



**INTERNATIONAL
DAY for the
ERADICATION
of POVERTY**
17 OCTOBER



OCTOBER

17

GLOBAL GOALS

17th October 2018

**Texts Compiled
by the Irish 17th October Committee
Highlights of the End Poverty Day Gathering**

www.17october.ie



An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection



This event was organised by the **Irish 17 October Committee** with the support of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection under the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2018 Public Awareness Initiative. The views expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

Letter from President Michael D. Higgins, read by Calvin D'Arcy Kanda



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



I would like to send my best wishes to all those taking part in the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The theme for this year's International Day is: ***“Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity”***. Seventy years after the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris, let us not forget that global hunger is one of the greatest human rights violations of the 21st century. We know that the source of hunger today is not lack of food, but poverty created and sustained by stark inequalities across the world.

If we are to truly stand in solidarity with our most vulnerable and marginalized fellow global citizens we must also stand, together, against the unrestrained impulses of greed and insatiable consumption, which the consequent division, domination, hatred and intolerance that leads to such abuse of human rights.

The work of human rights campaigning and advocacy has never been more important or more challenging. This year's theme for the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty invites us to work together to support and promote equality, justice and respect for the fundamental human rights of citizens across the globe.

Yours sincerely,

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland

Address from Dublin's Lord Mayor, Nial Ring

"Go raibh maith agaibh go leir. Ar dtús, tá an áthas orm a bheith anseo agus go raibh maith agaibh as an cuireadh. Tá mé anseo I gcomhair ócáid stairiúil agus ócáid speisialta.

Mr. Ambassador or Monsieur Ambassador as you're the French Ambassador so I'll pretend I know a bit of French. O'Connell's, my local school did teach me something, I see they're here today as well. I see Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan here, and I see Joe Costello here, and obviously I see the SAOL Project, and many other fantastic community workers, and people from my part of town, which is this fabulously North Inner City.

But I am really pleased to be here, today is the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and more importantly for us here, it's the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights and Poverty Stone. And it's quite significant that it's here, right beside the Famine Memorial. And the Famine Memorial, of course, symbolized the people in Ireland who underwent a form of genocide, and poverty and starvation, and left the country. And the Poverty Stone here, which is written in French, English, Irish and Polish, it also represents people coming into this country, probably in some cases trying to escape poverty, in other cases trying to make a better life for themselves. And yet in this country we still have poverty.

And just while I'm on the stage here, and I know that I'm under strict instructions in terms of time by Fergus, and I know he's watching me, he has his stopwatch on behind me. But I have to take this opportunity, as first citizen of this city, to absolutely and utterly condemn the words that were said by one of our presidential candidates yesterday. For someone to want to seek the highest office in this country, and a political office, and to use it to be discriminatory against a fabulous group of people, is absolutely and utterly condemnable, and I do condemn it.

And I see Father Peter McVerry here as well, and I'd like to acknowledge him, and I'd also like to acknowledge Emer Costello who is here. And Emer was actually here when this was first officially opened ten years ago. It's hard to believe it's ten years.

But look, it is written in English, Irish and French and Polish, and again that's quite significant because next year as you know, or this year was the 100 year anniversary of women getting the vote in this country, and we in Ireland and in Dublin, elected Countess Marckievicz to the British parliament, and then the following January we had the first Dáil. And in the first Dáil the Declaration of Independence and what we wanted to strive for our country, following on

from the Proclamation, was actually first spoken in Irish, then in French, and then in English.

But look I'm going to use the two words that everyone loves hearing a politician say, 'and finally'. So, and finally, poverty, unfortunately, is timeless, it's boundless, it doesn't recognize race, creed, or colour. It's here, we wish we could say it's not here to stay, but it's here and we want to eradicate it, and it's events like this and symbols like this which will help towards doing that. And I know anything I can do as the first citizen of this magnificent city towards that, I will do. And at that, I will leave it and just say go raibh míle, míle maith agaibh arís as an cuireadh, agus sibhse as teacht anseo sna hoibrichta iontas anseo.



