



Texts compiled by  
17october.ie Committee

## Highlights of the End Poverty Day Gathering

17 October 2017

Dublin

### The Lord Mayor

Dear friends, dear Ambassadors, dear represents of projects and community groups from all over the country, and dear Dubliners.

As Lord Mayor of Dublin, I am honoured to welcome you on this special day in the heart of our city, here, in the North Inner City, where so many people can be proud of all the efforts they make to prepare a better future for their children and all their families.



For the next hour we are coming together to commemorate a community event, as well as a national event and an international event livestreamed now worldwide as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Call to Action launched by Joseph Wresinski on the 17 October 1987 in Paris.

It's great to feel connected today to so many cities, towns or villages around the world which are also marking the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

I'm honoured to welcome Ambassador David Donoghue. I guess that history books will remember that an Irish Ambassador together with a Kenyan colleague changed our common future in the Summer 2015. Together they lead 193 to agree on the most ambitious and best ever plan for a sustainable future for people and the planet.

I know many of you prepared for today "Global Goals Boats" to symbolise the hope and the mobilisation this new agenda is generating!

Thank you for your work and creativity! You have brought these boats in a very special place. Here, so close to the Famine Statues and in front of me, the Human Rights and Poverty Stone which gives to our City a role and a responsibility to ending poverty.

This Stone invites us to remember all the people we know who struggled every day because of poverty, many of whom, have left us too early. This Stone is also a powerful call to come together for social justice.

So this Stone is very special for Dublin and I know that, in 2018, next year, we will mark the 10th anniversary of its unveiling. 2018 will also be the year of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a text at the heart of the message engraved on the Stone.



Let's start to prepare these anniversaries and let's be even more, here, next year on 17 October 2018.

As all my predecessors expressed it in the past years, I can assure you that the city of Dublin will pay special attention to this very special place and now the 10th anniversary of our Human Rights and Poverty Stone. I look forward to starting the

work with the Irish 17 October Committee and with all citizens in Dublin for whom the Stone which is here before us is so important!

But today, it's the 30th anniversary of its "mother" Stone on the Human Rights Plaza in Paris on the 17 October 1987 that we are marking.

My last words will be words of recognition to those who will honour this event by sharing their personal testimonies. You will tell us the ways in which you contribute to the life of your families, your communities and to the fight against poverty.

The fact that so many of us come here today, on a Tuesday morning just after Storm Ophelia hit Ireland, to listen to your words, your songs and music, and your silence are for me a symbol of hope for a better future.

It is also the obvious sign of the need to come together. Everyone from the grassroots people working in their communities, to our best ambassadors, to learn from you and act together.

It's a great pleasure to be here today to mark this special day the 17<sup>th</sup> of October when we focus on the struggle to end and eradicate poverty globally and of course at home here in Ireland because everything global starts local.

The symbol that you use, the hand, to stop poverty could also be join by the clenched fist of solidarity because we won't end poverty, we won't end the causes of poverty without solidarity, without working together to end injustice and to build a better future.

Go raibh mile mile maith agaibh.

## **Messages of Hope**

### *Misean Cara*

- Misean Cara is a faith lead missionary movement a global movement supported by Irish Aid, we are delighted to be here and we believe that there are pathways out of poverty and we thank you.

### *Rush and Lusk Educate Together*

- We are from Rush and Lusk Educate Together and we have been working really hard to build our boat. Our boat represents Goal 6 clean water and sanitation and Goal 14, life under water. All our class have written down their hopes and wishes on patches and we have sown them together to make a sail. We hope to spread our hopes far and wide to make this a reality.

### *Maire-anne - ATD Volunteer*

- It's a family enterprise, its life under water, life started under water and everybody needs water. It gives food and employment to millions.



### *Coolmine House*

- My name is Mark and I'm a recovering drug addict and I'm here with the Coolmine house project. We made our boat today and our boat represents poverty. There's a lot of support here today and there's a lot of hope and there's a lot of places in the city that are here to help drug addicts and people in recovery.



### *Val - INOUI*

- Poverty is like an epidemic affecting every corner of the world. From Deli to Dublin it's relentless. Our boat is shaped like a coffin to represent the death of poverty and the negative nets symbolise our hope for a world free of the effects of poverty. The nets contain things like death, hunger, depression, hardship, famine and disease all of which can be directly attributed to poverty. We say death to poverty! Up the flats!

### *Terry Smith - ATD Volunteer*

- The cause that I'm speaking for is justice. There is no problem there is only solutions. Love light and peace.

