



# The 2016-2030 Long Walk To Freedom

3<sup>rd</sup> Human Rights Day Candlelit March – 10 December 2017 5.30pm



# The Long Walk to Freedom

## Human Rights for all with the 17 Global Goals

On **Human Rights Day** (10th December), ATD Ireland is organising the "**Long Walk to Freedom**". This is the third in a series of symbolic walks that are taking place each year from 2015 to 2030 on Human Rights Day!

The "Long Walk to Freedom" is symbolic of the long walk ahead of us to achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals**. These are a set of 17 Goals, agreed by countries all over the world, including Ireland, to make the world we live in a better place by the year 2030.

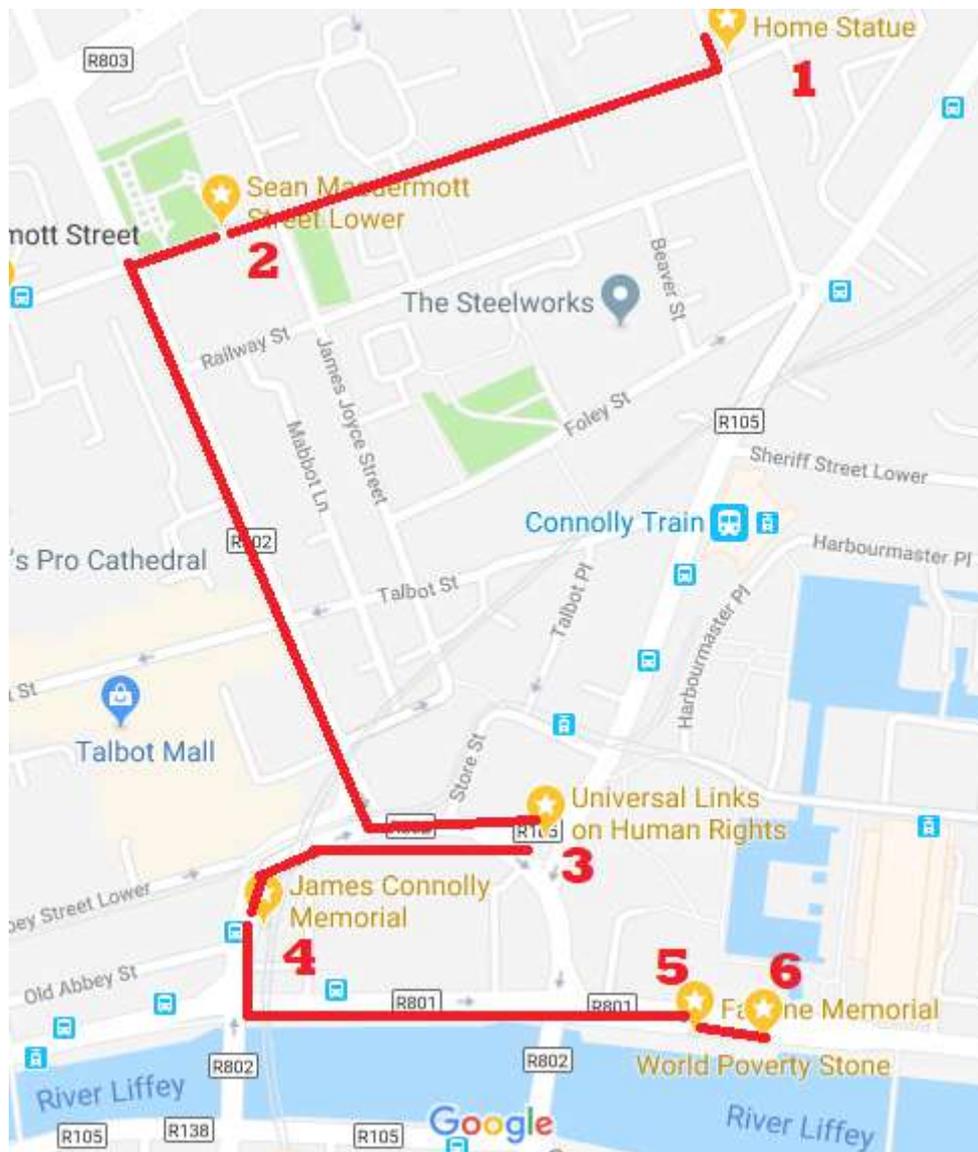
The walk will be the third in a series of 15 in the coming 13 years (the first was held 2015). This "long term" perspective is a clear call to elected representatives to start a transformative process. Time and challenges ahead of us can no longer be about securing mandates and positions from one election to the next.

