

International Movement ATD Fourth World



Building a partnership with the poorest for a fairer world

2002 – 2005

*“Wherever a nation or an international community is designing its future,
it is important that people living in deep poverty should be involved.
If they have no role in designing projects today, they will not be part of the
changes tomorrow.”*

Joseph Wresinski

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Legend of the photos on the cover:

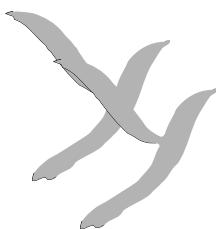
- ▶ Kofi Annan receives a delegation of the International Movement ATD Fourth World on October 17, 2005
From left to right: Mr. Bernard Mourageon, Mrs. Jacqueline Plaisir, Mr. Paul Harris, Mrs. Sylvie Clause, Mrs. Maria Teresa Gonzalez Antuche, Mrs. Lenore Cola, Mr. Kofi Annan, Mrs. Suzelle Midy, Mrs. Tita Villarosa, Mr. Oguié Anoman, Ms. Maria Victoire, Mr. Thierry Viard, Ms. Vicki Soanes, Mr. Constantine Saasita Munema, Mr. Charles Courtney, Mr. Eugen Brand, *UN photo*
- ▶ March in honor of the victims of extreme poverty à Port-Louis (Mauritius), October 17, 2004, *ATD Fourth World photo*
- ▶ Manila, Philippines, *ATD Fourth World photo*
- ▶ Summer Street Library Festival, Liège, Belgium, *ATD Fourth World photo*

Registered as an international association
November 27, 1974 in France,
Official Journal: 12/03/1974 page 12083

ASBL recognizes Belgium's rights,
Identification number 584/92,
Moniteur Belge: 01/16/1992

A non-governmental organization with consultative status with ECOSOC since 1991,
and consultative status from UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO,
and participatory status with the Council of Europe.

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La realización de este informe ha sido supervisada por Eugen Brand y coordinada por Thierry Viard y Cristina Diez, con la participación de Jean-Marie Anglade, Valérie Brunner, Nathanaël Caillaux, Marie-Claire Droz, Benoit Fabiani, Xavier Godinot, Philippe y Elisa Hamel, Patricia Heyberger, Cathy Low, Béatrice Noyer, Huguette Redegeld, Lydie y Dominique Rouffet, Maria Sandvik, Pierre Segondi, Jean Tonglet, Niek Tweehuysen, Marco Ugarte y Mieke Van Dyck.

Traducción al español realizada por Isabel Acuña, Mayte Antelo y Cristina Diez y revisada Raquel Martínez y Pablo Román.

I. ÉDITORIAL

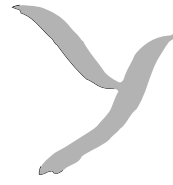


PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD PIERRE SECOND

Oguié Anoman, President of the International ATD Fourth World Movement.

In 1984, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said to Father Joseph Wresinski, founder of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, “You are the eyes and ears of the United Nations in the land of extreme poverty”.

More than ever today, with the huge challenges facing the international community, the International Movement ATD Fourth World seeks to live up to that responsibility. It joins communities of people who have been abandoned in their daily struggle against poverty and seeks change in society so that the most vulnerable can play their full part in it.

In Peru, for example, ATD Fourth World teams regularly organize cultural activities in *aldeas*, which are several hours walk from any town.

After the ravages caused by hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, the United States team and members of the Movement in New Orleans decided to make this tragic event the occasion for a new start. They

went into devastated areas to meet new people and partners in the hope of responding to families in extreme poverty who dreamed of rebuilding their city. Together, they are planning a new future for these families.

On the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17, 2005, Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, received a delegation from the International Movement ATD Fourth World made up of people from Africa, North America, Latin America, Asia, and Europe. In so doing, he showed the importance he places on combating poverty and provided encouragement to people living in extreme poverty and others involved in their struggle, South and North alike.

