



We Need  
Your Smiles  
To Leave  
No One  
Behind!



**Children have a Role to Play!**

'Smiles drawings' wanted to mark the World  
End Poverty Day next 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016.



Dear Teacher,

this info-kit includes information about the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty as well as an invitation for students to carry out an activity ahead of next UN Day.

In September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes 17 goals set aiming to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.



The 17<sup>th</sup> of October is the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. All around the world, people from different backgrounds come together to participate in the movement towards ending poverty, the first goal of the UN sustainability Goals.

In Dublin, we members of the Irish 17 October Committee are organising an event to celebrate the day. Discover us at [www.17october.ie](http://www.17october.ie)!

In Dublin, the Human-rights and Poverty Stone on Custom House Quay is the focal point for the 17<sup>th</sup> of October celebrations (see map below).

A national event will be held on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>, at 11a.m.

This year's theme is **“Growing Together to Leave no one behind”**.

As in other parts of the world, the focus will be on listening to the stories of courage of those who are living in poverty, and to acknowledge the struggles they face as well as their role as leaders of social justice.

We will also be welcoming **President Higgins** to the event, who will join us in listening and reacting to these stories. There will be music and refreshments.

One of our Committee members, **All Together in Dignity (ATD)**, is international human-rights organisation that reaches out to vulnerable families, those living in poverty and those at an educational disadvantage. It was founded 60 years ago in France by Joseph Wresinski, who is also the man who gathered for the first time 100,000 human-rights defenders on **17 October 1987**.



Joseph Wresinski was convinced that children have an important role in the movement to eradicate poverty. He called children “the champions of joy” and he created the **international children network Taporí** (<http://en.taporí.org/>).

By giving them an understanding of what poverty is, and empowering and inspiring them to take action against it, we are nurturing the advocates of social change of the future. As such, we wanted to create an age appropriate activity that would establish their presence at the event, making sure to maintain a positive tone.

The following section of this info-kit introduces an activity for your student to carry out.

**We invite you and your students to take part in the 17<sup>th</sup> of October celebrations.**

We invite children to create a drawing of something that they believe will bring happiness to those attending the event, creating a display of solidarity with people living in poverty.

These ‘smile drawings’ will be laminated and hung up on the trees near the Human-rights and Poverty Stone on Custom House Quay, Dublin 1

We ask that the drawings are on **A4 paper**, either white or coloured.

Please ensure the name of your school, the student’s name and age, and a short explanation of their drawing are included on the reverse of the drawing.

Please send the “Smile Drawings”, **unfolded**, to:  
Taporí - ATD, 26 Mountjoy Square East, Dublin 1,  
**by Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.**  
**Thank you for your participation.**

*Bernadette Mac Mahon DC*     *Mark Hogan*     *Martin Byrne*     *Sean Dunne*

**Bernadette  
MacMahon DC**  
Vincentian Partnership  
for Social Justice

**Mark Hogan**  
All Together in Dignity

**Martin Byrne**  
Life Centre Ballyfermot

**Sean Dunne**  
North West Inner City  
Training and  
Development Project

*The Irish 17 October Committee is an open coalition of activists and groups in local communities, teachers, home school liaison officers and members of anti-poverty NGOs.*

## Additional Information

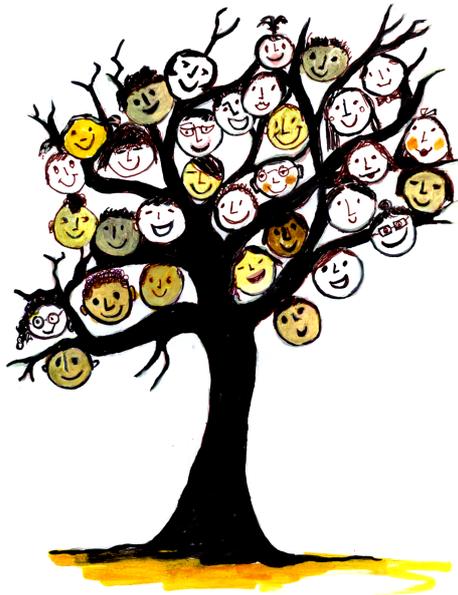
For more information refer to our facebook page

[www.facebook.com/EndPovertyDayIreland/](http://www.facebook.com/EndPovertyDayIreland/) or our website [www.17october.ie](http://www.17october.ie)

You may also be interested in viewing this short video taken at the 17<sup>th</sup> of October events in 2014 and 2015: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7b-fDCmNvRU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7b-fDCmNvRU)

The Human-rights and Poverty Stone on Custom House Quay  
is located near the famine memorial.





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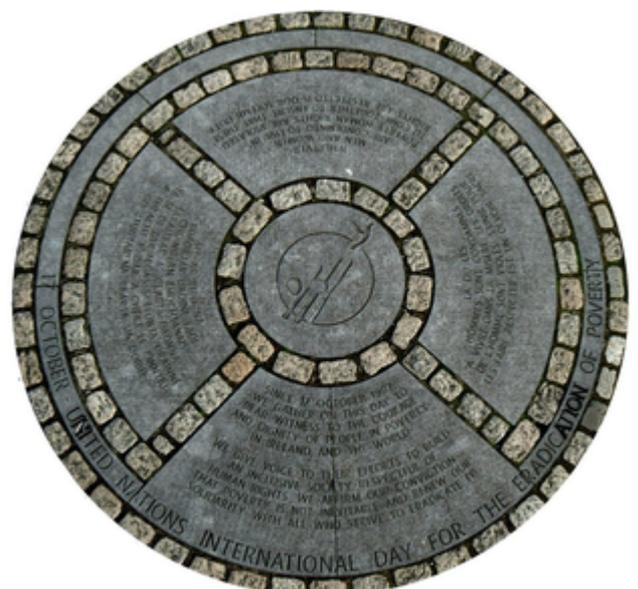
**What should you know about the 17<sup>th</sup> October?**

The 17<sup>th</sup> October is a special day all over the world. It is called:

## **The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

This is the day we say poverty in the world should end. We also remember that by working together we can make sure that one day it disappears.

In Dublin, people will meet near a special 17 October stone beside the river Liffey to listen to the stories of courage of people living in poverty.



## Children, you have a Role to Play!

One man who wanted to have a day where people join together to get rid of poverty was Joseph Wresinski. As a child he and his family had to struggle a lot because they were living in poverty. Later, Joseph believed that children had an important role in fighting poverty, and he had a special message for them. He said:

**“You can find ways to make the world a better place and get rid of poverty”**

One very special thing children can bring are smiles, joy and friendship to those they meet, their family, the other children at their school... This is important because when we are joyful this gives courage to others and brings people together.

## We can do this every day!

### What can we do for this special day?

We are asking you, school-children in Ireland, to draw a picture of something that they believe will bring happiness to the people gathered at the “End Poverty Day” event in Dublin.

It could be a drawing of your favourite people, heroe, animal, place, sport or hobby, or about your favourite song.

Draw what makes you happy, be imaginative and be sure to use lots of colours!

We will call these drawings the 'Smile Drawings'. They will be hanging up on the trees near the 17 October stone and the Famine Statues, like beautiful fruits.

From Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> to the Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October anyone who walks on the Custom House Quay by will be able to see them and smile!

As Joseph Wresinski said:

**“You the children are suns that sing,  
who laugh to cheer up those who are sad,  
you are lucky because every year your heart  
grows bigger and bigger”**

Thank you to you, the children! We can't wait to see all the beautiful drawings that you send us!

The Tapori Team