Now Pierre has informed me, and I actually signed this and I don't remember, well I don't remember doing it but I did do it because it's my writing, when I was up at the international festival in Mountjoy Square, and he asked me what I would like to write on a stone, and I actually just wrote, 'Fáilte go hÉireann', which is 'welcome to Ireland', and that's, for me it's a symbol of how multicultural Ireland has become over time. And how we can achieve so much from working together with everybody who comes into this country and who shares their culture with us and us with them. And I know Pierre has asked me to put this down and I'm delighted to do it. And I'm also delighted that this evening in the Mansion House, and of course you're all welcome, I shouldn't have said that because there's about 300 people here, but you're all welcome to come into the Mansion House this evening where we'll further celebrate this wonderful day. So go raibh míle, míle maith agaibh."

Cathal and Aine Holland,

This Stone is Your Stone

**This Stone is your Stone,
This Stone is my Stone,
From the Ballymun Towers,
To the Wexford wildlands,
From Derry's Bogside, To the Cape
Clear Island,
This Stone was made for you and
me.**

**As I was rambling,
That ribbon of highway,
I saw above me,
The rolling skyway,
And all around me, a voice was
sounding,
This Stone was made for you and
me.**

**This Stone is your Stone,
This Stone is my Stone,
From the Ballymun Towers,
To the Wexford Wildlands,**

**From Derry's Bogside,
To the Cape Clear Island,
This Stone was made for you and
me.**

**I've roamed and travelled,
And followed our footsteps,
Until I came to our Santry forest,
And all around me, a voice was
sounding,
This Stone was made for you and
me.**

**This Stone is your Stone,
This Stone is my Stone,
From the Ballymun Towers,
To the Wexford Wildlands,
From Derry's Bogside,
To the Cape Clear Island,
This Stone was made for you and
me (x2).**



Representatives from various groups add their stones to the Human Rights and Poverty Stone

Michael Kilbride with Mihaita, a student of O'Connell School

"Good morning everybody, Michael Kilbride is my name. When Nelson Mandela was a young man, and wanted to end apartheid in South Africa, he thought the best way of doing so was with an AK-47. However, having spent 27 years in jail, he came to the conclusion that education is the most powerful weapon available to us if we want to change the world. Two years ago, this young here on my right, Mihaita Afodae, spoke on this platform about being homeless, because he was homeless. Today, he's in Leaving Cert, and he's going to sit his Leaving Cert next June. I now call on Afodae to place a stone in the name of education, because education is the most powerful weapon in order to change the world. Thank you."

NWICTDP

"We are here from the North West Inner City Training and Development Project, and we want to add a stone to the Stone. Our stone is calling on the government and all of us to create homes forever. Homes that are lasting for people. Housing is a human right."

SAOL – Anastasia and Edel

"My name is Anastasia from the SAOL Project, and this is Edel, and the stone that we're placing today states 'Leave No One Behind'!"

DEASP – Gary and colleague

"As the representative of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, I wish to thank the Committee for the invitation to attend today, and wish to thank you all for helping to raise awareness of the UN Day and the important issue of poverty eradication. We add our stone to the Stone as a sign of the respect that we have for the past work done, and to express the hope that we have for the future strength to overcome and eradicate poverty together. Ni neart go cur le chéile."

Representative of International Development Sector – Michael Doorly with Claire O'Rourke

"Good morning everybody. So as a representative of Concern Worldwide and the international development sector, we add our stone as a sign of solidarity, particularly today with the people of Yemen and Syria, and with all those who live in poverty, and without access to the supports to escape poverty's grasp, and to express our commitment to the 2030 Promise to end poverty a reality."

