

Respecting the Dignity

17 October International
Day for the Eradication of
Poverty



Of All Humanity

End Persistent 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.

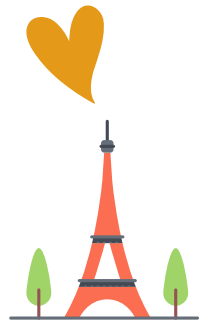


Joseph Wresinski Address

Initiator of the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

I bear witness to:

17 October 1987 - Paris



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.

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, THE MOTHERS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE CAST ASIDE IN THIS WORLD, CONDEMNED AS THEY ARE TO SHEER MISERY.



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 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, 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, 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.



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

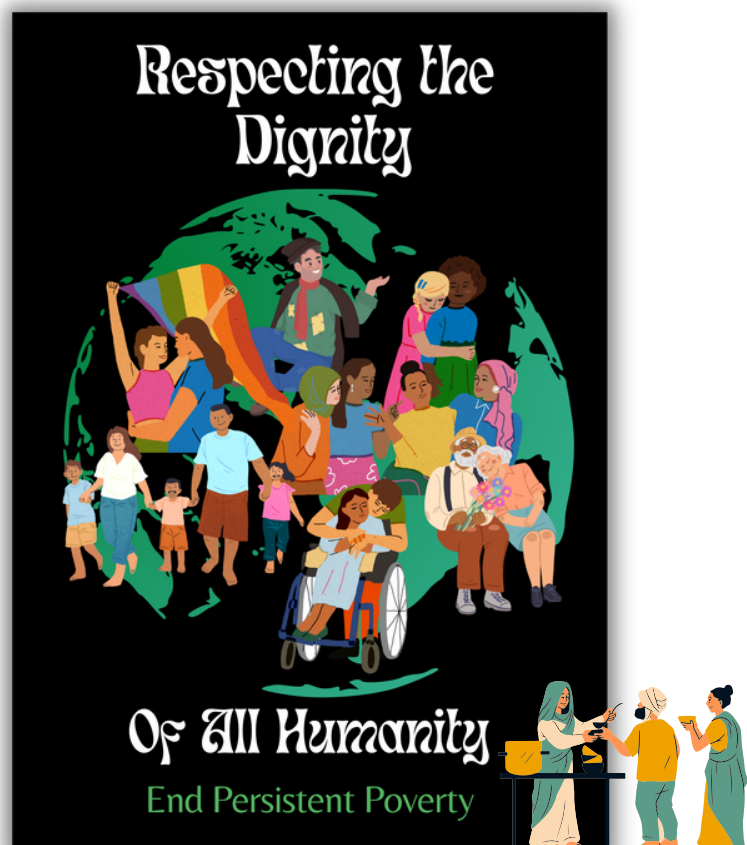




This Year's Theme



The concept for the Irish 17 October 2022 theme for this year's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is **“Respecting the Dignity of all Humanity: End Persistent Poverty”**. This theme was inspired by condensing the meaning of the International theme **“Dignity for all in Practice: the commitments we make together for social justice, peace and the planet”**. The International 17 October committee state how dignity is a fundamental right and constitutes the basis of all other fundamental rights. However, it is also integral to recognize that dignity is not something we give. All people have dignity within them. It is so important for us to respect the dignity, intelligence, capacity and humanity of all people. Dignity and respect should be considered two sides of the same coin. In order to allow those who have been marginalized to feel respected and be aware of their own enormous potential we should work to create a world that focuses on empowering and uplifting others rather than one which stigmatizes, silences and punishes. We felt it was necessary to include ‘end persistent poverty’ into the Irish theme as those who are struggling daily in extreme poverty must always remain the core focus of this day. It is those who are most often made to feel as though they are living without dignity. We are making reference to the **#addthe10th campaign** in this year's theme as recognizing and naming socio- economic discrimination will be an important step in showing greater respect to those excluded daily because of their socio- economic status. **Respecting the dignity of all people no matter their social background is vital to creating a more equal, harmonious and vibrant world for all.**



Message from the President



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

As President of Ireland, I am delighted to once more join those gathered today in Dublin and Strasbourg, and indeed all those gathered around the world, in marking 17th October, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

This year is the 35th anniversary of the first such gathering in Paris in 1987 and the 30th anniversary of United Nations recognition of the Day, yet the need to make the required changes to eradicate poverty remain as urgent as ever. **Is this not the basic form of security, to be free from extreme poverty?**

This year's theme, 'Dignity for All in Practice', is particularly relevant as we consider the challenges facing those living in poverty both in Ireland and across the world. **All of us must be able to participate in the society of our time without shame**, as Amartya Sen put it, and the right to be treated with dignity is one fundamental to us all.