The **Global Goals** are a part of the legacy of Human Rights Defenders from all over the world. We especially remember Nelson Mandela who's Long Walk to Freedom is the inspiration for the long walk we must now undertake. Mandela will be marching with us wherever he is!

There are many messages in this symbolic walk:

- We have a long walk ahead of us to achieve the **2030 Agenda** and the **#GlobalGoals** and we need to prioritise a Human Rights framework for their implementation;
- Now is the time to recognise the indivisibility and interdependence of **Human Rights**. Today there is a clear need to advocate for all rights as interconnected and to increase the protection of **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (such as Housing or Health)** as well as reduce inequalities which are weakening the provision of rights;
- Recognise the legacy of all Human Rights defenders who fought and died in the past: the leaders as well as the most vulnerable who suffered and died and who were the first Human Rights defenders in their daily lives;

The walk is taking place in **Dublin 1**. All the stops are of significance to the history of the North Inner City. The community of Dublin 1 have for many decades been involved in the fight for Human Rights. This vibrant community is steeped in a history that has had to continually fight for human rights to be respected. Many great **activists** and **human rights defenders** have come from this community and we honour them by continuing their long walk here today.



- 1- Home Memorial
- 2- Magdalene Laundry
- 3- Universal Links on Human Rights
- 4- James Connolly Statue
- 5- Famine Statues
- 6- Human Rights and Poverty Stone

The organisation of the 2017 “Long Walk to Freedom” is supported by a small grant of the Impact fund for the Dublin North Inner City!



# The Home Memorial

The first stop is at the **Home Memorial**. In 2000 North Inner City Dublin received the world's first memorial to victims of heroin addiction. The sculpture, entitled 'Home', was unveiled by President Mary McAleese at a special ceremony to commemorate all the people who have died due to heroin overdose.



The memorial was designed in conjunction with relatives of those who have died from heroin, and depicts a flame of hope behind an open door.

Around 150 people from the north inner city alone are known to have died from heroin overdoses in the past 20 years.

The sculpture is located at the junction of Buckingham Street and Sean McDermott Street near the Five Lamps, a site once notorious for open drug dealing. It stands defiant as a constant reminder that this community will continue to fight for their human rights.

# The Dublin Magdalene Laundry

The second stop is at the site of a **Dublin Magdalene Laundry**. From the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922 until 1996, at least 10,000 girls and women were imprisoned, forced to carry out unpaid labour and subjected to severe psychological and physical abuse in Ireland's Magdalene Institutions.

Run by mostly female religious orders, the laundries were punitive institutions. After 1922, the Magdalene Laundries were operated by four religious orders in ten different locations around Ireland. The last Magdalene Laundry closed its doors on the 25th October, 1996.

The women and girls incarcerated in the Magdalene Laundries included unmarried mothers, the daughters of unmarried mothers, those who were considered a burden on their families or the State, those who had been sexually abused, or who had grown up in the care of the Church and State.

By the late 19th and early 20th century, Catholic religious institutions in Ireland had developed an extensive network of control over women and children by establishing more Laundries, as well as industrial schools and mother and baby homes. Here human rights abuses were rife as the girls were subjected to horrendous working conditions and punishments.

Today we remember the victims and survivors of the systematic abuse of human rights that took place in Magdalene Laundries throughout the country.



# The Universal Links on Human Rights Sculpture

The third stop on our 'Long Walk to Freedom' is the **Universal Links on Human Rights**. This is a memorial sculpture located on the traffic island at the junction of Amiens St and Memorial Road.

It is a sphere of welded interlinked chains and bars, housing an eternal flame in its center. It was commissioned by Amnesty International in 1995 and designed by Tony O'Malley. The sculpture represents the jails holding prisoners of conscience.



The inscription around the base of the sculpture reads:

***“The candle burns not for us but for all those  
whom we failed to rescue from prison.  
Who were tortured. Who were kidnapped.  
Who disappeared. That is what the candle is for.”***

This monument is of great significance to all those fighting to defend human rights, here in Ireland and all over the world. We must remember the lives and achievements of inspirational people who were killed because they worked peacefully for the rights of others. This memorial also ensures that we never forget the horrific scale of human rights abuses taking place every day and the failure to bring those responsible to justice.