Lus na Greine FRC – Carmel and colleague

“Carmel and myself are here from Lus na Greine family resource centre in Granard, Co. Longford. Our stone has the message, ‘end poverty, work together’. Poverty in all its forms is a blight on our world and we can only eradicate it by working together as one big family, caring for each other, looking after our planet and putting those with least at the centre of our care. So Carmel will now place our stone with the other stones. Go raibh míle maith agat.”



Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre – Winnie McDonagh and Bridgie Collins

“Good morning everybody, my name is Winnie McDonagh and we’re here from Pavee Point. And Bridgie Collins here is going to put down our stone, and our stone is that ‘every man, woman and child deserve help’.”

MRCI – Jason Montenegro

“Hiya, good morning, I’m Jason Montenegro from MRCI. The worst thing in a difficult situation, is to feel powerless. Without the means to change things we lose hope. This is why empowering immigrants is so important. When you empower immigrants, you give them hope back.”

Emer and Joe Costello

“Good morning everybody, and it is such an honour and a privilege to be here. I’m very proud to be associated with this Stone. It was a motion of mine to Dublin City Council in 2006 that set the ball rolling on the Stone. We also worked with the Dublin Docklands Authority at the time to get funding for the Stone, and to get their permission to put it here, and to source the artist, who did a lovely job. I said at the time when the Stone was put down that poverty knows no boundaries, no borders, and is timeless. And unfortunately, ten years later, we see how true that is, that poverty is timeless. So my message is still as it was then: ‘End Poverty Now’.”

17th October Committee – Sr. Bernadette McMahon and Pierre Klein

“My name is Bernadette McMahon, and I am a Daughter of Charity. But I am also very proud to be a member of the ATD 17th of October Committee. Because I only play a very small role in this Committee, but many others play a very important and significant role in it. They give hours of work to making sure that every year we have this celebration. And why do we come together?

Because we believe in numbers, we believe the more of us that get together, the more likely there is to be a change. We believe that poverty is not inevitable, and we believe in solidarity with people who struggle, because most of us know ourselves what it's like to struggle. And secondly we believe in the importance of working for social and economic change. Two things: solidarity, and working to change things. We believe that poverty is not inevitable, and we work for the day that when they're be less poverty, and maybe no poverty, in Ireland."

Kodie Fay with a classmate, and Michael Donoghue

"This Stone is placed where people who have hard times and their own stories about whatever, their struggles, they're taught to remember all people who have passed away, and known interest to a minutes silence and for anyone else in the programme who ever passed away as well."

Cathal and Aine Holland, *Blowing in the Wind*

How many roads must a man walk
down,

Before you call him a man?

How many seas must a white dove
sail

Before she sleeps in the sand?

Yes, 'n' how many times must the
cannon balls fly,

Before they're forever banned?

**The answer, my friend, is blowin' in
the wind**

The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, 'n' how many years can a
mountain exist,

Before it's washed to the sea?

Yes, 'n' how many years can some
people exist

Before they're allowed to be free?

Yes, 'n' how many times can a man
turn his head,

And pretend that he just doesn't
see?

**The answer, my friend, is blowin' in
the wind**

The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, 'n' how many times must a man
look up

Before he can see the sky?

Yes, 'n' how many ears must one
man have

Before he can hear people cry?

Yes, 'n' how many deaths will it take
till he knows

That too many people have died?

**The answer, my friend, is blowin' in
the wind**

**The answer is blowin' in the wind
(x2)**

Gavin Uzell

Unity in the Community Youth Group

“Good Morning. My name is Gavin and it is my pleasure to be speaking to you this morning on this special occasion as we celebrate the journey of this Stone.

When I think of my own journey it's been like coming from darkness into light. I battled with addiction, grew up in a rough council estate, I became homeless, I had no job, I was on social welfare, and I was in and out of institutions. I would not have been able to break free from that cycle if it wasn't for some honest people taking a genuine interest in me. They pointed me in the right direction. My mindset before that was like a trap, I was a prisoner in my own mind.

