



INTERNATIONAL
DAY for the
ERADICATION
of POVERTY
17 OCTOBER

Ireland marks UN International End Poverty Day 2020



#ENDPOVERTY

#17OCTIRL



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

**FOR A JUST
SOCIETY & A
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**



Listening to Unheard Voices



On 17 October 1987, in the presence of 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. The 17th of 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 the Custom House Quay, near the Famine Memorial in Dublin.

On the 17th of 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's Address

(Initiator of the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty)

17 October 1987 – Paris



I bear witness to you.



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.



THIS YEAR'S THEME



Global Theme for the UN International End Poverty Day 2020:

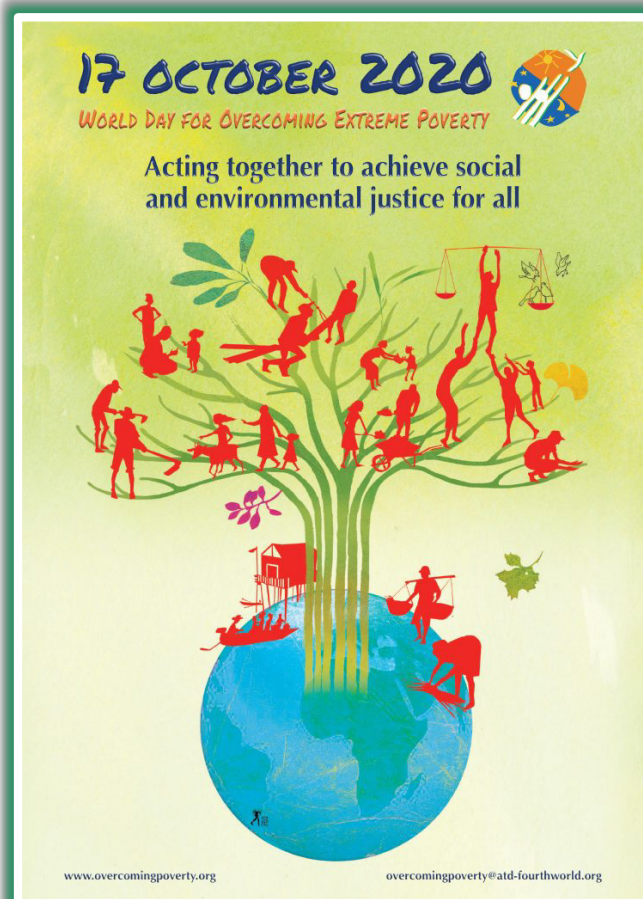
Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all.

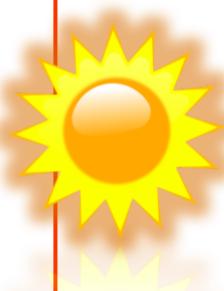
The traumatic impact of the coronavirus pandemic in countries across the world has provided a stark reminder to us all of how inextricably linked the issues of social wellbeing for everyone and the wellbeing of our planet are.

Since the onset of the pandemic, it has been clear that the more fortunate have had more and better opportunities and resources to protect themselves. This contrasts sharply with the situation facing the less fortunate for whom such basic protections are weak or largely absent.

People living in extreme poverty, often through sheer necessity, are the first to act decisively within their communities in response to poverty, climate change and environmental challenges. However, their efforts and experience often go unnoticed and unappreciated; their ability to contribute positively to solutions has been overlooked; they are not recognized as drivers of change, and their voices are not heard, especially in international bodies.

This must change. The participation, knowledge, contributions and experience of people living in poverty and those left behind must be valued, respected and reflected in our efforts to build an equitable and sustainable world in which there is social and environmental justice for all.





MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS



I send my very best wishes to all those participating in this year's International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty.

The theme of this year's International Day is a most important one, examining how we might achieve Social and Environmental Justice for All - through the lens of the Covid-19 Pandemic.