As a society, we need to ask whether those groups which are most discriminated against in Ireland are treated with respect and dignity by those responsible for the provision of adequate public services and supports.

For example, too often members of lower income socio-economic groups, the Travelling community, those in direct provision, migrants, victims of gender-based violence, those seeking vital access to housing or those suffering from the devastating impacts of addiction and their families are not treated with appropriate dignity. This must be addressed.

Surely the most important right which any of us must have is the right to be free from the threat of hunger, yet today we also find ourselves, once more, in the position of another grave crisis in the Horn of Africa. It is one of horrific, preventable scenes of famine and severe malnutrition across a region that has endured devastating hunger three times in three decades.

While immediate humanitarian intervention is required, this alone is not sufficient. Let us take the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty as an opportunity to commit to challenging the structural factors contributing to food insecurity and do so from a rights-based perspective, dealing with issues such as debt, monopolistic control of production and distribution of staples in food.

Only by addressing these structural issues, which there has been a refusal to consider, will we truly be able to speak of dignity for all in practice.

I salute on this special day all those who are working to end global poverty.

Beir beannacht,

Michael D. Higgins
President of Ireland



17 October – Poverty Stone Event

Programme



11.00: Words from the MC - Nessian Vaughan

11.05: Welcome and address, Lord Mayor of Dublin - Caroline Conroy

11.15: Song from St Mary's Secondary School, Holy Faith, Glasnevin

11.20: Reading of the Message of the Human Rights and Poverty Stone

11.25: Reading of the President's Message

11.30: Testimonies based on lived experience of poverty and injustice:

Migrants Rights Centre

Dominican Justice Office

All Together in Dignity

Matt Talbot Centre

Pavee Point

SAOL Project

11.50: Song from St Laurence O Toole CBS

12.00: Musical piece - Cathal and Aine Holland instrumental

Instrumental Dramatic presentation based on the theme of: Respecting the Dignity of All Humanity 6 members of the audience present painted posters in different languages
Symbolic gesture: Maurice Hurley and Martin Byrne involve the audience in a collective gesture

12.15: Song from Cathal and Aine Holland

12.25: Final Song SAOL

12.30: Closing Remarks and thanks: MC

Refreshments at the Sheriff Street Youth Hall



Poverty Facts

LESS THAN

0.9

A DAY

676
MILLION

Around the world about 8.5% of people live in extreme poverty.

Most of the global poor live in rural areas, are poorly educated, and work in agriculture.

1/2
CHILDREN

Children make up 1/3 of the global population, however half of the people living in extreme poverty are children.

4
YEARS

COVID-19 erased more than 4 years of progress in reducing the amount of people living in extreme poverty. Rising food prices and the impacts of the war in Ukraine could impact this progress further.

EXTREME POVERTY

The **Extreme Poverty** line is living on less than \$1.90 a day.

People in extreme poverty struggle to meet their most basic needs.

This can mean:

- Starvation
- No clean water
- No proper housing
- No access to medicine or healthcare

'RELATIVE' POVERTY IN IRELAND

581
THOUSAND

PEOPLE AT RISK OF POVERTY

Over 1 in 9 people (581,334) are living on an income below the poverty line.

691
THOUSAND

PEOPLE LIVING IN DEPRIVATION

Almost 1 out of 7 people living in Ireland (13.8%) must do without basic needs.

200
THOUSAND

PEOPLE IN CONSISTENT POVERTY

One in 25 people living in Ireland (200,460) have an income below the poverty line and experience deprivation.



Poverty exists in more wealthy countries too. Here the poverty is 'relative'.

Relative poverty is where people's standard of living and income is so much lower than the general standard of living in the country where they live, that they struggle to live a normal life.

They cannot take part in ordinary everyday activities.

Relative poverty is measured in relation to average incomes and the ability to afford basic necessities.



182
THOUSAND

CHILDREN
AT RISK OF
POVERTY

Over 3 in 10 (31.33%) of people at risk of poverty are Children.

Children have higher rates for risk of poverty and deprivation than working-age adults or older people.

Lone parent households have the highest risk of poverty and deprivation rates of all household types.

2/5

SOCIAL WELFARE
HELPS TO REDUCE
POVERTY

Nearly two-fifths (38.6%) of the population would be At Risk of Poverty if there were no social welfare payments.

€291
PER WEEK

THRESHOLD
AT RISK OF
POVERTY

A single person is deemed 'At Risk of Poverty' if their weekly income is below this level.

WHAT DOES DEPRIVATION MEAN?