When you come from a traumatic background, and when you are surrounded by crime, that's all you really know. You are young and curious, you want to be active and develop interests but you are surrounded by drugs and crime. There is a pressure at that age to have a bravado and a persona; you have to have this tough guy image. When you're hanging around in gangs of youths everybody wants to be feared and known as tough, it's a defense mechanism. Every person living that lifestyle, it doesn't matter who they are; they are dealing with a root cause, a feeling of rejection.

However there is a point where we can actually intervene and help them with their issues. You can help them address that root cause. That's why I feel so passionate about helping the youth and talking to them about my own story. I know if you miss that opportunity to help young people their hearts can turn to stone and it becomes very difficult to break them down. I've grown up with people who have walked a different path. I have friends who weren't able to address these issues, some of them are dead, and some of them are locked up for a long time.

For me it was hard to imagine any life beyond the life I knew. Now, when I look back it's easy for to see the way out, I can piece it all together very quickly. Thinking back to that time when I was caught up in everything it just seemed impossible. There is some youth out there that don't even know the meaning of feeling loved and appreciated. And when you have grown up without that and you hit your twenties those issues are really embedded in a person. At that age you start to take so many drugs because you want to block everything out.

When I made the decision to try and change my life I was on a lonely and cold path. I was homeless, my addiction was very bad and I had burned all my bridges with the people I cared about. At that time I remember saying to myself that if it wasn't for bad luck, I'd have no luck. I said something has to change because this road will lead to disaster.

I wasn't great at speaking my mind. It wasn't until someone really sat down with me, a genuine person who really asked if I needed help. I finally felt then that I could open up and tell them how broken I was inside. It is so hard to open up to people but that was the most important thing I did. For me I knew that the thing I needed to do was go for treatment. I was only 18 at the time. I picked the toughest and longest program. I knew I had to face everything head on.

That's why it is so important for me to support young people to speak their mind. To support young people to open up and talk. I feel that I can help young people because I have walked their life step by step. I've walked the path.

Our youth group, Unity in the Community, aims to create a safe space for young people to open up. We didn't want to create an environment that feels like it is always concerned about rules and authority driven. What we wanted to create was an atmosphere built on respect and trust for one another. The environment is all about encouraging and empowering the youth. We want to help young people, but not for our own benefit, it is about them, about empowering them. Even though head knowledge and experience isn't always valued I think it is so important. I know I have a lot to offer troubled young people. I will be working with young people. That's my passion; I just want to make change!

Thank you all for listening to me."



Tina Manipis

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI)

“Hello, good morning everyone. I am Tina and I am a representative of the Migrant Rights Centre, and I am here to talk about one sector that is vulnerable in our society, which is the migrant home carers. We have organized ourselves and we called ourselves the ‘My Fair Home’.

This sector is a mixture of documented and undocumented migrant carers. The undocumented carers are the most exploited and vulnerable because this sector is unregulated, and agencies and private employers contract these people and they work long hours, 24x7, and they are only paid by 3 or 4 euro an hour, and they are saving this money and they are sending this back home to provide basic needs for their families, and to send their children to school. And so because this is unregulated, they have no job specifications, and they ended up doing all the household chores aside from being a carer. Sometimes even dog walkers, and minding the children, and wash clothes, ironing clothes, etc. So they are doing the job anyway because they are afraid of losing the job. And because it is very hard to get a job, a full time job, given their status. They are also in constant fear of deportation.

Ireland is the fastest growing aging population in Europe. Every thirty minutes there is someone here in Ireland who is turning 85 years old and above. And every fifteen minutes there is someone here in Ireland who is turning 60-65 years old and above.

We are not just carers, we are not just workers. We are carers and we are taking care of the lives of the elderly here in Ireland. We are a part of their daily lives. We feed them, we shower them, we clean their sore bums, we hold their hands. Some of us, we are professionals in our own countries, but some, we are not like nurses and doctors who have seven to eight years of studies, but we are holding the hands of the elders here Ireland, we are taking care of them and we are assuring them that we will be there for them every day of their lives.