We have been aware, for some time, that climate change is the greatest existential crisis facing our global community. We have also been aware that it is a crisis which is disproportionately affecting the poorest regions across the world – those countries that, strangled by debt and often excluded from the benefits of science and technology, are deprived of the capacity to respond to the severe problems caused by emissions in the industrialised world.

Today, as we face together the unprecedented challenge of the coronavirus pandemic, it is once again our most vulnerable communities who are experiencing its most devastating effects. While Covid-19 is impacting on all our lives, that impact is not an equal one. For those who have been displaced or persecuted, who are the victims of natural disasters, who live in daily poverty in cramped and overcrowded conditions, deprived of clean water or an adequate health system, the threat of Covid-19 brings increased fears and poorer outcomes.

If we are to not only halt the spread of the virus, but prevent the economic collapse of the developing world and the spread of food insecurity to over a billion of our fellow global citizens, our response to the Coronavirus pandemic must be one of global co-operation – a response in which the phrase 'we are all in this together' is a truly generous one, encompassing all our vulnerable and marginalised global citizens.

UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is an important event on the global calendar. This year we join in solidarity, and in unprecedented circumstances, with those across the world who are impoverished, powerless and excluded.

I thank you for your great spirit of shared humanity and your determined pursuit of human rights for all our fellow global citizens.



Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

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UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN

17 October Projects Around Ireland

#EndPoverty #LeaveNoOneBehind #17OctIRL



Arden View Family Resource Centre, Tullamore

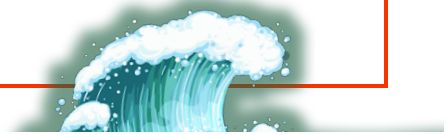
Tullamore Community & Family Resource Centre will produce a book titled 'My Journey' in order to raise awareness and give insight to what it is like to live in poverty, hardship or trauma in Ireland today. A presentation of this book will take place on 17th October at Tullamore Community & Family Resource Centre.

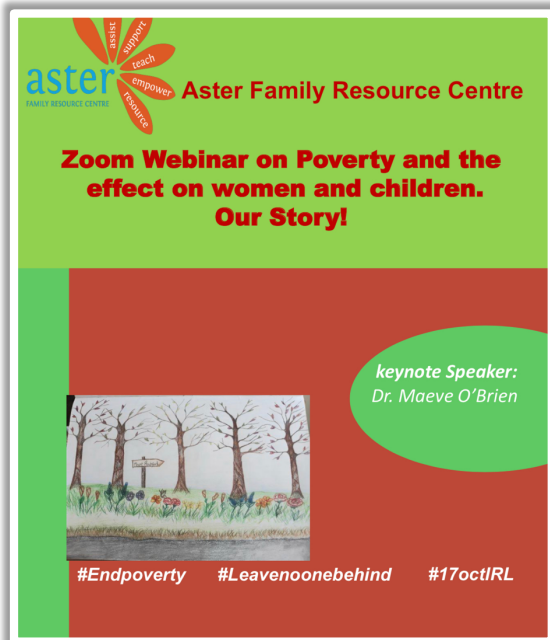
Contact:

info@tfrc.ie

Website:

www.familyresource.ie





Aster Family Resource Centre

Aster FRC are hosting a pop-up Zoom webinar, on the 17th of October, 10:00am to 1:00pm, highlighting the multifaceted meaning of poverty and its effect on women and children in the North Dublin Fingal area. In addition, booklets and posters will be provided to local schools to raise awareness of poverty at grass root levels.

Contact:

info@asterfamilysupport.ie

Website:

