It's Time To Change

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And End **Persistent Poverty**

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17 October International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Listening to Unheard Voices

On 17 October 1987, in the presence on 100,000 activists, Joseph Wresinski, founder of the international movement All Together in Dignity (ATD) Fourth World (www.atdireland.ie) unveiled a commemorative stone on the Trocadero Human Rights Plaza in Paris. On this marble stone, 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.

Since then, this commemorative stone has become a rallying point for people from all walks of life. 17 October was declared "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty" by the United Nations in 1992.

17 October 2008 saw the unveiling of a commemorative stone at Custom House Quay near the Famine Memorial in Dublin.

On 17 October every year we come together in Ireland and around the world in friendship and solidarity with those who face chronic and severe poverty, honoring their struggles and renewing our determination to work for a world where everyone's human rights and human

dignity are respected.





Joseph Wresinski Address Initiator of the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

) bear witness to:

You, the millions and millions of CHILDREN, WOMEN AND FATHERS WHO HAVE DIED FROM MISERY AND HUNGER AND whose legacy we hold. It is not your DEATH THAT I EVOKE, TODAY ON THIS PLAZA OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES.

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.

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.

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. LABORERS WITHOUT A TRADE, EVER CRUSHED BY THEIR TOIL.

LABORERS WHOSE HANDS, TODAY, ARE NO LONGER USEFUL.



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.

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.

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.

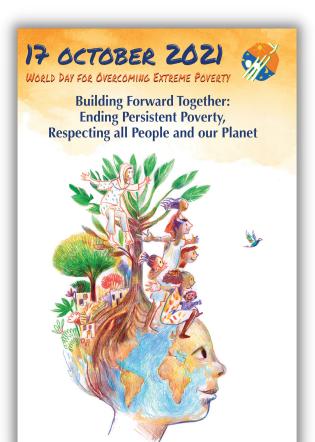
I BEAR WITNESS TO YOU, SO THAT HUMANITY MAY AT LAST FULFIL ITS TRUE DESTINY, REFUSING FOREVER THAT MISERY PREVAILS.

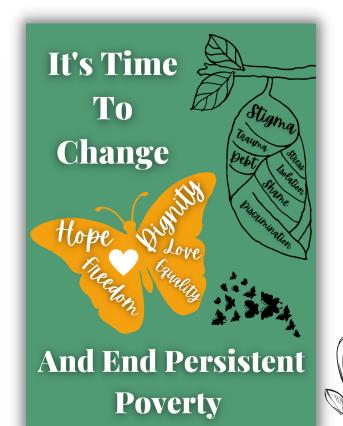




The concept for the Irish 17 October 2021 theme **"It's Time to Change and End Persistent Poverty**" was inspired by condensing the International theme **"Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet"** and focusing on it's core message – which we took as being – the radical need for 'change', now so more than ever. We believe that at the heart of the planet are it's people and so in order to create a better, more sustainable future for all – we must call to end persistent poverty on a national and international level, immediately. The pandemic may be looked upon as an extreme warning sign by nature of a failing system that can no longer be ignored. It was clear that during this challenging period, people suffering from poverty all over the world, continued to be left furthest behind. It was also clear that it gave others an insight into the intense feeling of isolation that those living in poverty were already familiar with and in doing so, hopefully a new-found empathy towards this hardship. We need to re-examine how we interact with our Earth as well as with each-other. For far too long the planet and so many of it's inhabitants were not being respected or looked out for by those in power. During this time, we saw how quickly governments can act in crisis when it affects them – the same attention must be given to those in constant crisis due to poverty.

Now, as we reintegrate into society post - pandemic — we are being given an opportunity to rise and change the unequal world we were living in before. The concept of the butterfly emerging from it's cocoon stemmed from the idea of us emerging from the prison like confines of the lockdown better and more hopeful then we were before. The cocoon represents the trap of being caught within the cycle of poverty and the words engraved into it e.g. discrimination, stigma, trauma, debt etc. represent the harsh barriers forced upon those with no choice but to be stuck, living within it. The butterfly on the other hand – represents the transformative opportunity that exists in creating a fairer, greener, more beautiful world. The words engraved on it e.g. hope, dignity, equality, freedom – represent the life that everyone deserves. *Just when the caterpillar thought the world was ending – they turned into a butterfly*. The world has changed, so let us change with it. We must learn from this time and begin to evolve, by creating something positive and colourful from the darkness. *The time to renew, revolutionise and reconstruct a better future is now.*





Message from the President

There can be few more important days in the international calendar for global citizens than today, a day when we join with our fellow citizens across the world standing in solidarity with all those who live in conditions of extreme poverty and deprivation.

