

Meet several members of the International Committee for October 17



Donald Lee has a Ph.D. in Economics from University College London and served as a senior development economist for 20 years with the United Nations. He began his career at the United Nations with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand. He later moved to New York to join the Division for Social Policy and Development in order to head its work on poverty and employment. He helped establish the Youth Employment Network in 2001 and was - until his retirement from the United Nations - a member of its Steering Committee. In recognition of his contribution to poverty issues within the United Nations, Donald Lee was invited to join the International Committee for October 17. He was appointed Chairman of the Committee in 2012. Today, he continues to be an advocate for poverty eradication, social justice and environmentally sustainable economic development through his research, publications and blog (globalsocialchange.com).



Jean Stallings, recently joined the International Committee for October 17. Her experience with poverty is largely based on her life in New York City, from the valleys of New York, to Harlem, and now Jamaica, Queens. But through her work with ATD Fourth World and other organizations, she has been able to interact with people living in poverty throughout the world. Speaking recently at the United Nations in New York, she said: "For everyone who lives in poverty, shame is a pervasive experience. People cannot be empowered unless their basic sense self-worth is protected from the violence of shame. How can we help to make them have hope, to feel empowered, to strive for a productive life? In order to solve these problems, it is important to include people living in poverty in the conversations that lead to social policy and programs. We need to reach out to people, bring them information, and provide anything that can help them overcome shame."



Diana Skelton is Deputy Director General of the International Movement ATD Fourth World. Since 2008 she has been based in France, where she works to coordinate links between people living in extreme poverty and other backgrounds in many countries around the world. Diana was co-author of the report, "Extreme Poverty is Violence - Breaking the Silence - Searching for Peace," the result of a several year international participatory research project including people living in poverty and extreme poverty. She is also primary author of the forthcoming ATD Fourth World publication, "Recognizing Artisans of Peace." Prior to coming to France, Diana worked in Madagascar, coordinating the research and writing behind the report "Working and Learning Together," sponsored by the World Bank. From 1995 to 2004, she was the ATD Fourth World representative to UNICEF and the UN. Originally from Maryland, USA, Diana's work brings her around the world speaking at international conferences and visiting local ATD Fourth World teams. Follow Diana at [@DianaSkelton](https://twitter.com/DianaSkelton). She posts regularly articles on the blog togetherindignity.wordpress.com

On 16th May 2014, Diana Skelton will be guest speaker at the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Designate and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Conference *A Human Rights Approach to Tackling Poverty and Social Inequality - An All Island Perspective* - Newry, Northern Ireland - 9.30am to 4pm

Contact: Pierre Klein (089 440 15 23) from Irish National 17 October Committee