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UN End Poverty Day 2016 - #17octIRL

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## Press Release

October 17<sup>th</sup> 2016

### United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty

11 am – 12:30 pm

Human Rights and Poverty Stone

(near the Famine Memorial Statues)  
at Custom House Quay, Dublin 1

*In observance of the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty people from all over the country will gather around the Human Rights and Poverty Stone on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October to share their stories of experiencing poverty in Ireland, and to celebrate activism, social change and hope for the future. People from all walks of life and from every sector of society will come together to express solidarity with those experiencing poverty and social exclusion.*

The commemoration will take place between 11 am and 12:30 pm on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the **Human Rights and Poverty Stone**, near the Famine Memorial, on Custom House Quay. It is an opportunity for people and communities to have their voices heard through personal testimonies from people who have first-hand experience of poverty, as well as through music, song and drama

The **President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins** will be present and speak at

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Ambassadors of Poland and Spain and many others. **Hugh Frazer**, the first director of the Irish Combat Poverty Agency, will be the Master of Ceremonies.

As a part of the visual display, there will be a presentation by Tapori, the children's network of All Together in Dignity. School children in Ireland were asked to create '**Smiles Drawings**'- something they believe will bring happiness to the people gathered at the "End Poverty Day" event. They will be hanging up on the trees near the Human Rights and Poverty Stone to symbolise the fruits of warmth and solidarity.

A large banner reading "**No Poverty – Leave No One Behind – No Hunger**", spanning the 35 meters from the Famine Statues to the Human Rights and Poverty Stone, will be displayed. The banner has been prepared by students of the North Wall Community Training Centre, Dublin 1.

The SOAL Project will present a visual art project called "**Object Poverty**". The images are based on surveys where people were asked to describe what object they most associate with poverty. These will be displayed on the quayside.

The **Waterford High Hopes Choir** will sing at the Ceremony.

The central theme of this year's event is "**Growing Together to Leave No One Behind**".

To **Leave No One Behind** is the central challenge of the 2016-2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"**Growing Together to Leave No One Behind**" means having:

- **Inclusive economic growth:** In a time of recovery and economic growth, our collective responsibility is to make sure that no one is excluded from its benefits.
- **Inclusive democratic growth:** As Ireland starts to implement the 2030 Agenda it should create opportunities for growth and empowerment for marginalised and excluded groups, and citizens thereby creating new possibilities for their participation, sharing of expertise and leadership.
- **Inclusive personal and collaborative growth:** Growing together challenges our existing prejudices and established silos. The 2030 Agenda, in its call for partnership (Goal 17), holds transformative potential. It invites us to create relationships and collaborations which challenge our usual ways of thinking, working and networking.

In his message for the UN Day, **Ban Ki-moon** said: "*We are approaching the*

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*Development. To fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind, we must address the humiliation and exclusion of people living in poverty. The duty of all Governments and societies is to address systemic socio-economic inequalities and facilitate the engagement of all people living in extreme poverty so they can help themselves, their families and their communities to build a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous future for all.”*

**Isabelle Pypaert-Perrin**, General Director of All Together in Dignity – ATD International will attend the gathering. She said: *“The UN International theme for the Day ‘Moving from Humiliation and Exclusion to Participation – ending poverty is all its forms’ reminds us that poverty is invariably intertwined with humiliation and exclusion. So long as people living in poverty continue to suffer discrimination, humiliation, and exclusion, their fundamental human rights will continue to be abused and their access to basic needs will be limited.”*

The Human Rights and Poverty Stone is engraved with the call made by the founder of ATD International, Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988) on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 1987. It reads: **“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.”** There are now 50 such commemorative stones and plaques around the world bearing the same message, providing the focus point in many countries of today’s gathering.

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## **Programme – Commemoration of UN Day for the**

**Eradication of Poverty:** 10.30 am – 12:30 pm - Human Rights and Poverty Stone near the Famine Memorial Statues at Custom House Quay, Dublin 1

10:30– Welcoming people at the Human Rights and Poverty Stone – Piper Anthony Kelly

10:40 - Music/songs – Nigerian Singer Nkem Igala – Waterford High Hopes Choir - The SAOL Project presents the exhibition "Object Poverty"

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## Training and Development Project (NWICTDP)

### **11:00 – Formal Start:**

Welcome by Hugh Frazer as Master of Ceremonies – Reading of the 17 October Call engraved on the Human Rights and Poverty Stone: in English, Spanish and Polish (read by H.E. Mr. José María Rodríguez-Coso , Ambassador of Spain & H.E. Mr. Ryszard *Sarkowicz* )