The choice of October 17th as the date for this meeting was significant. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty intends to create a culture of poverty eradication, one that builds a genuine partnership with those in extreme poverty by inventing new ways of living together in solidarity.

To do this requires better understanding between those with direct experience of extreme poverty, international organizations, governments, civil society and non-governmental organizations. To achieve such an understanding, ongoing dialogue among these partners must be established. From this dialogue, coherent and insightful policies will be born that will provide all people access to their fundamental rights and freedom. ■

*Oguié Anoman
President*

Oguié Anoman, born in 1930, is a national of Ivory Coast and is married with two children. After a career as a magistrate in the Ivory Coast, in 1997 Mr. Anoman became a member of the Cabinet of the Mediator of the Republic of the Ivory Coast. During the 1980s he supported the work of the ATD Fourth World Movement in the prison camp at Bouaké and later joined the International Movement’s Board of Directors. He was elected President in 2002 for a four-year term.

II. PERSPECTIVES



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD PIERRE SECONDI

Office of the Director General, International Movement ATD Fourth World. Left to right: Bruno Couder, Susie Devins, Eugen Brand.

Security, peace, climate change, environmental protection, social protection, access to health care, old age pensions, work - long is the list of vital issues our societies are grappling with today.

Those facing extreme poverty and the suffering it brings, with absolutely no protection or consideration for them and their children, have vital experience and understanding to offer in order to find a solution for these problems. Without their input, society stumbles ahead like a blind and deaf person who refuses to use his or her hands to feel their way.

When the United Nations sets its sights for the first target of the Millennium Development Goals on merely reducing the number of poor by half, what is to be said to those who aren't in the "right" half?

When economic globalization turns its back on human rights, as if the economy was not first and foremost a tool to enhance the lives of all the Earth's inhabitants, our world is advancing neither towards justice nor towards solidarity.

In ATD Fourth World, our common roots - the heritage left to us by our founder Father Joseph Wresinski - constantly urge us to place justice at the heart

of our institutions and businesses, from the humblest to the most powerful, in order to enable families in poverty to integrate their own aspirations into those of the rest of the world.

*"Our Movement was born in pain, anguish, solitude and the misunderstanding of those around us. It shared the same powerlessness and almost total lack of consideration the poorest people must endure. (...) If we have not disappeared, if, on the contrary we have grown, we owe it to the poorest families. Because they came at night to tell us, we who lived among them, what they dared not say to the authorities by day. This told us that they thirsted for dignity as much as for running water. And that they were hungry for instruction, knowledge, the capacity to think together and to speak up, instead of being, generation after generation, regulated, controlled, told how to behave, treated as inferiors and as objects by all who had dealings with them."*¹

Faithful to this heritage, in November 2004 delegates from some thirty countries on five continents gathered for the **ATD Fourth World Movement's General Assembly process**, to add another stone to our collective endeavor, working to consolidate what unites us beyond our differing social, cultural, economic and spiritual realities.

In September 2005 the same urge enlivened a seminar entitled *"The contribution of people and families in extreme poverty to intercultural dialogue in an information society"* organized by the Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World. The seminar brought people together from all the Mediterranean countries ? people coping with extreme poverty and others involved in their struggle.

These recent experiences highlighted the priority the ATD Fourth World Movement needs to tackle in the immediate future: **"Through ending poverty, we build peace together"**.

1. From Joseph Wresinski's speech at the 1983 African seminar.

Eugen Brand, born in 1950, is Swiss and is married with three children. He trained as a teacher, and has been a member of the ATD Fourth World Permanent Volunteer Corps since 1972. He took part in many knowledge-sharing actions with children and young people in poverty in blighted urban areas of France, Switzerland, and the United States, and was later appointed head of ATD Fourth World in Switzerland. In 1985 he joined the movement's international center in France and played a part in representing people in extreme poverty to international organizations. After the death of Joseph Wresinski in 1988, he was responsible for the overall direction of the Movement until 1993, with two other permanent volunteers. From 1996 to 1999, he lived and worked in Bolivia. Since July 1999, he has been Director General of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