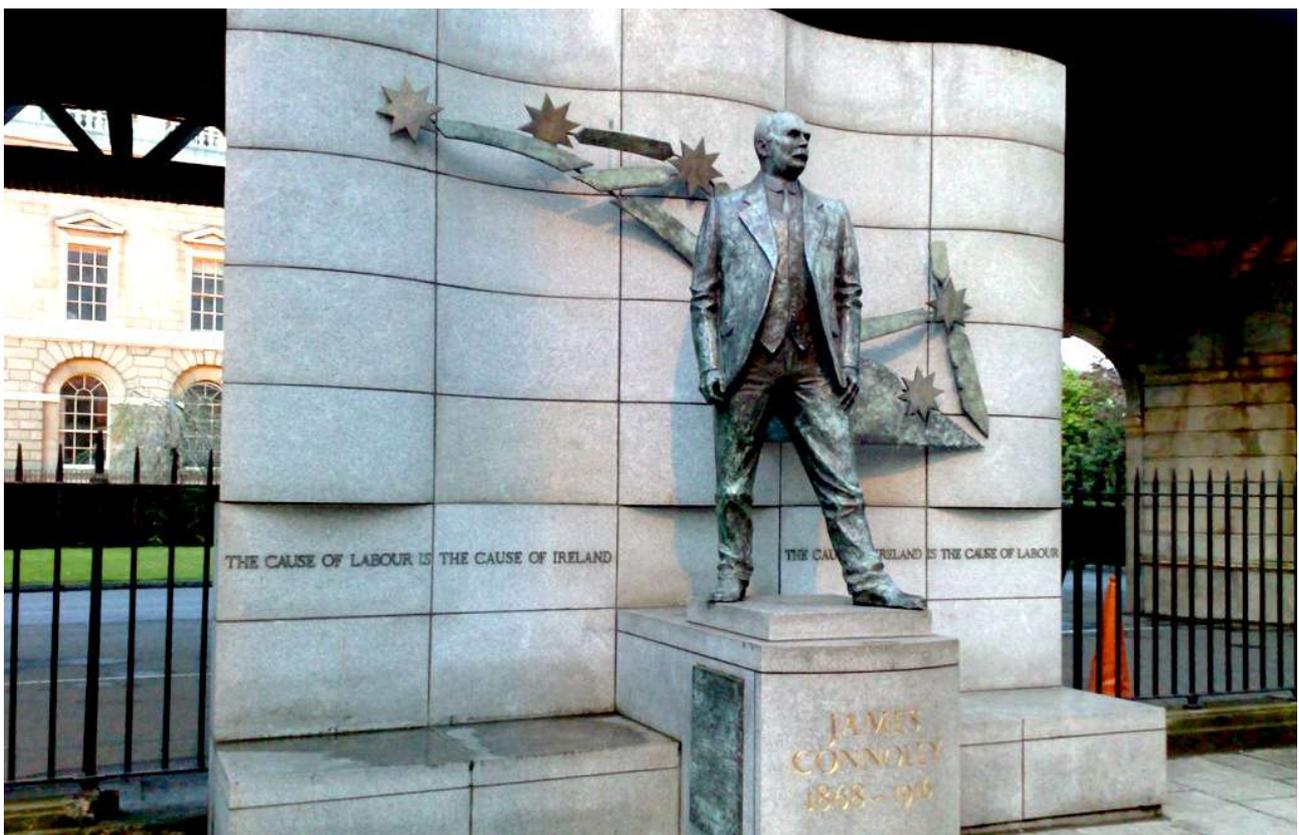
# The James Connolly Statue

The statue of **James Connolly** is the fourth stop on our 'Long Walk to Freedom'. Connolly was one of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation and represents the fight for freedom.

Co-founder of the Labour Party in 1912, Connolly would unite Catholic and Protestant colleagues against employers as the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union battled for workers' rights - resulting in the notorious Dublin Lock-out of 1913. Here he sought to protect the rights of Dublin's working class.

Connolly was instrumental in establishing the Citizen Army in 1913 and on Easter Monday, 1916, he led his Citizen Army alongside the Volunteers under Padraig Pearse. The wording of the Proclamation is said to be heavily influenced by Connolly's rhetoric.

He was executed by a firing squad in Kilmainham Gaol at dawn on May 12, 1916 while strapped to a chair. His final resting place is at Arbour Hill cemetery, Dublin. In the decades following independence, his name was given to schools, hospitals and one of Dublin's central train stations and today we remember that legacy.



# The Famine Statues

Our fourth stop brings us to the **Famine Statues** on Dublin's Custom House Quay. These statues were designed by Dublin sculptor Rowan Gillespie and presented to the City of Dublin in 1997. The statues commemorate the Irish Famine (1845-1849).

During the famine approximately 1 million people died and a million more emigrated from Ireland, causing a dramatic drop in the island's population. The very graphic and sad statues represent the starving, dying population of Ireland, as they try to reach Dublin Port to escape and avoid an almost certain death in Ireland.