So I hope that the government will acknowledge the vital role of home carers in taking care of the elders in a safe environment, and a secure environment, in the comfort of their homes. That is the very reason that we launched the ‘My Fair Home’ project with MRCI, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation, earlier this year to improve the homecare standards, calling for the government to introduce employment permits for migrant carers, standardized contracts, regulatory health and safety checks, compulsory training, and compliance with equality and anti-discrimination law. Our network of carers care about standards, with just compensations, and good working conditions for all migrant carers. Quality care and quality jobs for all! Thank you very much.”

Music from Colaiste Eoin Students Band



Mary Brigid Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre

"I'd like to welcome everybody here this morning. My name is Mary Brigid, from Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre. Today is a celebration of the tenth anniversary of this event, but it is also the tenth anniversary of our All Ireland Traveller Health Study that the Traveller community done. It was Traveller going out to do research for Travellers – by Travellers, for Travellers.

And I suppose just to go into some of the highlights for the All Ireland Health Study, like lots of other groups here, around the homeless crisis, the discrimination, with youth as well, so just some of the findings I'm actually going to run through this morning. But also I think we have to look sometimes at government policies. When governments bring in policies and they don't realise the different groups of people that it might impact negatively on. And like when you have Travellers and Roma and you have the homeless people, also you have drug addiction services as well and people their funding being cut for the last number of years. People who are working in the community know the pain and suffering that the people are going through the people that wants to help people but sometimes they don't have the resources to do it.

And sometimes government departments don't see the pain, as I said, out there.

I have to think, for instance if you look at habitual residency conditions there, and how it impacts on Travellers, but also on Roma as well, and we at Pavee Point has looked and has met with several people from the government departments and is looking to change this. So I think when the government is bringing in policies they need to work with the people on the ground that knows the issues out there.

So just some of the findings from the All Ireland Health Study I'm just going to go through. And when we interviewed Travellers out on the ground we asked them about discrimination and their experience of discrimination. And every one of them felt that they were discriminated on a daily basis; let it be pubs or shops or whatever. But also you had Health Services, Health service providers came out and said that in dealing with the service it does discriminate against Travellers and I suppose, like lots of other people that would go and use services, if they were treated in an unfairly way, or if they're not treated with dignity, they actually won't go back to use that service again.

So there was never ever a study done on discrimination of Travellers, so we compared it to Latinos and blacks in the USA, and Travellers still came out very much on top, let it be pubs, shops, and trying to get work. And I know we talked about, with that girl just before me about migrants getting work and stuff like that, and being underpaid. And I think sometimes people don't see the bigger picture of coming into a country and how they're being worked and over worked and being underpaid. It's something that needs to be looked at.

As I said, Travellers came out on top. On trust, around the trust that Travellers have around the health service is one as well. Only 40% of Travellers have trust within the health service, compared to 80% within the general population.

Also we asked the question about education, and the education one was only 35 year olds to 45 year olds only had primary school education and this study happened in 2008, and the findings was published in 2010. It cost 1.4 million to do the All Ireland Health Study, and very little progress has been made with government departments. There has been some steps, but not as much as we would like. Only 1% of Travellers go on to 3rd level education, and that's a real downfall for ourselves there. There's a huge problem with the education system here around Travellers. Also you might get teachers who have very low expectations of Travellers. And looking at them as though they're not going to get onto anything in life. Education is, like it was said a while back there, it's so powerful and it's so important to have lots of education, it does improve your quality of life and getting places. Also around education, when we asked people if they had difficulties with reading, over 29% of Travellers said they had difficulty with reading. But, when we asked them if they could read their

medication, it was over 50%. So there's lots of Travellers out there who is very much embarrassed to say that they couldn't read. And this then again stops lots of Travellers from using services, and not just Travellers, lots of other people as well, but this research was done on the Traveller community. It actually, if you have to go in and fill in a form, it's actually very embarrassing to



say that you don't, that you can't fill it in. so these are the kinds of things that we're kind of highlighting in the All Ireland study.

