



International Committee for October 17th

www.overcomingpoverty.org

Message released for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, October 17, 2010

Focus on Young Anti-poverty Activists in the North and South

Is it possible to remain silent and detached when others, wherever they may be, endure violence, hunger, social inequalities and family displacement, and earning at best the bare minimum for survival?

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, commemorated **on October 17th**, addresses this central question by bringing together the victims of exclusion and their supporters from around the world to draw inspiration from all those who refuse to accept extreme poverty as inevitable .

The International Committee for October 17th believes that those living in destitution should be treated as equal partners in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty, not only because they have every right to decide their own future but also because of their unique and invaluable expertise.

For this reason, **we - the members** of the International Committee - have committed ourselves, within our spheres of influence at the local and international levels, to raise public awareness about the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

This year, ATD Fourth World, together with the United Nations, as well as with hundreds of NGOs and thousands of citizens from around the world, will count over one hundred creative anti-poverty activities bringing together people of different languages & cultures irrespective of class, gender, age and race .

The numerous events worldwide will include:

In Haiti hundreds of people will gather to pay tribute to those who are victims of hunger, ignorance and violence, and to the memory of those who died in the earthquake and join forces to rebuild the country. **In the United States**, sixty children, young people and their parents from Cameroon, Canada, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and the United States will convene in Washington, D.C. to hold talks with legislators and share lessons learned about fighting extreme poverty. **In Vanuatu** people living in extreme poverty and their supporters will meet with disadvantaged families in their homes to collect their testimonies and messages to be conveyed to all citizens worldwide.

On behalf of the International Committee for October 17th, I urge you to show solidarity with society's most marginalized people on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty which symbolizes their daily struggle against poverty and exclusion.

This observance was recognized by the United Nations in 1992*¹ precisely because of the need to build and promote an effective partnership with those who have first-hand experience and in-depth knowledge of extreme poverty.

1 *United Nations' General Assembly Resolution 47/196 acknowledges that « certain non-governmental organizations, on the initiative of one non-governmental organization, have in recent years in many States observed 17 October as World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty. » and that it « invites all States to devote the Day to presenting and promoting, as appropriate in the national context, concrete activities with regard to the eradication of poverty and destitution. »

In this UN International Year of Youth, the focus on “Working Together Out of Poverty” highlights the need for a truly global anti-poverty alliance, one in which both developed and developing countries participate actively to address the special challenges facing young people in our societies. Regardless of where they live, young people living in extreme poverty need communities around the world to believe in them and to dispel stereotypes that cast them as a “source of societal problems.” Young people offer tremendous talent and potential that should be encouraged and promoted.

It is a human tragedy that in this 21st century, extreme poverty still persists in our midst. This social scourge can be eradicated if we - young and old, rich and poor – act together in unity at the local, regional and international levels.

I urge you to join the commemoration of October 17th along with people living in the most extreme poverty around the world to show them your support and solidarity.

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Members of the International Committee for October 17th

Honorary Member

Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar (Peru) The 5th Secretary-General of the United Nations

Chair

Mr. Cassam Uteem (Mauritius) President of the Republic (1992-2002)

Members

Mr. Abdou Diouf (Senegal) President, International Organization of French Speakers

H.E. Mr. J-Marc de La Sablière (France) French Ambassador to Italy

Ms. Nina Lim Yuson (Philippines) President, International Movement ATD Fourth World

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali (Egypt) The 6th Secretary-General of the United Nations

Mr. Titinga Paceré, Esquire (Burkina Faso) International Criminal Tribunal lawyer, Arusha

Mr. Miguel Angel Estrella (Argentina) Pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

Mr. Jean-Paul Baget (France) Musician and educator

Prof. Adam Seligman (USA) Professor, Boston University

Prof. Yozo Yokota (Japan) Professor, Chuo University Faculty of Law, Tokyo

Ms. Huguette Redegeld (France) International Movement ATD Fourth World

Ms. Simone Veil (France) President emeritus of the European Parliament

Ms. Gemma Adaba (Trinidad and Tobago) Representative to the United Nations
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Mr. Eugen Brand (Switzerland) Director General, International Movement ATD Fourth
World

Mr. Donald Lee (Australia) International civil servant of the United Nations (DESA)

Mr. Jacques Petidor (Haïti) Educator - Ministry of Education

Ms. Delloula Djamila Bouguessa (France)

ATD Fourth World

Past Member

Mr Jacques Sylla (1946-2009)

(Madagascar)

Chairman of the National Assembly

<http://www.overcomingpoverty.org/The-International-Committee-for.html>