While, in recent decades, the world has made some, but insufficient, progress in meeting the great challenge of our times that is global poverty, so much of that progress has now been reversed by the disastrous consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has laid bare the inequality and poverty which is repeating itself, indeed deepening. Global extreme poverty rose last year for the first time in over twenty years, with an additional 120 million people living in poverty – a figure that is expected to rise to 150 million by the end of this year.

While it is accepted that the pandemic has affected rich as well as poor countries, its impact on poorer nations has been disproportionate, and progress towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals in terms of eliminating poverty has suffered a grave setback.

That is devastating news, and a disheartening but salutary reminder of the fragile and precarious space occupied in our global policies, sensibilities and practices by those who are the most vulnerable and marginalised in our world.

Conflict, climate change and illicit financial flows are just some of the threats to the livelihoods of those already living in severe poverty. Indeed, the World Bank has estimated that, by 2030, up to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor could live in Fragile Conflict Violence settings, where they are vulnerable to many circumstances which are completely outside of their control.





UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN President of Ireland

We cannot eliminate global hunger by simply responding to immediate needs and crises, important though such intervention is. If we are to truly eradicate extreme poverty from our world, it must be done through the seeking of sustainable solutions, ones that will free and empower those living in poverty to build and craft better futures for themselves and their families.

It is through enabling the capacity of those who are impoverished to create secure employment, achieve food sufficiency and ensure the education of their young people that we will break the poverty cycle; and it is through breaking the poverty cycle that we will ensure that future generations can grow and flourish in a world that is fair, just and inclusive, respecting the rights and voices of all its citizens.

On this International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, let us resolve to join forces to seek a better and authentic engagement as citizens of an interdependent world, united in a determination to voice and action the values we wish to see placed at the very heart of a shared, ethical and democratic future, an ambition we cannot afford to lose.

Michael D. Higgins Uachtarán na hÉireann President of Ireland



17 October – Poverty Stone Event Programme

11.00 WORDS FROM THE MC - PETER MCVERRY 11.05 WELCOME AND ADDRESS - LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN - ALISON GILLILAND 11.10 SONG - CATHAL AND AINE HOLLAND 11.15 READING OF THE MESSAGE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND POVERTY STONE 11.20 WRITING - WHAT CHANGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE WORLD ON BUTTERFLIES -KEEP HOLD OF THE BUTTERFLY FOR THE COMMON GESTURE LATER IN THE PROCEEDINGS 11.25 READING OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - ANDREW KELLY 11.30 TESTIMONIES BASED ON LIVED EXPERIENCE OF POVERTY AND INJUSTICE: DOMINICAN JUSTICE OFFICE - ROSELIN BLESSING MAKUMBA. ALL TOGETHER IN DIGNITY (ATD) IRELAND ANNE - MARIE FAY & CHRISTINA POWELL PAVEE POINT - PA REILLY

SAOL PROJECT

11.50 Song from SAOL about 17th October - No Need 12.00 Musical piece- Cathal and Aine Holland (Background) Dramatic presentation based on Discrimination: This piece highlights the 9 grounds of Equality Legislation, the Jigsaw pieces represent the interconnectivity between the grounds, and the missing piece represents the need to extend the Irish Equality Legislation to include a 10th ground - to protect people from Socio-economic Discrimination 12.10 Poem reading from the new Lockdown Liberties poetry project (Lorraine Kelly - Philip Kenny)

12.15 Symbolic Gesture: Butterflies For Change 12.25 Final Song SAOL - Something inside so strong 12.30 Closing Remarks and thanks: MC

Refreshments at the Stone $\,$

Butterflies For Change

Something Inside So Strong

The higher you build your barriers The taller I become The further 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

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 something inside so strong

Brothers and sisters When they insist we're just not good enough When we know better Just look 'em in the eyes and say We're gonna do it anyway 2x 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

Brothers and sisters When they insist we're just not good enough When we know better Just look 'em in the eyes and say We're gonna do it anyway 2x

Something inside so strong And 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

Brothers and sisters When they insist we're just not enough When we know better Just look 'em in the eyes and say We're gonna do it anyway 4x

Because there's something inside so strong And I know that I can make it Tho' you're doing me, so wrong Oh no, something inside so strong Oh oh oh oh something inside so strong



17 October Projects around Ireland

Tullamore Community & Family Resource Centre will hold a community event on October 17th to commemorate the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty with this years theme in mind. A therapeutic garden project where members of the community can sit and talk or take time out. The Garden will include a mural to represent "Family, Inclusion and Togetherness" and a commemorative bench as a permanent reminder of the UN International day for the Eradication of Poverty for people to sit and enjoy the space.

