

17 October 2014

Learning from people who think night and day about poverty  
People must have a voice and influence decisions that affect them

## Leave No One Behind! Help Us Wash Poverty Down The Drain!

Hundreds Expected to Commemorate 17 October  
UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty at Dublin's Docklands

COMMEMORATION BEGINS AT 11 O'CLOCK - FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER 2014

Famine Memorial, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1

### Press Release

The #EndPoverty Day gathering – beginning at 10.30am near the Famine Memorial on Custom House Quay - is an opportunity for people and communities to have their voices heard through personal testimonies from people who experience poverty, as well as through music and an artwork exhibition

The programme includes



- the first public exhibition of the **The Poverty Washing Line** prepared by the SAOL project ([www.saolproject.ie](http://www.saolproject.ie))
- a **minute's silence** for victims of poverty joined up with delegates from the **One Young World Summit** at 12.05pm introduced by Lord Mayor Christy Burke, at the Convention Centre, who will represent the people gathered on the quay.
- the announcement of **the appointment of Irish Aftercare Worker, Ms. Belinda Nugent to the International Committee for October 17** - <http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/international-committee-for-october-17-appointment-of-belinda-nugent>
- the welcome of delegates from Poland, where the 17 October will be marked in Warsaw and Kielce
- Presentation of leaflet informing about **more than 20 events taking place in Ireland** to mark UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty at Dublin's Docklands - <http://17october.ie/ireland-is-on-the-way-to-mark-the-endpoverty-day/> - majority of these events are supported by the UN Day awareness initiative of the Department of Social Protection

**Martin** and **Liam** from North West Inner City Training and Development Project said in their message: *"One of us was in the project for a year, doing well and then the project was pulled down. All the hope he had just went down. For every step he went forward, he felt he was going back ten. When again you have to go all the way back to the beginning, you can ask yourself "Why bother?". People do lose hope, do lose faith in the system, they are frustrated, and they feel they are left abandoned, rejected... It is now much more difficult to feel part of the same society, to feel a sense of being equal citizens together, when there are such inequalities."*

**Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland**, in his message of support wrote: *"UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is a significant date on the global calendar. I thank you for ensuring it is a day when we, in Ireland, join together with citizens across the world in a spirit of shared humanity as we seek for sustainable solutions to marginalization and poverty."*

The challenge set by the 2014 United Nations is: **Leave no one behind: think, decide and act together against extreme poverty**. The call to “**Leave no one behind**” points to the urgent need to eliminate discrimination and marginalisation based on poverty, ethnic origin, gender, age, disability or economic and social status. The call “**To think, decide and act together against extreme poverty**” highlights the need for institutions to create genuine participatory mechanisms and to also work as partners with communities to strengthen their own support organisations.

## ENDS

**For further information, contacts:** Pierre Klein (089 440 15 23) or Martin Byrne (087 218 18 38) from the Irish 17th October Committee

## Notes to Editor

- The Commemoration is organised by the **Irish 17 October Committee** ([www.17october.ie](http://www.17october.ie))
- In 2014, this Committee is made up of activists, groups from local communities, teachers, home school liaison officers and members of organisations including All Together in Dignity – ATD Fourth World Ireland, Coláiste Eoin, Daughters of Charity Community Services, Dochas, European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland, Focus Ireland, Inner City Organisations Network (ICON), Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Irish Refugee Council, Larkin Community College, Life Centre in Ballyfermot, Matt Talbot Community Trust, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, Neighbourhood Youth Project 2 (NYP2), North West Inner City Training and Development Project, O’Connell School, Pavee Point, Saint Laurence O’Toole’s Junior Boys’ School, Saol Project, Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice.
- The 17 October Commemorative Stone in Dublin carries the human rights message\* , and is situated fifty paces east of Rowan Gillespie’s Famine Memorial. It replicates the **original commemorative stone** in Paris on the Human Rights Plaza near the Eiffel Tower, where the Human Rights Declaration was signed 66 years ago. This message gave rise in 1992 to the 17 October UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty. It is signed by Joseph Wresinski, who grew up in poverty in France and who went on to found the international anti-poverty organisation **All Together for Dignity Fourth World**\*\* ([www.atdireland.ie](http://www.atdireland.ie)). The Dublin stone is one of fifty commemorative stones laid around the world, each contributing to an international current of people committed to overcoming poverty.

