

Message of Welcome
from Lord Mayor of Dublin Oisín Quinn
to The International Committee for October 17

Monday 12th May 2014 – Dublin

Mr. President and Members of the International Committee for October 17.

I am delighted on behalf of the citizens of Dublin to warmly welcome you all to our city for the holding of the 5th biannual meeting of your Committee from 12th to 16th May 2014.

It is a great honour that you have chosen Dublin to mark this auspicious gathering during which you will seek to promote the October 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty which is recognised by the United Nations. In addition you will promote opportunities where people from a variety of backgrounds can work together in the fight against extreme poverty as a violation of human rights.

Coming, as you do, from different countries around the globe, your visit will serve as an important international expression of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty. We here in Ireland have marked the UN International Day every year since 2000, principally at the Commemorative Stone beside the Famine Memorial at the Custom House Quay in the centre of our city.

As Lord Mayor, I was privileged to give an address at the October 17 Commemoration last year. In my speech, I highlighted that there is a lot to be learned from listening to the stories of people who struggle on a daily basis with poverty – people whose voices should be at the table,

designing how the system responds, so that we can eradicate poverty. I stressed this is one of the key things that October 17 tells us, that what is missing from the efforts of developed countries to tackle poverty is quite often the very people they are trying to help.

October 17 should show how each and every day of the year we can strive to implement public policy so as to ensure that all can participate meaningfully in society. That there is equality of opportunity, and that there is an environment which ensures that everyone's basic human rights, especially those whose lives are most difficult, are recognised and respected.

Your visit, Mr. President and fellow members of the International Committee, provides a unique opportunity for this call to be heard over the coming days as you participate in your busy programme of meetings and events.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and encounters during your visit and assure you, on behalf of the people of Dublin, of our continued commitment to and support for the October 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in the future.

Oisín Quinn

Lord Mayor of Dublin