www.asterfamilysupport.ie



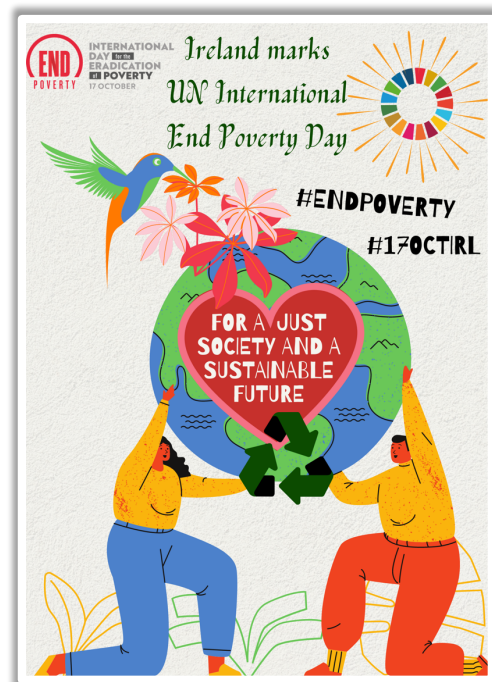
All Together in Dignity (ATD) Ireland

On Saturday the 17th of October 2020 at 11am, ATD Ireland in cooperation with the Irish 17 October Committee will host an online event via zoom to mark the annual commemoration of the UN International End Poverty Day normally observed at the Human Rights and Poverty Stone, Dublin. Central to this event will be a number of personal testimonies of people with lived experience of poverty. There will also be a launch of a film called '**17 Voices, 1 Message: End Poverty!**' **#17October** featuring individuals' poverty experiences and their participation in the annual commemoration over the years.



Contact: info@atdireland.ie

Website: www.atdireland.ie



Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living

The Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living supports a peer group which aims to produce leaflets / flyers / a booklet about experiences of living with a disability.

For more information:

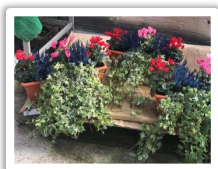
Contact: admin@bcil.ie

Website: www.bcil.ie



Breffni Family Resource Centre & Community Development

To promote and raise awareness for UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Breffni FRC will create a beautiful flower display to be set inside a boat named the 'UN Day 17 October'. In addition, a new Greengage Tree originating from Iran will be placed in the Orchard of Hope. This project will be presented at an event held on Monday 19th October 2020.

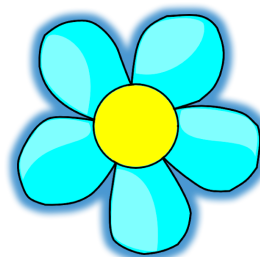


Contact: info@breffnifrc.ie

Website: www.breffnifrc.ie



"Turning the tide of Poverty"



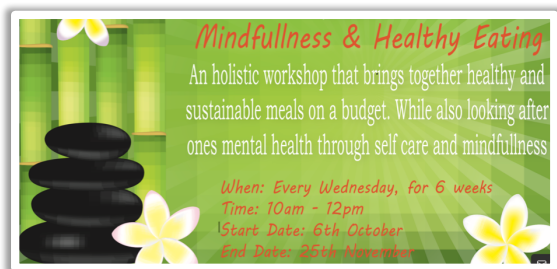


Doras Bui

Doras Bui invites you to attend an online 'Mindfulness & Healthy Eating' course, running from 6th October until 25th November 2020. This holistic workshop contributes to sustainable and economic mindfulness. Facilitated by Zoom, links will be provided each week for an enjoyable experience.

Contact: info@dorasbui.ie

Website: www.dorasbui.ie



Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)

ICTU have created two videos that explore workers' experience within economic sectors on climate change challenges through a just transition. These videos will form part of the ICTU Global Solidarity School which takes place online from the 7th -17th October.

Contact: congress@ictu.ie

Website: www.ictu.ie





Irish 17 October Committee

The Irish 17 October Committee will provide networking and liaison supports to grantees funded under the Public Awareness Funding scheme 2020 of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection to promote the UN International End Poverty Day. From September to October, it will engage with the grantees to provide resources and information to assist them in undertaking their projects, while also promoting them. The Committee will produce a National 17 October Booklet 2020 to showcase the 18 grantee projects funded this year.

Contact: committe@17october.ie

Website: www.17october.ie



Kids' Own Publishing Partnership

Kids' Own are facilitating online creative workshops where young participants will work alongside a professional artist and writer. Participants will display their creations in an online exhibition and in various public spaces throughout Sligo from 17th October.