No event in history has had a more profound effect on Ireland than the Great Irish Famine. The cause of the Famine was a potato disease commonly known as potato blight. The impact and human cost in Ireland was so high because one third of the population was entirely dependent on the potato for food. This was further exacerbated by the extreme poverty experienced by the Irish people.

This year marks the **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the unveiling of the statues** and this walk is an opportunity to mark this and remember all those who died during this time. We also remember the thousands of Irish people forced to immigrate. They fought for their rights to be respected as they struggled to build new lives as immigrants.

This is very relevant as today we must welcome refugees fleeing from persecution in countries all around the world. It is our common duty to respect the rights of refugees and ensure they are treated with dignity when they arrive in this country.

# The Human Rights and Poverty Stone

The final stop on our 'Long Walk to Freedom' is at the **Human Rights and Poverty Stone**.

On 17 October 1987, in the presence of 100,000 activists, **Joseph Wresinski**, founder of the International Movement All Together in Dignity – ATD ([www.atdireland.ie](http://www.atdireland.ie)), unveiled a Commemorative Stone on the Trocadero Human Rights Plaza in Paris. On this marble Wresinski's call is engraved:

***“Wherever men and women are condemned to live in poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights are respected is our solemn duty.”***



On the 17th October 2008 the Human Rights and Poverty Stone was unveiled here in Dublin bearing the same call Wresinski made in Paris. On the 17th October every year, we come together in Ireland and around the world in friendship and solidarity with those who face chronic and severe poverty, honouring their struggles and renewing our determination to work for a world where everyone's human rights and human dignity is respected.

More about the Stone and the mobilisation  
on each UN End Poverty Day: [www17october.ie](http://www17october.ie)

# The 2012 UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights: A Human Rights Framework for 17 Goals

In September 2012, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the **Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights**. They provide global policy guidelines focusing specifically on the human rights of people living in poverty. It is the first internationally agreed text to stress that severe poverty exists in every country in the world, and it is both a **cause and a consequence of multiple human rights violations**.



On 25 September 2015, after crucial work by the Irish Ambassador at the UN, world leaders have agreed to 17 Global Goals to achieve **major transformations in the next 15 years: end extreme poverty, fight inequalities and injustices, limit climate change and protect the planet**. The historic 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development can make all this possible in all countries and for all people.

***“It is my hope that by 2030, we will look back on the 25th of September 2015 as a decisive moment in global history; a moment when the nations of the world united to secure peace, to deliver freedom, equality and human rights for all and to eradicate poverty and hunger, to achieve a human flourishing in a sustainable and peaceful planet in all its diversity.”***

The President of Ireland,  
Michael D Higgins, 24 Sept 2015



1957-2017: 60 years of **hope** against poverty

*“I am not discouraged in spite of the scope of extreme poverty. I have been through everything that the poor have to go through, all they have endured. Yet I have always spoken these words of hope: extreme poverty does not have to exist. Human beings create it and they are the ones who can put an end to it.”*

Joseph Wresinksi, Founder of ATD, June 1987

**All Together in Dignity Ireland prepared the 3<sup>rd</sup> “Long Walk to Freedom” of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017.** ATD Ireland is member of an international Human Rights movement that works through grass-roots projects in partnership with people living in poverty. All around the world, ATD groups remain focused on constantly reaching out to the most vulnerable families, those who have a long history of poverty and educational disadvantage even in the so-called developed countries. For the past 17 years, **ATD in Ireland** has been close to family members facing persistent poverty and struggling daily to live in dignity, mainly in the Dublin area!

#### **Join ATD Ireland's four Human-Rights Campaigns:**

- ATD is member of the Irish Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Initiative which will campaign in 2018 for **the strengthening of a Right to Housing in the Irish Constitution.** ([www.escr-irl.org](http://www.escr-irl.org))
- ATD is member of the Irish Community Platform which will focus work in 2018 on **the right to adequate and quality health care** (Slainte Care reform). ([www.communityplatform.ie](http://www.communityplatform.ie))
- As the international community will mark 2018 as the year of the **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ATD will continue to raise awareness about the **2012 UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty & Human Rights.** ([www.17october.ie/human-rights](http://www.17october.ie/human-rights))
- The Irish Government is preparing **a new multi-annual anti-poverty strategy.** ATD will campaign to make sure the strategy is based on a strong Human Rights-based approach.
- Support this work and volunteer at **[www.weareone2017.org](http://www.weareone2017.org)**



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
#STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS



STAND UP  
FOR SOMEONE'S  
RIGHTS TODAY

[www.standup4humanrights.org](http://www.standup4humanrights.org)  
[www.weareone2017.org](http://www.weareone2017.org)



Time has come to #WalkAs1  
to #StopPoverty [weareone2017.org](http://www.weareone2017.org)