\*“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.” Joseph Wresinski 17 October 1987

\*\**All Together for Dignity Fourth World is an international movement combating poverty through a human rights perspective. Fourth World is a re-coining of the term Fourth Estate, used after the French revolution to give an identity to the poor and unrecognised people, who were not considered part of the other three "estates". ATD, founded in France in 1957, now has a grass-roots presence in 40 countries. ([www.atd-fourthworld.org](http://www.atd-fourthworld.org))*



# Irish 17 October Committee

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Drawing of 17 October Stone, Custom House Quay, Dublin by Joe Connolly

## Gathering & Commemoration of the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty 17 October 2014, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1 – from 10.30am to 12.15pm

**10.30am** - Exhibition of art work created by different projects to mark the UN Day, among others the “**Poverty Washing Line**” prepared by the **SAOL project** + Display showing maps of the events taking place in Ireland & worldwide at the occasion of UN Day

**10.30am** - Drumming group from **O’Connell Secondary School** students accompanied by a saxophonist

**10.50am** – Songs by children from **St Laurence O’Toole School**, North Wall

### 11.00am – Start of the Commemoration

**Mr. Martin Byrne**, member of the Irish 17 October Committee, introduces the Masters of the Ceremony

Welcome by the M.C.: **Members from the Saol project** with **Mrs. Belinda Nugent**

Address by **Mr. Christy Burke**, Lord Mayor of Dublin

Song ‘**Lean on Me**’ by students from Larkin Community College

Proclamation in 4 languages of **Joseph Wresinski’s call** engraved on the Commemorative Stone:  
*“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.”*

- H.E. Jean-Pierre Thébault, Ambassador of France to Ireland with students from the Lycée Français d’Irlande (French)
- Mel MacGiobúin, Coordinator of the North Inner City Drugs Task Force (Irish)
- Young delegates of the One Young World Summit (English)
- Mr. Piotr Rakowski, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. in charge of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Dublin (Polish)

### Contributions from the following community members

- Statement from a delegation of **ATD Poland** (in Polish + English translation)
- Testimony prepared with support of **Migrant Rights Centre Ireland**
- Testimony read by Paul prepared with support of **Focus Ireland**
- Music interlude by Sergiu Pruteanu - Musicantia*
- Testimony from the **Roma Community**
- Contribution from members of **ATD Ireland**
- Contribution from members of the **North West Inner City Training and Development Project (NWICTDP)**

**at 12.05pm Minute of silence** shared with the delegates of the One Young World Summit to remember the death of people because of extreme poverty and to honour the struggle and courage of those who face it daily – Mr. Christy Burke, Lord Mayor of Dublin, will represent the people gathered on CHQ at Convention Centre.

Song by a youth group from **Neighbourhood Youth Project 2 (NYP2)**

Address from **Emily Logan**, Chief Commissioner Designate, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Designate

**Common gesture**: Circle of placards “**Leave No One Behind**” and proclamation of “**I Bear Witness to You**” - Joseph Wresinski’s address from 17 October 1987 by young people from the **North Wall Community Training Centre**.

Conclusion song: **Working Man – the Coal Miners Song** by the NWICTDP group

12.20 pm approx. **Closing address by the M.C.**

12:45 approx.-Refreshments in Liberty Hall building (basement level) prepared with the support of Noel Clarke, from Clarke’s Home Bakery and volunteers from the Dublin French speaking community – Tweeting session with the support of Dochas and [www.tapastreet.com](http://www.tapastreet.com) + song and presentation of videos from SAOL project...



The **17 October UN Day commemoration** on Custom House Quay is organised by the **Irish 17 October Committee (www.17october.ie)** with the support of the Department of Social Protection under the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Public Awareness Initiative. Follow us at **@17octcomIRL**



An Roinn Coimírce Sóisialai  
Department of Social Protection  
[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)