Contact: info@kidsown.ie

Website: www.kidsown.ie





North West Simon Community

The Simon Community are calling on people of the North West and beyond to swap their beds for sleeping bags for one night only by taking part in the Virtual Sleep Out anytime in October. Please contact the charity first where you will be given clear guidelines to help set up your online fundraising campaign.



[For more information](#)

Lus na Gréine

Lus na Gréine Family Resource Centre will create a short film entitled 'Worlds Apart – Communities Together', which illustrates a community acting together and showing resilience in the face of multi-dimensions of anxiety, poverty, adversity and marginalization. It will go live on October 17th 2020 to mark the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

[For more information](#)

Contact: lusnagreinefrc@gmail.com

Website: www.lusnagreinefrc.weebly.com



Contact: mary@northwestsimon.ie

Website: www.northwestsimon.ie



Contact: youth@otm.ie

Website: www.otm.ie

Offaly Traveller Movement Youth Project

The Offaly Traveller Movement Youth Project will undertake a photo project illustrating a diverse visual portrayal of young Travellers developed through workshops and photo shoots with a local artist to promote the UN International End Poverty Day.



SAOL Project

The SAOL Project participants came together to create a wonderful music video to mark the 17th October UN International End Poverty Day.

For more information:

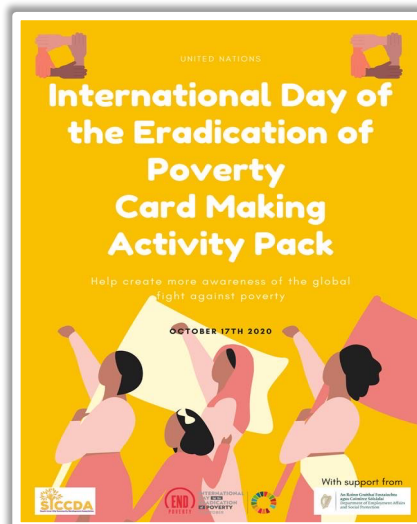
Contact: admin@saolproject.ie

Website: <http://www.saolproject.ie/>



South Inner-City Community Development Association (SICCDA)

SICCDA aim to create information / activity booklets and a card decorating exchange project. The information booklets will be delivered to isolated older people to raise awareness on poverty. They will also be invited to decorate cards based on their reflections and to send them to people that they miss during the pandemic



Contact: reception@sicdda.ie

Website:
<http://www.sicdda.wordpress.com/>

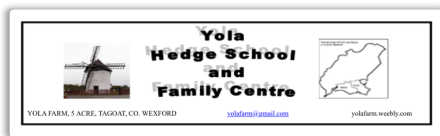
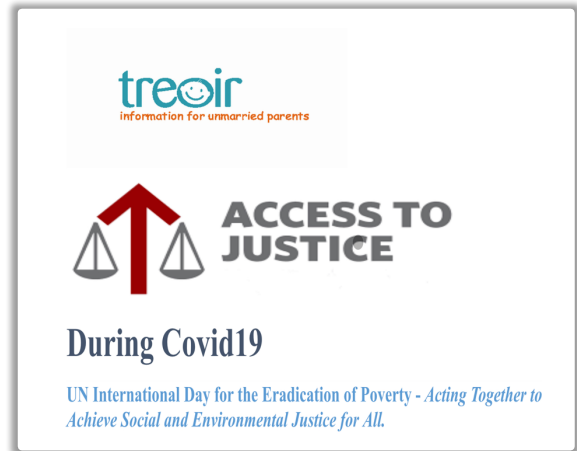


Treoir

Treoir are aiming to launch an 'Access to Justice' campaign targeting disadvantaged or struggling lone parents. The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness about services, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. Access to Justice events will take place from the 14-18th October 2020 and will include the use of local radio and media to inform people of the project.