Also around accommodation and the homeless crisis this has a huge impact on Travellers, as it does on the general population. As we see it from the Raise the Roof protest there a few weeks ago, where there was a huge turnout of people, and

we know that the homeless crisis has a huge impact on everybody, but we see a lot of young married couples being caught up in the homeless crisis as well. You have local authorities that's getting so much funding a year, but some local authorities has underspent their budget for Traveller accommodation. No Traveller-specific accommodation. Travelers is being forced into standard housing where sometimes they don't want to go, they want to stay with the extended family. And because the facilities is so bad in some of the sites that we work in, you might have one tap between twenty families, you might have built away from lots of services, no bus routes going to it. And you know sometimes people don't take this into account.

Also, around unemployment, there's huge unemployment rates out there around Travellers as well. It's so difficult for Travellers to get jobs, like many other people from different parts as well. As I said, it's a huge problem out there, but also just around our discrimination bit there as well, it's huge, and their experiences of discrimination. And we seen just yesterday there, yesterday evening, where we had someone running for the Presidential candidate there who came out and made very racist comments, I think, and insulting comments to Travellers, and we knew he wouldn't be the only one there, and I definitely don't think that he would be suitable to run for Presidency. He doesn't understand the community, he doesn't understand the pain and suffering, and he doesn't know the issues that're affecting people.

So just to say, I think today we're all here talking about accommodation, we're talking about the homeless crisis, our experiences of living, and I think we can all support each other and we can all work together. And we seen it today in the protest there, and we can all work in solidarity together in support of one another. And also just I the All Ireland Health Study as well, we did ask the

question about drugs in the Traveller community, and in 2008 we know we got the answer that over 63% of Travellers came back and said that drugs was a problem, in 2008. This is 2018 now, we know from the work that we've done on the ground now that the drug problem is actually gone worse within our own community. So I think, don't ever think that you're on this alone, we've lots of people that is facing the same as you, and we need to work together as I said, and support each other in the future, and let people know the real issues that's impacting on all our communities. Thank you."

Jess Hanney

BRIO Group - SAOL

"My name is Jessica; I'm going to share some thoughts about poverty from the BRIO group from the SAOL Project.

We've all experienced or are experiencing poverty and we shared those experiences together and then we've turned them into a poem. It's called: 'Poverty'.

*It's the feeling in your stomach as
your gut just drops*

*When you hear the alarm on the
meter knowing the electricity's
about to stop,*

*It's the embarrassment and shame
of asking someone else to do your
washing*

*'Cos you've no access to a washing
machine when your life is hostel
hopping,*

*It's no bank account or credit card
and waiting in the post office all the
time*

*Because unlike ordinary people you
can't pay your bills on-line,*

*It's the dread of opening their
schoolbag and finding a note that's
looking for money*

*And the apology in the eyes of your
young one and having to say, 'It's
alright, honey',*

*It's not feeling safe; it's shame; it's
just trying to survive*

*It's the jealousy as you watch others
living like it's a joy to be alive,*

*It's feeling guilty as a mother when
you cannot buy the things they want*

*Or buying the cheapest nappies
when you'd like to buy the expensive
ones just once,*

*It's the promises with the
disappointments and the damned if
you do or damned if you don't*

*It's the invisibility and the silence
and feeling that you can no longer
cope,*

*But it's the strength that keeps you
going and the fight that helps you
fight*

*Against the policies and the red tape
that makes inequality seem alright,
Yes, it's the anger and the resilience
that makes us shout for humankind
Demanding from those with all the
power, that we leave no-one behind.*



Cathal and Aine Holland, *We Shall Overcome*

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,

We shall overcome someday;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome someday.