### *Kayleigh - NYP2*

- When we were building our boat with the young people we asked them what they hoped for and when talking about ending poverty they went back to the basics such as they said they hoped that everybody, every kid has a pair of shoes to put on. They hoped that every kid could go to school and had a school bag. That goes right back to the basics and shows that it's the small things that add up and we hope that our communities can work together and continue to inspire young people as they inspire us to work together to end poverty.

### *Filipe - MRCI*

- Good morning, my name is Filipe. I'm representing the Migrants Rights Centre Ireland. As an Organisation our main goal is to provide empowerment, justice, rights for all migrants that are living in Ireland. With our boat we would like to express our solidarity with all people who are experiencing social exclusion mainly migrants, undocumented migrants and fishermen. We wish to express and create pathways out of poverty in Ireland and throughout the whole world.



### *Lucy and James - school children*

- Hello, our names are Lucy and James. We wish to speak on behalf of the schools who could not get here today to launch their global goal boats of hope and express their own hopes for a better and fairer world for everyone. The schools who wanted to but could not come today include; Castlemartyre National School Co.Cork, Newtown White Kilsallagh Co.Mayo, Greencastle National School Co.Donegal, Carnaross National School Kells Co.Meath, Balbriggan and Tyrrelstown, ET National Schools Co.Dublin, Mater Hospital Primary School Dublin. They hope that this event is a success and that the rest of the world can play their part in making the world a fairer place for everyone. Did you know that even a small amount of money spent on weapons and nuclear bombs could eradicate poverty on our planet? Thank you.

### *Philip - NWICTDP*

- Good morning, thanks for coming out this morning, my name is Philip and I'm from the North West Inner City Training and Development Programme. We tried everything with our boat, submarines, everything we tried so we just wrapped something up in plastic and hopefully it floats. My hope for today was after last night for a bit of that stuff up in the sky today.



# Something Inside So Strong



The higher you build your barriers  
The taller I become  
The farther you take my rights away  
The faster I will run  
You can deny me  
You can decide to turn  
your face away  
No matter, cos there's....

**Something inside so strong  
I know that I can make it  
Tho' you're doing me wrong,  
so wrong  
You thought that my pride  
was gone  
Oh no, something inside  
so strong  
Oh oh oh oh oh something  
inside so strong**

The more you refuse  
to hear my voice  
The louder I will sing  
You hide behind walls of Jericho

Your lies will come tumbling  
Deny my place in time  
You squander wealth that's mine  
My light will shine so brightly  
It will blind you  
Cos there's.....

## **Chorus**

Brothers and sisters  
When they insist we're just not good enough  
When we know better  
Just look 'em in the eyes and say  
I'm gonna do it anyway [x4]

## **Chorus**

**David Donoghue - Former Irish Ambassador to the UN - co-facilitator of the Agenda 2030 Agreement**

Today is the UNs End Poverty Day and it's particularly fitting that we should have this wonderful event today to draw attention to the need to end poverty but also to the Global Goals. To me it's very touching that we have the mini-boats prepared and planned by so many groups around the country. We are all setting out on a

journey to 2030 together so this imagine of the boats which these wonderful people from different parts of the country have put together, this imagine is really the most beautiful imagine you can imagine that we are all setting out to achieve those goals worldwide.



Thank you very much everyone for coming, I should say that I've rarely been as impressed by the commitment and passion of ordinary people to implement these goals and we've just heard from each of the groups what brought them to build and to plan a mini-boat that's the kind of spirit we need, not just in Ireland but all over the world and I'm confident that with that spirit we will get the goals achieved. Thank you very much.

## This land is made for you and me

"This Land Is Your Land" is one of the United States' most famous folk songs. Its lyrics were written by American folk singer Woody Guthrie in 1940 based on an existing melody, a Carter Family tune called "When the World's on Fire". Text below has been written/adapted by Fergus McCabe

**This land is your land  
this land is my land  
From Europe's plains  
to Asia's highlands**

**From American shores  
to African Islands**

**This land is made  
for you and me**

We share this world this world is one  
Its lands and seas to us all belong,  
To deny this truth is just all wrong

This land is made for you and me

### Chorus

Throughout this world  
migrants are crying  
Throughout this world  
refugees are dying  
Throughout this world many are denying  
That this land is made for you and me

### Chorus

The land of the brave,  
home of the free'  
Use to welcome migrants and refugees  
Now angry voices disagree  
That this land was made  
for you and me

### Chorus

Yes we live in troubled times,



But hope and history  
will one day rhyme  
And the bells of justice they will chime

That this land was made  
for you and me

**Chorus**



## We are humanity – NYP2 band

I come from Eritrea,  
and we come from Poland,  
We come from Mauritius,  
and we from Ireland.  
We all live together,  
in peace and harmony  
Here in Dublin city,  
we are humanity.