FAMIL

AL NOISE





Portlaoise Community and Family Resource Centre is going to undertake a mosaic Mural to mark this occasion, this project is a 6 week program for individuals In the local community. This mural will be on public view in their Centre once completed after the 6 week program. The 6 week program will take place on a Tuesday Morning between 9:30 and 11:30. In addition to mark the occasion on the 19th October the group will get to have a tea/coffee and refreshments morning to gage discussion around the Eradication of Poverty and how the mosaic mural symbolizes this.



Doras Buí are putting together a holistic course that includes body, mind, and awareness of the environment. Cooking on a budget with participants will take place once a week throughout the course this in turn will bring about opportunities to raise awareness about poverty, environmental issues and respecting each other and our planet. Doras Buí will also look at the benefits of Mindfulness in everyday living, this will encourage people to come together and participate in weekly practices of Mindfulness.





Bridgeways Family Resource Centre will come together along with eight other family resource centres in the midlands to launch a campaign called "Face Poverty". The objective for this campaign is to improve and increase general

knowledge and awareness of poverty in our local areas. To begin this campaign they designed a campaign logo flag which will symbolise the various faces of poverty, this will demonstrate that there is no distinct characteristic of poverty. This flag will be used to highlight the campaign and raise awareness of poverty. They will also be producing a short documentary on "What is Poverty?". Throughout the production of this documentary, we will ask several members of the community of all ages and ethnic backgrounds, "what does poverty mean to you?". The responses to this question will be recorded, using only audio recording devices. These audios will then be combined with still photos which they have taken of their community, along with images that portray poverty both in their community and globally, to create an influential and educational documentary on poverty.

ASTER Family Support and Resource Centre will run a campaign to "Raise awareness and highlight the devastating effects of child poverty in communities, facts and lived experiences." This Campaign is through participatory child poverty; how they can contribute to the fight against child poverty, children's participation and their own understanding of poverty and their ability to influence the improvement of services for children and young people in communities.

Zoom webinar on the 19th of October 2021, from 11:00 am -1:00 pm
One-hour Children's awareness raising rally in the Balbriggan Square on Monday 18th October from 10:30am to 11:30am.







Kids' Own Publishing will facilitate creative workshops in collaboration with Sligo Traveller Support Group, with children and young people at their homework clubs in Sligo. Young participants will work in collaboration with a professional artist and writer, and together they will respond to the theme "Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and Our Planet". These creative workshops are an important opportunity for the voices of Traveller children to be heard on this issue, and we look forward to sharing their creative expression and voices through their experience of the workshops and the art that they make!

Northside Family Resource Centre will join with the nine (9) Family Resource Centres in the Mid-west Region of Ireland that form the Mid-West FRC Regional Forum. Projects will work in partnership highlighting both local and global issues of poverty and social inclusion. Anti-poverty work is at the core of their work as Family Resource Centres; however, it is rare they have the opportunity to focus specifically on the issue of poverty while making connections with social and environmental justice. Centres will host a joint exhibition of photographs that captures the burden of poverty in Ireland and throughout the world themed 'what climate change/Poverty means to me'. Photographs will be displayed for exhibition at each centre to create awareness around the UN International day for eradication of poverty. Groups and individuals will be invited to view exhibitions and learn of poverty issues locally and nationally.



Blanchardstown Center for Independent Living have had a mural with the theme respecting all people and our planet painted on the wall of their community garden. The group plan to host an event in the garden to acknowledge world poverty day and will have posters and leaflets printed around the theme for this year. They will be highlighting the fact that disabled people live with extremely high rates of poverty and are sometimes isolated in their homes, 31% of people aged 20-59 with a disability are at work compared to 71% of those without a disability. The group will be networking with other community groups in the Dublin 15 area so other groups will be hearing the voice and the facts from people with the lived experience. The key message is that disabled people want a hand up not a handout.