The Lord will see us through, The Lord will see us through,

The Lord will see us through someday;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome someday.

We're on to victory, We're on to victory,

We're on to victory someday;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We're on to victory someday.

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,

We'll walk hand in hand someday;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We'll walk hand in hand someday.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
We are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We are not afraid today.

The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,

The truth shall make us free someday;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
The truth shall make us free someday.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,

We shall live in peace someday;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall live in peace someday.

Launch of *'Voices for Dignity: Ten Years at the Irish Human Rights and Poverty Stone'*

Stephane Crouzat, French Ambassador to Ireland

"As you know, Joseph Wresinski was French, and he made this seminal speech a few months before he died in '87, thirty-one years ago today, and I will start the reading in his words in French, before translating the first few lines.

Millions et millions d'enfants, de
femmes et de pères qui sont morts
de misère et de faim, dont nous
sommes les héritiers.

Vous qui étiez des vivants, ce n'est
pas votre mort que j'évoque

I Bear Witness

You, the millions and millions
Of children, women and fathers
Who have died from misery and
hunger
And whose legacy we hold.

aujourd'hui en ce Parvis des Libertés
des Droits de l'Homme et du
Citoyen,

C'est de votre vie dont je témoigne.

It is not your death that I evoke,
Today on this Plaza of Human Rights
and Liberties.
I bear witness to your lives.

Rita Fagan

"I bear witness to you, the mothers,
Whose children are cast aside in this
world,
Condemned as they are to sheer
misery.

I bear witness to your children,
Twisted by the pains of hunger,
No longer able to smile,
Yet still yearning to love."

Mihaita – O'Connell School student

"I bear witness to the millions of
young people
Who have no reason to believe

Or even to exist,
And who vainly search for a future
In this senseless world."

Maureen O'Sullivan, T.D.

"I bear witness to you, the poor of
all times,
Still poor today, forever on the
road,
Fleeing from place to place,
Despised and disgraced.

Labourers without a trade,
Ever crushed by their toil.
Labourers whose hands, today,
Are no longer useful."

Paul Ginnell, EAPN & Irish 17th Oct. Committee

"Millions of men, women, and
children

Whose hearts are still pounding
strong

To the beat of the struggle,

Whose minds rise in revolt

Against the unjust fate imposed
upon them,

Whose courage demands the right
To priceless dignity."

Fr. Peter McVerry and Paddy Fay

"I bear witness to you,

Children, women and men,

Who do not want to condemn,

But to love, to pray, to work, and to
unite,

So that a world of solidarity may be
born.

A world, our world, in which all
people

Would have given the best of
themselves before dying."

Belinda Nugent, International 17th October Committee

"I bear witness to you,

Men, women and children.

Your renown is henceforth
engraved

By heart, hand and tool,

In the marble of this Plaza of Human

Rights and Liberties.

I bear witness to you, so that
humanity

May at last fulfil its true destiny,

Refusing forever that misery
prevail."

Reading the message on The Irish Human Rights and Poverty Stone

Seanie Lambe in Irish

Áit ar bith ina ndaortar daoine faoi chuing an bhochtanais sáraítear a cearta daonna tá sé de dhualgas sollunta orainne a theacht I nDáil a chéile le cinntiú go dtugtar na cearta sin dóibh.

Coraline Guyot in French

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.

Long When in Chinese

「那里有人被迫生活在赤贫中，那里的人权就被忽视、剥夺，团结起来为使人权受到尊重，是我们的神圣义务。」

Kaspar in Polish

Tam, gdzie ludzie skazani są na życie w nędzy, prawa człowieka są łamane. Jednoczenie się dla ich poszanowania jest najświętszym obowiązkiem.

Paddy Fay and Fr. Peter McVerry in English

“Whenever 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”.



NYP2

We Are Humanity

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



NYP2

This Land is Your Land

**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