**We are one ,  
but we are many,  
We come,  
from every land and sea,  
We share a dream,  
and sing with one voice,  
I will, you will,  
we'll end world poverty**

We gather here together,  
on this October day,  
We want the world to listen,  
to what we've got to say,  
Millions live in hunger,  
millions live in fear,

The cries of children dying,  
some refuse to hear.

**Chorus**

Yes, we must all stand together, or at  
least we must all try.  
To help our fellow human beings, and  
listen to their cry.  
So let's stand beside our refugees, and  
keep an open door  
Let's open up our hearts  
and minds,  
and stand beside the poor.

**Chorus**

Let's make the world  
a better place, where everybody shares,  
Where peace and justice they prevail,  
and everybody cares.  
We can talk about our values, and  
preach solidarity ,  
But we are all just hypocrites, unless we  
end world poverty.



## Testimonies

### *North West Inner City Training and Development Programme*



### ALL AT SEA

Trying to keep afloat  
Opportunities sail away  
Trying to get somewhere  
Navigating through obstacles  
Trying to keep head above water  
Without sinking  
Avoiding .....icebergs  
Crowd around me  
Man overboard

### WE'RE ALL OVERBOARD

Drifting  
Carried away by a current  
Not known where we are going  
out of control  
ruthless  
At the mercy of greedy captains  
AND SHIVERING SEAS  
A mass of desperation  
fighting against the current

sending up flares  
Jhoping to be seen  
whistling, hoping to be heard  
hoping in a life jacket  
Pin case we capsize  
no longer a third world  
now a third of the world  
AND GROWING

getting weaker  
more powerless  
as we drift  
he sense of sharks below  
CIRCLING

Waiting to pick us off

But there is strength in our suffering  
There is strength in our numbers  
Strength in our numbers  
Strength in our unity  
One voice becomes a mighty roar  
Raging against the this strength of uncertainly  
And we are roaring now  
It will echo  
AND WE WILL BE HEARD

### ***Migrant Rights Centre Ireland***

I am from MRCI and I am a fisherman myself. My name is Kelvin. My speech will focus on poverty and discrimination and racism. As an immigrant I've really experienced a lot of issues in workplace, in school centers and social places. I came into the country in 2016. I was very privileged I was given the same privileged I sat the same JC and the same LC as everyone else.

The poverty of not being able to afford school in Ghana or higher education was gone when I came to Ireland and I was really really happy with that. I came here with no English and today I can really read and write. I just want to highlight a few points on immigrants working in different sectors in Ireland. I worked like four years in the fishing industry and in fact there's a lot that really goes in.

Today we see all the boats that we made floating in the sea but there really are a lot of things that are hidden in the industry. Immigrants are really paid low wages. I give a life experience. I used to work in a boat with 3 Egyptians and 2 Irish lads. Sometimes before we set out to go fishing and they'd be handing us our safety boots and equipment and I'd see my skipper handing out the brand new stuff to the Irish guys.



And then the ones that had a little wear and tear used to be given to us immigrants. One thing that used to really upset me was we all worked equally but we all don't get paid equally. When we work we spend maybe 10 days, 14 days on the ship. And when we come back to shore everybody is handed their cheque. One thing is we all don't have the same thing in our cheque. Some come back from sea and they might have a cheque of 2 grand for the whole month. Some might rent a hostel or a house and there whole cheque would be gone on rent. They will not be able to afford to send money to families at home or whatever. This really upset me.

Wage discrimination was really really common in my industry. Someone might ask me today what has that got to do with poverty? If one guy is paid 200 euro and one guy is paid 700euro do you really think they both have the same means to live. They can not do that. Today my speech I'm trying to call everyone to pay equal and respective pay to each and every work that would be amazing.

There is something I want to take this opportunity to speak about and that is discrimination and racism. And this is from my own personal experience. You know if we were gonna say No to Racism with just our mouths and not think how we are going to solve our problems, the problems will still exist, they will never be gone. What I really say is we all have an ambition to stop poverty lets start at our workplace.

Poverty starts with the money we earn that comes into our pocket. If we can all start getting equal pay for the same job then that can be a step to stop poverty. Thank you all.



## ***Community Action Network***

My name is Helen: I've been in recovery for seven years now. I got involved with service users rights through Community Action Network.