11:05 - "We are Humanity" - Young people from NYP2 sing with Anthony Corcoran and John Weafer (based on the song "I am Australian")

11:10 – Welcome and address by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Brendan Carr

11:15 – Song - Nigerian Singer Nkem Igala (i-Smile International)

11:20 – Arrival of President Higgins – Piper Anthony Kelly plays Let Erin Remember

11:23 - Welcome to President by Paul Uzel, member of the Irish 17 October Committee (Including extracts of the "I Bear witness" address of 17 October 1987 by Joseph Wresinski)

11:27 – 3 testimonies (Debbie, Dublin 1; Short play by African women from i-Smile International; Paul, Emma and Kathleena from Focus Ireland)

11:40 – Music:Piper Anthony Kelly plays a lament

11:45 – 2 testimonies including a minute's silence (Mihaita, 15, Romanian student from O'Connell School Dublin 1 – Louise, Paula, Lynn and Philip from the Our Voices project of ATD; SAOL Project and NWICTDP)

11:55 – Address by the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins

12:10 – Common gesture & songs ("Love Rescue Me" & "Ireland's Call" with the Waterford High Hopes Choir)

12:18 – Time to mingle for the participants (music with the Piper)

12:30 - The President leaves and people are invited to gather in Sheriff Youth Club Sport's Hall to share a meal together (corner of Sheriff Street Lower and Commons Street - 10 minute walk from the Human Rights and Poverty Stone)

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### **Notes to the editor:**

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The commemoration is organised by the National Irish 17 October Committee which is made up of activists and groups in local communities, teachers, home school liaison officers and members of domestic and international organisations. For a full list of the members see: <http://17october.ie/committee/>

- **All Together in Dignity Ireland:**

All Together in Dignity Ireland is a member of the National Irish 17 October Committee and is the leading organisation for this event. See [www.atdireland.ie](http://www.atdireland.ie)

- **Hugh Frazer – Master of Ceremonies**

Hugh Frazer is a former director of both the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust and the Irish Government's Combat Poverty Agency. For five years he was an expert on social inclusion policy at the European Commission in Brussels. He is currently adjunct Professor at Maynooth University and coordinator of the European Commission's European Social Policy Network.

- **The Human Rights and Poverty Stone:**

17 October 2008 saw the unveiling of a Human Rights and Poverty Stone on Custom House Quay, close to the Famine Memorial in Dublin. Created by the Irish sculptor Stuart McGrath, it bears the message, in English, Irish and French, which was first inscribed in 1987 on the stone in Paris:

“On this day, defenders of human and civil rights from every continent gathered here. They paid homage to the victims of hunger, ignorance and violence. They affirmed their conviction that human misery is not inevitable. They pledged their solidarity with all people who, throughout the world, strive to eradicate extreme 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.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/w9uoqwh45h5mcam/HR%26PovertyStones.pdf?dl=0>

- **The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:**

On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a [new sustainable development agenda](#). Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

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forms everywhere” explicitly recognizes that poverty results not from the lack of just one thing but from many different interrelated factors that affect the lives of people living in poverty. This means we must go beyond seeing poverty merely as the lack of income or what is necessary for material well-being — such as food, housing, land, and other assets – in order to fully understand poverty in its multiple dimensions. See information on the global goals at:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals>

- **The End Poverty Day:**

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was first marked at a major public rally held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 1987 in Paris, where one hundred thousand people from all backgrounds responded to a call from Joseph Wresinski, founder of All Together in Dignity, to gather at the Plaza of Liberties and Human Rights.

On this day, a call was engraved on a Commemorative Stone, proclaiming that extreme poverty is a violation of human rights and affirming the need for all people to unite to ensure that these rights are respected.

In 1992, the United Nations recognised the 17<sup>th</sup> of October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Since then, governments, local authorities, members of civil society and the private sector have recognised the importance of this International Day, which has become a key rallying point for a growing number of citizens and organizations from all backgrounds, in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty. The theme of the 2016 UN Day highlights how important it is to recognise and address the humiliation and exclusion endured by many people living in poverty.

Events in Ireland (see also #17octIRL): <http://17october.ie/irelandmarksidep2016/>

Events around the world outside Ireland: <http://17october.ie/world2016/>

More information at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty-homepage/2016-2.html>

and [www.17october.ie](http://www.17october.ie)

- **Tapori, an International Children’s Network**

The founder of ATD, Joseph Wresinski was convinced that children have an important role in the movement to eradicate poverty. He believed that by giving

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them to take action against it, we can nurture advocates of social change for the future. See <http://en.tapori.org/>

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