Contact: info@treoir.ie

Website: www.treoir.ie



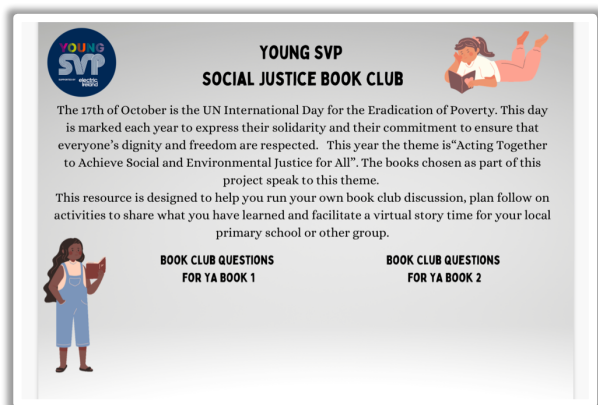
Yola Hedge School & Family Centre

A community event will take place in the local Direct Provision Centre which will feature artists books with a theme of 'Social and Environmental Justice'. The event is open to members of the community, residents of the direct provision centre, local politicians and agencies working with asylum seekers and community groups. There will be food and music provided, along with a photographic exhibition.

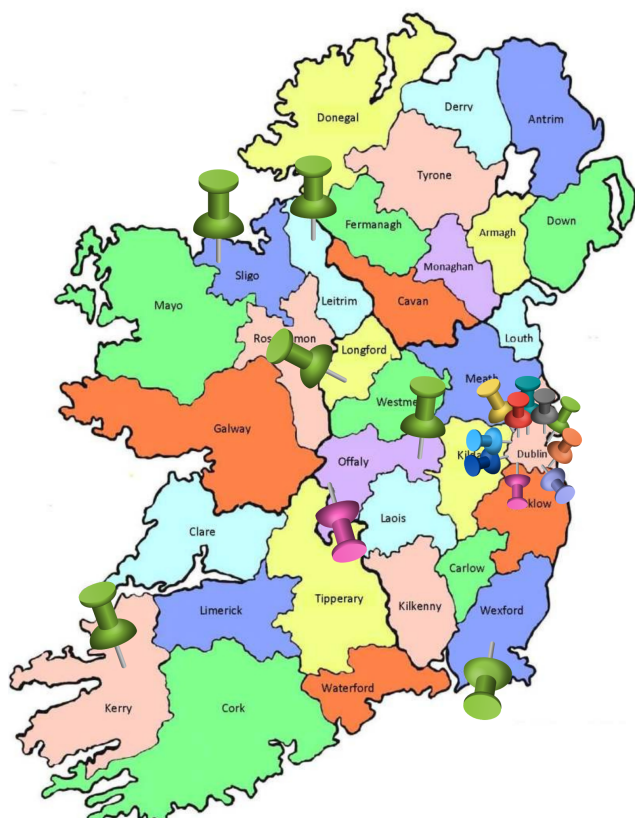
Contact: yolafarm@gmail.com

Website: www.yolafarm.weebly.com





MAP OF 17 OCTOBER PROJECTS



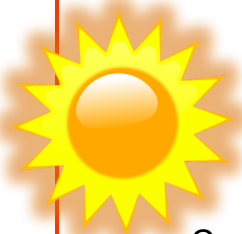
Young SVP (Saint Vincent de Paul)

Young SVP is excited to be undertaking a project titled: 'Social Justice Book Club' in collaboration with Word Power Literacy scheme from 10-24th October 2020. Groups will be supported to share what they have learned about environmental justice through social media and online club meetings.

Contact:
info@svp.ie

Website:
www.svp.ie





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.



Support the 17 October World Day with the
hashtags

#EndPoverty #LeaveNooneBehind #17octIRL

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

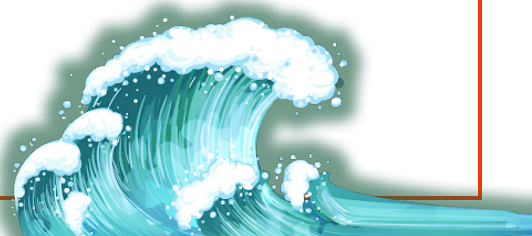
The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection supports this project as part of its funding initiative for the United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The views expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.



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