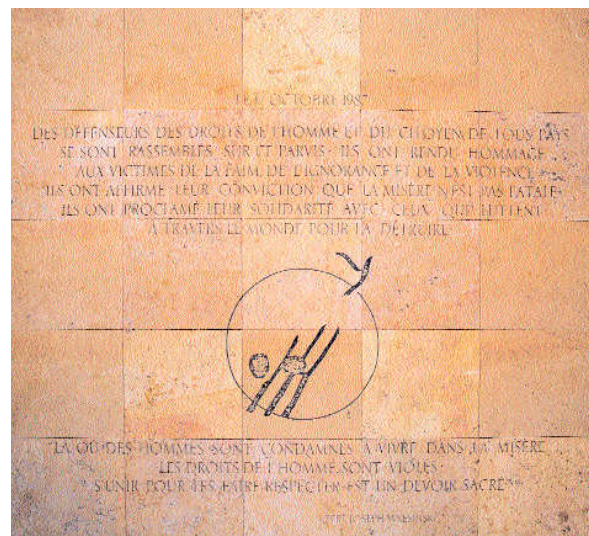
- **The media** can announce the campaign 'Ending Extreme Poverty, A Road to Peace' in their programmes and articles, and by publishing free advertising support.

- **Public authorities** can support the achievement of the "Ending Extreme Poverty, A Road to Peace" campaign's actions by announcing them, by financing them or by material support (offices, public spaces).

Send your donation to:
ATD Fourth World / ATD Quart Monde,
'Ending Extreme Poverty, a Road to Peace'

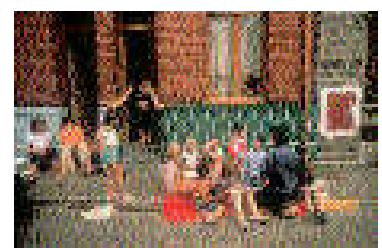
- **Question common philosophical, cultural and religious thinking** and the academic and artistic worlds, so that they take into account this collective effort to struggle against poverty.

- **Question public authorities** at all levels - local, national and international - to ask them to recognise the energy of this social movement and to contribute to it. To do this they can find out about and take into account, in policy and administrative decision making, the positive results obtained by actors of this movement, and financially support these initiatives so that they develop more widely.



Commemorative stone in honour of victims of extreme poverty unveiled at a rally of the defenders of human rights in 1987. (Trocadero, Paris, France)

- **Individuals and economic actors** can financially support the campaign 'Ending Extreme Poverty, A Road to Peace' in order to cover the charges this incurs, especially for collecting signatures for the Call to Action and the organisation of Rallies on the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty.



Meeting children

Actions of the Campaign

- An international appeal for signatures of the Call to Action

The objective is to obtain hundreds of thousands of signatures from more than 100 countries before October 17, 2007, to show the importance of this movement in society to fight against poverty. Everyone is invited to sign and encourage their family, colleagues, friends and acquaintances to sign this Call to Action. This will allow many exchanges in different circles in order to look at how this way of fighting against poverty can take shape.

- Display a multicoloured ribbon,

A ribbon with the slogan: "Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty. Father Joseph Wresinski". This ribbon signifies the will to create links between people living in extreme poverty and the rest of society.

- Multiply the number of peaceful rallies, festivals and acts of solidarity to commemorate the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty on October 17, 2007

To publicise the actions led by this social movement, to heighten public awareness and give to as many people as possible the opportunity to find out how they too can become involved.



