

I'm Belinda and I'm a member of the Irish 17 October Committee. I'm after-care worker in the SAOL project in Dublin.

The SAOL project last year was one of the 13 projects which received a grant from the DSP to raise awareness about the UN day for the Eradication of Poverty

I happen also to be the first Irish representant to be part of the International Committee promoting the spirit of this UN Day. This committee was founded in 2008. It has 18 members from 14 countries around the world.

Today I would like to give you 3 messages:

**1 - The Irish committee starts to meet again in April in Dublin. It's open and infomal. Yourself as an individual or your organisation can join it. Feel welcome!**

2 – The Irish Committee is gratefull to the DSP that the Awareness intitiative fundings exists. It's part of the recommendation of the United Nations to its Member States to do this, but we can be proud that the Irish Government meets this expectation. **So for you, look at the Social Inclusion Unit website in the coming weeks. Be creative to mark and promote 17 October if you decide to do an application.**

**3 – The UN Day can be mark in many ways, funding helps, but this day is about activism, solidarity and commitment.**

This year 17 october will take place just after the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals. Many of you may know it, the year 2015 represents a very important year for the United Nations' and for us all. In September we and the UN are deciding on a new global development framework with goals to be achieved in 2030 everywhere, in Global South as well as in our countries in Global North.

Therefore the theme of next 17 October will tackle the key elements of this transformative post 2015 agenda in the fight to end poverty. These key elements discussed in New York at the United Nations are: sustainability, dignity, human rights, justice and participation.

The next 17 October theme may well be a pledge like the following one:

“Justice and dignity for all:

Ending poverty and transforming our world for a sustainable future”.

I guess many of you will be ready to join this call, but remember what genuinely 17 october is about:

Giving voice to people who know what it means struggling daily against hardships. Listening to them and valuing their courage and expertise. Supporting their fights and hopes in a process to improve our social and inclusion policies.

**Thank you again to the DSP for giving us the floor today.**