

# 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Committee for October 17, UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty

12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Dublin

# Background

The World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty was first marked at a major public rally held on 17 October 1987 in Paris, where one hundred thousand people from all backgrounds responded to a call from Father Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World, to gather at the Plaza of Liberties and Human Rights.

On this day, a declaration was engraved on a Commemorative Stone.

*“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” Joseph Wresinski, 17 October 1987*

In 1992, the United Nations recognised the 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Since then, governments, local authorities, members of civil society and the private sector have recognized the importance of this International day, which has become a key rallying point for a growing number of citizens and organizations from all backgrounds, in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty.





# What is the International Committee?



In 2008, the International Committee for October 17 was established with the following goals:

- To promote the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, uniting those who are striving together to end poverty.
- To promote the observance of the October 17 in its original spirit.
- To promote and safeguard spaces where people from very different backgrounds can work together against extreme poverty as a form of Human Rights violation.

**From the 12th to 16th May 2014, this International Committee will gather in Dublin for its biennial working meeting.**

# Who?

The composition of committee is unique, with members coming from different backgrounds, including people with first-hand experience of extreme poverty.

## **Gemma ADABA (Trinidad and Tobago)**

As a demographer, Ms Adaba worked for years as Representative to the United Nations for the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). She is now an International Consultant on Global Labour, Gender, Migration & Development.

## **Djamila D. BOUGUessa (France)**

ATD Fourth World Activist, she was responsible for many years for the organisation of Oct 17 events in her area.

## **Boutros BOUTROS GHALI (Egypt)**

Under his mandate as 6th Secretary-General of the United Nations, the UN General Assembly recognized 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

## **Antoine CORGIER (France)**

Retired from his work in industrial companies, he volunteers in his community. He says: "17 October is the day when the invisible becomes visible, where the silent can talk in front of people who are ready to listen to them. We must aim at making everyday a synonym of 17 October . "

## **Jean Marc DE LA SABLIERE (France)**

Former Ambassador of France in many countries as Egypt, Italy and the French Representative to the United Nations...Internationally recognized as a « peace maker », he was involved in many conflict resolutions.

## **Donald LEE (Australia)**

President of the International Committee for October 17 since May 2012, he is an economist and a former Head of the United Nations' Social Perspective on Development Branch.

## **Nina LIM YUSON (Philippines)**

She is the President and CEO of the Museo Pambata (children museum) in Manila and the President of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.



**Maitre Titinga PACERE (Burkina Faso)**

Lawyer, writer and poet, he worked many years at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha - Tanzania.



**Jacques PETIDOR (Haïti)**

He works as an educator for the Ministry of Education in his country.

**Isabelle PYPAERT-PERRIN (Belgium)**

Full time volunteer of ATD Fourth World, she was posted in countries such as Haïti, Guatemala, France, Mauritius and Switzerland.

She has been Director General of this International Movement since 2012.

**H.E. Mr José RAMOS HORTA (Timor Leste)**

Previous President of his country, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996. Since 31 January 2013 he offered to mediate the conflict as the UN special envoy to Guinea-Bissau.

**Huguette REDEGELD (France)**

One of the first full time volunteers of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

Working closely with Joseph Wresinski, initiator of the 17 October, she contributed to build a representation of people living in poverty at the United Nations.

**Jean STALLINGS (USA)**

Long-time activist of ATD Fourth World in the United States, she is involved in lobbying actions at national and international levels.

**Professor Yozo YOKOTA (Japan)**

He is a professor of Law - Chuo University - Faculty of Law, Tokyo and acted as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar. From 2000 to 2006 he was a member of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

**Not all members of the International Committee can attend the meeting in Dublin. Committee members and special guests from the UK and Ireland will be 22 people in total.**



# Why Meet?

The previous meeting was held in New York from 2 to 4 May 2012

Donald Lee was elected Chair of the International Committee for October 17. He announced that the Committee was ready for a development strategy that is based on:

- Developing exchanges of information and, in particular, strengthening ties with local and national committees, as well as with the UN;
- Defining a strategy for discussions with the UN in order to facilitate the process of choosing the official annual theme of the day and to ensure that it can be understood by everyone, starting with those living in poverty.
- Creating a group of « Friends of the International Day », linked to the Committee.
- Disseminating documents promoting the International Day and its spirit and improving the website **overcomingpoverty.org**



The screenshot shows the homepage of the website 'OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY'. The site is in English. The main navigation menu includes: 'Why this website?', 'People's stories', 'October 17 Events', 'What Can I do', and 'International Committee for October 17'. The main content area features a news article titled 'Extreme Poverty: A Violation of Human Rights' with a sub-headline 'Alongside mothers and children'. The article text reads: 'In 1997 Mamadou G, a young man from a poor area, was put in charge of a small initiative running a... [En savoir plus](#)'. Below the text are links for 'Share Your Story' and 'Learn More'. To the right of the article is a world map and a section for 'Forum de discussions' with the title 'Redefining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after 2015'. The website also has a search bar and a language selection menu at the top right.