I see people presenting themselves for treatment and I see how they are treated. When they go to access treatment they have to urinate in front of somebody and most of the time there's mirrors in front of them. So not only are they urinating in front of somebody but they can see all around the back of them and things. Now this is not human rights compliant. And its the only service that has to give a urine to prove that you need help. There's no other service like that in the HSE. If I go to James to get medication I'm not asked to urinate in front of someone because I live with an illness.



I started working with Community Action Network. who raised these issues because I just see the stigma that goes with being in addiction and its across all the board. I interviewed 50 methadone users last year, out on the streets and in the different services.

And the things that kept coming up were the lack of opportunity in accessing employment, education and the frustration that most of their time is taken up with going to these places. Everybody deserves to live with dignity and live a better life. But for this group, the stigma that goes with addiction is really prevalent in society. There's people, as I stand here speaking to you that are in these services and they've no treatment options, and the poverty that goes with that. Nobody thinks of them, who is their voice? Because there somebodies mother, someones daughter, friend.

That's why I got involved with this campaign because I really think more should be done on a national level around human rights. People say the lack money is the root of all evil. It's the lack of encouragement instead of being

stuck in addiction for years and years. For this group the stigma that goes with addiction is really too prevalent in this society! Everybody deserves to live with dignity, have a better quality of life and deserves encouragement.

## ***All Together in Dignity***

Hello everybody

My name is Belinda, I'm representing Ireland in the International Committee for the UN End Poverty Day. I will read this on behalf of Lynn and Sandra who can't be with us today.

Lynn and Sandra wrote this for you today: "This year is a special year. We are writing a book with a group of friends and activists who have an experience of hardship.

We wrote this testimony based on what we said in the book. Although we have got homes today, the consequences of our years of homelessness left marks on us and our families.

We think anyone that's been homeless is very brave from being on the streets with kids for so long. When you're dragging kids from here to there, it's very hard.



We had to keep going because of our children. We didn't have the choice. We had to look after them and protect them. When you are a mother with your kids in the street you overcompensate because of the guilt, especially when you are an addict, you blame yourself because you think you didn't give your kids the right tools in life.

Our children remember being homeless, but they don't remember the bad time because we never let them have bad times. We never let them without a meal. We were always trying to keep them going to school.

Today, we have a house.

Our children are adults now but some of them are still at home, some ask us to come back because they were homeless. We live with them and our grand children too . You can never say no to your children, so of course we welcome them.

They are old enough now, they should have their own place. They don't have work. For some of them, they never got a chance to learn a skill or a trade because of our past of homelessness or times when they were locked up.

Homelessness is like history repeating itself but it's bad history that you don't want repeated for your children.

Being homeless takes your dignity away, your dignity is gone. You don't think you have much inside your four walls but at least you have your serenity and your dignity behind it. It doesn't matter if you are sitting there clattering your teeth. At least you have somewhere to go. It makes a difference.

We are always affected by what happened in our past. The effects and trauma are long term.

Today we are worried about our children and their future. We never want to see them go without and that is part of being a mother.

We are worried for all the children and parents who face homelessness, they need homes, but we want to say that rehousing people is not enough : we need long term support such as education, stability and healthcare.

## **Stéphane Crouzat - French Ambassador**

“ I will read the original text proclaimed exactly 30 years ago on 17 October 1987. This text is very significant in France because it stands in a very symbolic place, it stand on the Trocadero, it's right in front of the Eiffel Tower which is one of the most visited places in Paris. This text was proclaimed by Simone Veil, who was a very important figure in France. She died a few months ago but was a key woman of recent French history. She was a holocaust survivor she was the minister for health and she was the first female president of the European Parliament and she is now buried in the most famous memorial hall in France that celebrate great figures of our country.

The text on the Paris Stone is:

Le 17 octobre 1987,  
des défenseurs des droits de l'homme et du citoyen de tous pays se sont rassemblés sur ce parvis à Paris, place du Trocadéro.  
Ils ont rendu hommage aux victimes de la faim, de l'ignorance et de la violence.  
Ils ont affirmé leur conviction que la misère n'est pas fatale.



Ils ont proclamé leur solidarité avec ceux qui luttent à travers le monde pour la détruire.



And the text ends by what is known as the "17 October 1987 Call to Action" which you find also engraved in French here on the Dublin Stone :  
Là où des hommes sont condamnés à vivre dans la misère,  
les droits de l'homme sont violés.  
S'unir pour les faire respecter est un devoir sacré.  
Joseph Wresinski

In English: On the 17th of October 1987, defenders of human and civil rights from every continent gathered on this plaza. They paid homage to the victims of hunger, ignorance and violence. They affirmed their conviction that human misery is not inevitable. They pledged their solidarity with all people who, throughout the world, strive to eradicate extreme poverty.

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