- ✘ 355,817 people without heating at some point during the year
- ✘ 446,024 people unable to afford new (not second-hand) clothes
- ✘ 826,898 people unable to afford to replace worn out furniture

END POVERTY
IN ALL ITS
FORMS
EVERYWHERE

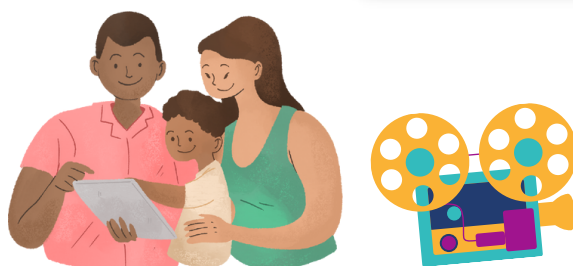
1 NO
POVERTY



17 October Projects around Ireland



Barnardos are bringing together a group of parents they work with in order to capture their lived experience via video. This will be launched to coincide with UN Day on October 17th.



The Disability Federation of Ireland will be putting together a short video for the day. The video will feature some of their member organisations. Participants will tell the story of and give examples of the extra cost of disability, the poverty it creates, and the action needed in Ireland to address this. They want to highlight the many extra costs that come with having a disability, and the economic vulnerability and risk of poverty this creates, especially given the lack of sufficient income and supports.



Blanchardstown Center for Independent Living are hosting an open event in the Mulhuddart Community Centre on the 17th October, The Mayor of Fingal will open this event and they will have a number of speakers from the Saint Vincent De Paul and MABS. Members of BCIL will speak about the cost of Disability and the day to day reality people face, the average annual extra cost of living with a disability is between €8,700 and €12,300. This event will give the disability community a voice in Dublin



15 and is open to everyone.





Yola Farm Hedge School Tagoat is launching the Dept Of Chancery Rosslare Rd Failte Abhaile Tour initiative to bring music and performance to several venues on the Rosslare Rd in the month of October. All of the venues on this tour currently house asylum seekers. The aim is to bring some of the Wexford Festival mood to these new communities, to encourage individuals from these new communities to begin performing, and to highlight an anti-poverty message that no individual and no community should be left behind in these times. They aim to get people from each of these venues to visit the other venues with us and to forge connections and links with each other. Local people often take these links that they have for granted, in new communities these links need to be initiated, grown, and supported.



The **Tullamore Family & Community Resource Centre** will run a project with families from different sectors of the community to participate in a "Garden Mosaic Project" concluding with a community event to commemorate the UN International day for the Eradication of Poverty. The mosaic will be displayed in the community garden and will be a permanent reminder to people in the community and visitors to the resource centre of the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The project will target those most marginalised from different sectors of the community who have experiences of hardship, exclusion and poverty and will provide an opportunity for people to come together in solidarity in the face of adversity and share their experiences. People experiencing poverty will participate for the event to be meaningful and in solidarity.



Saol Project will create an exhibition of portraits of people supporting and promoting this year's theme of 'Respecting the Dignity of all Humanity'. The key messages of this theme will be reinforced by a single word chosen by the sitter to convey their message, values and beliefs included on their portrait. The vision is for the portraits to be of a large scale and to be printed in a fashion enabling them to be displayed indoors and outdoors. There will also be an option and format to have the exhibition projected in large scale. Short video vignettes to expand on the theme are also proposed. The aim of the work is to advocate an awareness and key messages of social justice (manifested in its different forms), challenge the humiliation, stigma and exclusion associated with living in poverty and injustice and to educate and inform the view of people outside the poverty threshold.

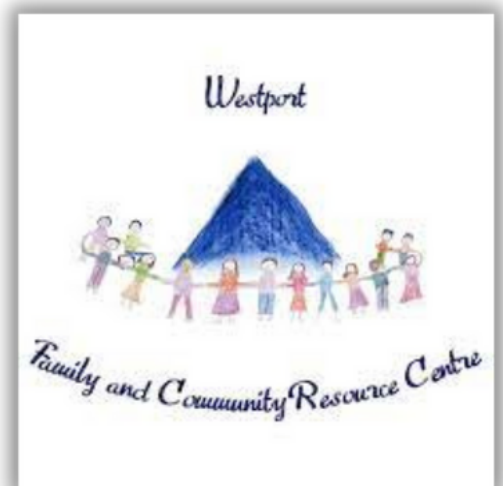
Citywise's youth steering committee will facilitate a group of young people to script and perform a short video about how poverty, the cost of living crises and all the negative media around it affects them and their peers. They will also be asked to look beyond their own personal views to think how this will further impact other young people from different demographics.



St. Michael's Family Resource Centre, Inchicore will distribute 2000 cards throughout Inchicore, Dublin highlighting fuel poverty during the coming winter months ahead and the choices that low income families and the working poor make daily. It will also call for the eradication of poverty whilst marking the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.