United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2021 SICCDA will organise two workshops focused on sustainable gardening in their community allotment on October 13th and 14th from 2:30-4:30pm to enable

participants to learn about sustainable gardening, how the natural environment is critical to the wellbeing of the planet and global citizens, our collective responsibility for protecting and nurturing our environment, how to grow basic food items and plants, the importance of urban gardens in building togetherness, and wellbeing within the community. Other key messages include awareness of the right to food, green spaces, and healthy living for people around the world, including in the Liberties area of Dublin. Participants will be encouraged to share their insights and experiences of food poverty, how they can participate in constructing their own sustainable future, and the importance of working together for social and environmental justice in their community. Each participant will take home a gardening pack including plants, garden supplies, and a booklet on how sustainable gardening aligns with the U.N. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.



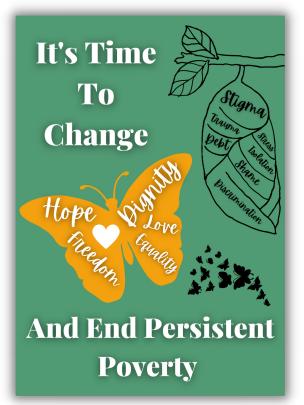


Lus Na Gréine presents: Walk in our Shoes" – A multicultural initiative in North Longford that is bringing together newly settled families with the local community in conversations around the causes and impacts of poverty in all its forms. These conversations have resulted in the production of a local exhibition of art work and photography and the production of a video/ podcast which will be circulated on social media and launched at a coffee morning hosted in the Lus Na Gréine Family Resource Centre on Tuesday October 19th from 10–1pm. The project has engaged children, young people and adults across the life course. This has helped in greater understanding of our new and ever increasing multicultural society.

SAOL Project have created six badges for their 'NO NEED' campaign for this year. They are having 500 of each badge made . The tag lines on the badges are a direct reference to six of the 17 goals. The badges will be distributed at the October 17 event and through all other SAOL Project events. Another strand of the campaign is to be conducted on social media . Each badge will be printed in a 600 mm banner to be held by people making their statement of 'NO NEED' for. This statements will be recorded and posted on SAOL social media for others to share. They have established links with some of our new communities whom will make their statements in their native languages.

They have also written a new song 'No Need' to be preformed at the OCT 17 event , we propose to video this performance for our official song video to be merged with people making their statements.





ATD Ireland in cooperation with the Irish 17 October Committee will host an event on Sunday the 17th of October to mark the annual commemoration of the UN International End Poverty Day at the Human Rights and Poverty Stone, Dublin. This event will also be recorded via zoom. Central to this event will be a number of personal testimonies of people with lived experience of poverty. There will also be a soft launch of the 'Lockdown Liberties' film and book featuring spoken and written word on individuals within the ATD community's experiences of Poverty and Mental Health etc. Citywise Educations project to mark International Day

for the Eradication of Poverty is two fold. Firstly their members will create an online exhibition of work which will showcase how young people living in West-Tallaght view poverty. These projects will be designed creatively through the arts and digital design. They will also host a week of activities in their centre demonstrating ways to

reduce environmental poverty which will unclude recycling demonstrations, interdependence and active citizenship. All whilst learning about and developing our responsibilities inline with the Sustainable Development

Goals!









The Irish 17 October Committee will provide networking and liaison supports to grantees funded under the Public Awareness Funding scheme 2021 of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection to promote the UN International End Poverty Day. The Committee will produce themed t-shirts and a National 17 October Booklet 2021 to showcase the grantee projects funded this year.





Lockdown

through the creative lens

"Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change"

ATD Ireland will be showcasing a creative exhibition from 10am - 5 pm on the 27th - 31st of October at the EPIC museum, Custom House Quay. The launch will take place on the 28th of October from 4 - 6pm. The purpose of this exhibition is to display the outcomes of two interrelated sociopolitical projects which have been undertaken over the pandemic, through the creative mediums of art and poetry. The intent of these projects was to give those with an experience of poverty an outlet to express their deepest thoughts, experiences and emotions. Both projects were also open to those within the wider community of ATD Ireland who share the concerns of inequality and injustice and wish to see positive change in the world. It was an opportunity to foster a compassionate and connective community, during a particularly challenging period of time during and coming out of lockdown. People were able to find hope and comfort through these creative processes.