**May 2014 meeting in Dublin is an opportunity to recognize Ireland's commitment to the UN Day.**

- For a number of years, the Irish Department of Social Protection has supported the promotion of the UN Day through grants to organisation and community groups.
- In 2008, public officials and citizens from all walks of life inaugurated a 17 October Commemorative Stone close to the Famine Memorial, Custom House Quay. Dublin is one of the 50 cities around the world (inc. New York, Paris, Brussels, Glasgow, Berlin, Manila, Mexico City, Rome, Lisbon...) where the message is engraved on a stone.
- An Irish National Committee is responsible for planning and staging October 17 Commemoration in Dublin annually

**The agenda of the meeting in Dublin will include discussions on:**

- Taking stock of the work realized since the last meeting (Committee members report on their activities and actions in support of October 17; News from National Committees);
- Strategy to improve the public recognition of the Day and of the Committee;
- Future official annual theme of the Day (2015 and beyond);
- Responsibilities of the Committee regarding the 50 Commemorative Stones around the world;
- Role of the Committee members and the Presidency (mandate, term, and possible new members);

# Programme

## Monday 12th May

**5 pm** – Introductory session of International and Irish Committees followed by a meeting with Irish friends who were Masters of Ceremonies of the Dublin 17 October commemorations in Dublin – Manresa, Jesuit Centre of Spirituality



## Tuesday 13th May

Working meetings of the International Committee  
Dublin - Manresa, Jesuit Centre of Spirituality

**6 pm** - Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton  
meets with International Committee and  
Irish Committee in Leinster House,  
place of Irish Parliament





# Programme

**Wednesday 14th May**

**10:30 am** - International Committee meets Dublin Friends of 17 October In Sheriff Youth Club and together they gather around the 17 October Commemorative Stone near the Famine Memorial on Custom House Quay



**2:30 pm** - Working session of International Committee and closing session Dublin – Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality

**Friday 16th May**

***Conference Applying Human Rights***

***Standards to Tackle Poverty and Social Inequality***

- Members of the International Committee for October 17 will contribute to debates organised by the two Human Rights Commissions on the island of Ireland. Venue: Canal Court Hotel, Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland.

# A new tool for the future

In September 2012, the UN Human Rights Council adopted **Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights**, which provided for the first time global policy guidelines focusing specifically on the human rights of people living in poverty. It is the first internationally agreed text to stress the central message of 17 October. Extreme poverty exists in every country in the world, and it is both a cause and a consequence of multiple human rights violations.

The challenge is now to:

- Raise awareness of the existence of the Guiding Principles (GPs) – for example through seminars and translations of the text in many different languages
- Explore the implications of GPs for current policies and programmes, whether implemented by governments, UN agencies and other international institutions, non - state actors or NGOs,
- Encourage states and other actors to use the GPs in developing, monitoring, and evaluating their programmes,
- Encourage national human rights institutions and experts to use the GPs as a reference tool in their work.



## Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

# The Irish Committee

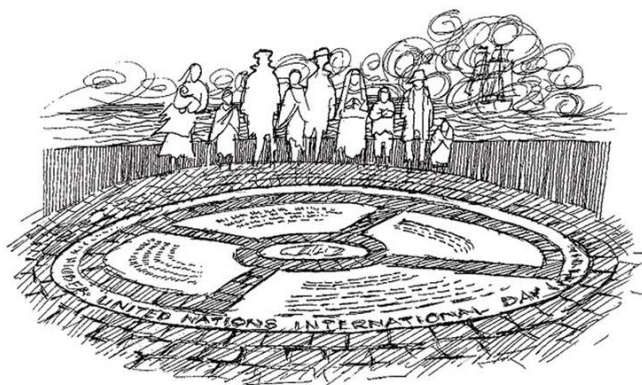
This meeting is organised by the secretariat of the International Committee and also the Irish 17 October Committee which is made up of activists and groups in local communities, teachers, home school liaison officers and members of organisations which include :

- All Together in Dignity – ATD Fourth World Ireland
- Coláiste Eoin
- Daughters of Charity Community Services
- Dochas
- European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland
- Focus Ireland
- Inner City Renewal Group
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
- Irish Refugee Council
- Larkin Community College
- Life Centre, Ballyfermot
- Matt Talbot Community Trust
- Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
- Neighbourhood Youth Project 2 – NYP2
- North West Inner City Training and Development Project
- O'Connell School
- Pavee Point
- Saint Laurence O'Toole's Junior Boys School
- Saol Project
- Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice

Secretariat of Irish Committee:

[atdfourthworld@eircom.net](mailto:atdfourthworld@eircom.net) - 01 855 81 91

[www.17october.ie](http://www.17october.ie)





# How can I support?

- **Tweet a support message!**

Promote the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty! From 12th to 16th

May flood the social networks and tweet the following message:

***Alone you go faster, together we go further. On October 17th, let's join the fight to #endpoverty! @icoct17***

- **Volunteer for the preparation of the next 17 October event.**

Contact Pierre at 089 440 15 23.

- **Follow the biennial meeting on the social networks and spread the information.**

**Twitter:** @icoct17

**Facebook:** facebook.com/overcomingpoverty

**Websites:** www.17october.ie - www.overcomingpoverty.org

- **Donate**

The full cost of the meeting in Dublin is approximately € 21,000 (plane tickets to Ireland included). We still need to find € 3000 to meet the full expenses.

You can donate by sending a cheque payable to 'ATD Fourth World Ireland - 17 October' to ATD, 26, Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1. ATD is a registered charity no. 18 678 and is committed to the highest standard of efficiency and transparency in its financial transactions.

**We thank the sponsors of the International Committee meeting: the Irish Department of Social Protection, the Jesuits' Province of Ireland, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs and the French ATD Foundation.**