Westport Family & Community Resource Centre will host a facilitated workshop/conversation, open to members of the local community, those we support and work with in the FRC, as well as relevant locally operating groups and organisations. Through an interactive and participatory forum, they want to draw out what poverty is, what it "looks like", causes of poverty, symptoms of poverty and suggested solutions or ways to support people at risk of, or experiencing poverty. They will address socio economic and poverty bias, using the space to generate a greater understanding and awareness, challenging some attitudes, misconceptions, and assumptions made about poverty and who is poor. The space will tease out the reality for people in terms of isolation, lack of choices and the ways that poverty can limit individuals and families from participating in society and accessing basic services. As part of this workshop, they will have a local artist capturing the discussion and key themes from the day, this visual piece will then be unveiled and put on display locally in Westport.

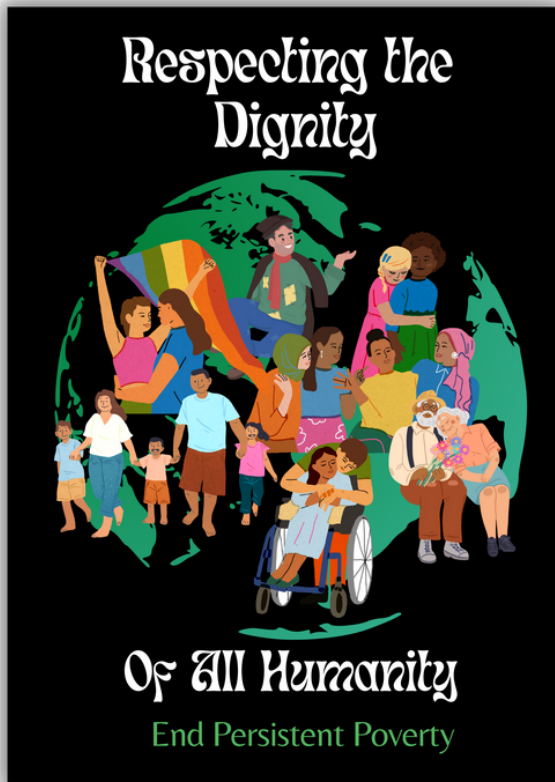




SICCDA is working with The Sanctuary on Stanhope Street to provide a facilitated half-day session of meditation and mindfulness for community members who experience poverty on October 17th. In line with the theme of respecting the dignity of all humanity, this session will cultivate a sense of wellbeing, offer a space for reflection and give participants space and time to share about their experiences on their own terms. It will also provide an opportunity to learn practical, accessible skills of self-care which can help manage difficult emotions. When people experience difficulty in their lives, especially persistent poverty, care of the self is often the first thing to fall by the wayside. With this session, we want to provide an accessible introduction to meditation and mindfulness practices which participants can incorporate into their daily lives. We will also create and distribute a booklet to participants which will contain information on the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty and how taking time for oneself and developing wellness practices feeds into the spirit of the day. It will also have space for participants to journal their reflections and learnings from the session



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
Central to this event will be a number of personal testimonies of people with lived experience of poverty.



Doras Buí is working with a group of participants, looking at global aspects of poverty while working with a group at a local level. To use the 'forum theatre techniques/ theatre of the oppressed' - this is engaging with your audience in a differently way than is traditional. The audience become active in the performance. Working through reflective practice to see how the audience engage with the piece. This is supposed to have a lasting impact for everyone involved. Describe their own experience in their own words – bringing in some of the systemic barriers, which keep people oppressed. For example different people reading different people's stories. From that piece of work we would hope that there would be changes in perceptions around where poverty comes from and what keeps people in poverty.



♥ Socio - Economic Discrimination



ADD THE 10TH CAMPAIGN

"I feel that they are above me, like they have more rights than I have, even though they haven't"

GENDER DISABILITY CIVIL STATUS RACE SEXUAL ORIENTATION

AGE RELIGION FAMILY STATUS TRAVELLER COMMUNITY

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

#AddThe10th Alliance

THE MISSING
PIECE IN EQUALITY LEGISLATION



Scan to learn more and sign the petition

The **add the 10th alliance** are a group of NGO's, community and voluntary organisations working together to have socio- economic discrimination recognised as the 10th ground of discrimination in Irish equality legislation. The government are currently undergoing a review of the equality legislation.

Those from disadvantaged backgrounds are frequently treated less favourably based on where they are from, their clothing, their accent or their income. Recognising socio-economic discrimination in equality legislation would provide those discriminated against with a method of seeking legal redress for this mistreatment.

Post a photo with the jigsaw, the 'missing piece' of equality legislation to social media and use **#addthe10th** to show your support for the campaign!



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.



RESPECT THE DIGNITY

Support the mobilization with the hashtags
[#EndPoverty](#) [#17octIRL](#)



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



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An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection



#Addthe10th

End Socio-Economic Discrimination in Ireland