October 17 in Cusco - Peru

Keep the ambition to defeat extreme poverty, taking into account the priority to the poorest and most excluded: « Our children should not have to go through what we did. »



* Tapori is a movement of friendship for children from all backgrounds around the world who get involved where they are so that all children will have the same opportunities.

www.tapori.org



Meeting at the UN with Kofi Annan - 2005

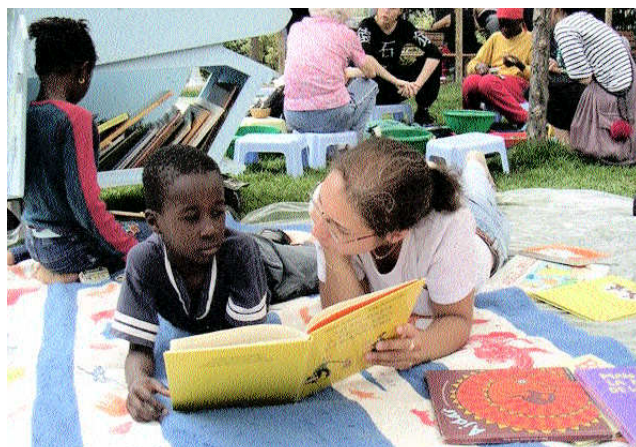
- The Tapori Campaign "listen to us and change the world."

Tapori asks children to draw their own life-sized silhouettes and write a message to say how they can help to build a more just world for all. The silhouettes are sent to other groups of children so they can get to know children from other countries and participate in this international mobilisation against extreme poverty and exclusion. This campaign is suitable for children from all backgrounds, whether they are living in poverty or not. Exhibitions of these silhouettes throughout 2007 will create opportunities to develop friendship and fight against poverty.

- The European Solidarity Caravans

Organised by young adults from very different social and cultural backgrounds they will travel across Europe offering debates, festive and musical activities, walks, concerts, videos, exhibitions etc. To reinforce this commitment against extreme poverty, these events will take place in underprivileged areas as well as in the main town square.

They will do their best to reach all citizens and particularly those facing extreme poverty or exclusion.



The Origins of the Campaign

On December 10, 1948, the nations marked by two world wars affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

“disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbaric acts (...). The advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people (...) All human beings should act towards one another in the spirit of brotherhood.”

On October 17, 1987, defenders of human rights from across the world, marked and outraged by extreme poverty, gathered in Paris in response to the call from Joseph Wresinski, to:

- Pay homage to the victims of hunger, ignorance and violence
- Affirm their conviction that extreme poverty is not inevitable
- Proclaim their solidarity with those around the world who struggle to overcome it

On December 22, 1992, aware of the urgent need to put an end to extreme poverty, the United Nations recognised October 17 as the “International Day for the Eradication of Poverty”.

In May 2006, human rights defenders from four continents and from diverse social backgrounds met in Montreal. They reviewed the results of a wide consultation with associations, trade unions, States and United Nations agencies and they invited all citizens committed to justice and peace to increase the impact of 17 October, World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty, and launch the “Call to Action: Ending Extreme Poverty, a Road to Peace”.

Call to Action

Ending Extreme Poverty, A Road to Peace

«**We are in solidarity** with all those who are fighting throughout the world to eliminate extreme poverty.

We want to contribute to promoting respect for the dignity of all people, and their effective access to human rights.

We want to join efforts to enable those living in extreme poverty and exclusion to participate fully in their societies, including the commemoration of the October 17, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

We ask all members of civil society, local and national authorities, and the United Nations to:

- Consider those in extreme poverty as the first to take action in the fight against poverty
- Ensure that people living in extreme poverty fully participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that concern them, and that are inspired by a commitment to a world without poverty – a world where the rights to family life, decent work, social, cultural and political participation are respected
- Support events organised each October 17 to ensure that the participation of people with direct experience of poverty be at the heart of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- Participate in an ongoing, long-term dialogue with people who, in refusing to accept extreme poverty, are building peace

This appeal can be signed until October 17, 2007. It will then be published on that day and will be submitted to the United Nations.

It can be signed on line at www.oct17.org



October 17 - Mauritius

ATD Fourth World Summary

The International Movement ATD Fourth World is a non-governmental organisation committed alongside individuals and institutions to find solutions to eradicate extreme poverty and promote everyone's participation in developing their communities and countries. Working in partnership with people affected by extreme poverty, ATD Fourth World's work focuses on cultural, family-based action and changing policies. ATD Fourth World runs projects in 28 countries, in the northern and southern hemispheres, and sustains a network of correspondents in more than 100 countries.

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