Lockdown Liberties: was a writing group carried out remotely, over messenger and zoom, resulting in heartfelt poetry from eight authors alongside contributions from others including President Michael D Higgins and Senator Lynn Ruane. A film was also created to show the authors reciting their poetry. In the film, each writer chose a place of significance in Dublin to say or rap their poetry aloud.

The Art Workshops: were organized over a period in Mountjoy Square Park to discuss and promote the campaign to add socio - economic discrimination as the tenth ground of discrimination in Irish equality legislation through the art of sculpture and conversation. Even though socio-economic discrimination is not yet legally defined in an Irish context, discrimination based on an individual's socio-economic status is routine. Employers may screen job applicants based on where they live, zoning laws may aim to exclude low-income residents, indeed participants in these workshops have reported being judged on their accent, their clothing and even their haircuts. #AddThe1oth

Although carried out separately, many similar themes emerged from both groups such as love, hope, poverty, community, discrimination, homelessness, addiction, family, solidarity and bravery. Conversations surrounding socio-economic discrimination often occur without the involvement of those who experience its worst effects, therefore these workshops aimed to bring to the fore the creative potential of those with direct experience of living in poverty, allowing them to depict what these topics means to them. It gave people an opportunity to connect and a platform to have their voice heard and ensure that nobody is left behind. It is difficult to engage with art when we cannot recognise ourselves within it. These projects were undertaken with the knowledge that poetry, art and culture has all too often been restricted as a pursuit for the upper and middle classes. This body of work demonstrates that those experiencing poverty have immense talent and creativity which should not be overlooked. It is invaluable to learn that your story and your voice is important. *Encouraging everyone in society to explore and unlock their creative potential will lead to a more inclusive space and will only enable arts and culture to blossom.*

I'M STILL HUMAN

Walking around Dublin city trying to find a place not gritty ... A bag so wet it hurts my breath, fingers and toes all curled up please someone put money in this cup.

- Sitting at the GPO and yet still nowhere to go. You see the man on the corner, all he wants for Christmas is to be warmer.
- A blanket, jacket or socks these things I have not ... You see I once had a wife, a home, a job and even a phone.
- As I sit and watch people pass, you would think time would go fast. As the cold creeps in and my body starts to shake, somebody please help me for goodness sake.
- I'm old and I'm cold, would Santa believe me if I told him I was never bold.
- When you pass me by do you think why or am I just the same as that other guy ... so you think in all this I would drink and sink.
- But God is beside me not behind me. As I set up my bed made out of cardboard on top of a large board.
- I lay on my back, still shivering at that. Losing my last breath I know I'm facing death ...

Will anyone even notice me or will they just say, aw let him be?



BY LORRAINE

Scan to see more





Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights

"In a world characterised by an unprecedented level of economic development, technological means and financial resources, it is a moral outrage that millions of persons are still living in extreme poverty."

People living in extreme poverty are often neglected or overlooked by politicians, service providers and policy-makers due to their lack of political voice, financial and social capital and their chronic social exclusion. They are disproportionately affected by many human rights violations. Discrimination against people living in poverty is widespread and widely tolerated. 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 the central message of the UN Day on 17 October: extreme Poverty exists in every country in the world, and it is both a cause and a consequence of multiple human rights violations.





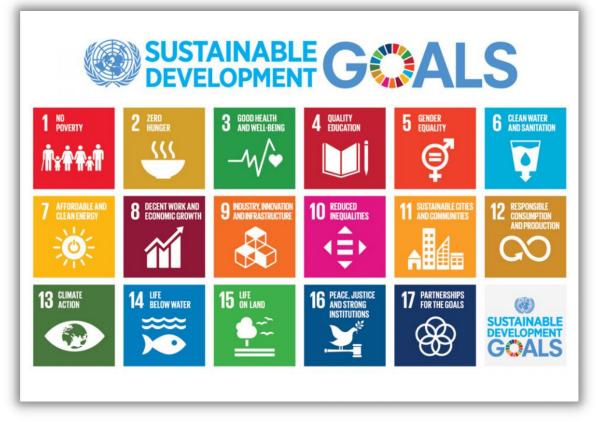
Sustainable Development Goals

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 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 BY THE YEAR 2030.



You can discover more events worldwide at www.overcomingpoverty.org



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The views expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Social Protection.



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protection





Transforming Together To End Socio - Economic Discrimination



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protection