1. Learning from those who search daily for ways to overcome hunger, violence and ignorance

One of the most difficult sufferings to bear is the forced separation of children taken from their families for reasons of poverty. One European father said, *“Since they took our children away, we’ve been asked again and again if we’re ready to ‘co-operate’. Well yes, if it’s a two-way co-operation. Our opinions and our experience as parents ought to be taken into account”*. The breaking down of family ties (through “social protection” in the North and as a result of extreme poverty in many other countries) will remain a central focus of our fight in the coming years.

For ATD Fourth World, staying close to people and families in extreme poverty will involve:

- In countries where ATD Fourth World is already present, extending the Movement’s outreach to new areas of poverty by strengthening its volunteer teams;
- Responding to the calls of friends in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe, by sending volunteers;
- Through the Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World, forging and strengthening ties with committed people in Asia, and China in particular. Our aim will be to prepare for a seminar in this part of the world in a few years time, offering these new friends a chance to exchange their experiences.

Through our presence and a constant interaction between *action, knowledge, and commitment*, ATD Fourth World will take its programming and evaluation efforts further and deeper, consolidating links and communication among its members in each region and between continents. The Movement will also draw nourishment from the whole range of situations and aspirations expressed in different communities, urban and rural.

2. Strengthen solidarity in the face of extreme poverty and the unspeakable

The solidarity we practice in ATD Fourth World on a daily basis, weaves new social, cultural, political, and spiritual ties, keeping us close to those in extreme poverty, and empowering them to meet and learn from each other. In the coming years, ATD Fourth World hopes that this solidarity will continue to nurture people’s efforts to create a dialogue with people poorer than themselves. This reciprocal give and take is the key to harnessing knowledge that tackles the great challenges of our time.

ATD Fourth World will continue to create links and break down barriers, encouraging people to encourage others to create a different world in this era of globalization.

“In our country we’re students at an elite university of suffering”, said a friend of ATD Fourth World in the Central African Republic. *“What guides us is not the catastrophic figures on our country that we get from the World Human Development Report, it’s knowing that we have friends and that they trust us.”*

To strengthen and extend these supportive social bonds, extreme poverty must not only be defined in terms of statistics, but also in terms of human rights.

The fact that extreme poverty persists in the rich countries clearly demonstrates that economic development alone is not enough to eradicate it. There is still a conflict between economic globalization and human rights, which are universal, indivisible, and independent. The demand for human rights springs from a thirst for dignity. To ATD Fourth World, this means we must clarify the definition of extreme poverty in a human rights context. It is important that this be done in keeping with Joseph Wresinski’s definition as quoted in the Despouy report², especially if we are to combat the marginalizing of those in extreme poverty by assigning to them a separate set of “rights of the poor”.

2. Report adopted by the Sub-Commission for the promotion and protection of human rights, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/13.

Susie Devins, an American born in New York in 1948, left university to join the “War on Poverty”. For several years she lived, worked and learned in poor areas of Kentucky and Massachusetts. She completed her studies in sociology and joined the ATD Fourth World Volunteers Corps in 1976. After eight years at the Movement’s international center in France, where she acted as secretary for the Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty, she returned to the United States in 1991 as National Delegate. Since July 1999 she has been Deputy Director General of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

Promoting mobilization against extreme poverty as a road to peace

In December 2005, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution that gave fresh impetus and greater legitimacy to the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**. The resolution asks the Secretary General to undertake a review of the commemoration of this Day, identifying the lessons learned and ways to encourage all parties concerned to become active in the fight against extreme poverty. A steering committee was set up, jointly chaired by the Economic and Social Affairs Department of the UN and ATD Fourth World. The Movement has also launched an initiative to take this review further in ten countries where October 17th has been celebrated for several years already - in some cases since 1987 - by men, women, children and young people who must daily find the courage to overcome violence, hunger and ignorance and who call on us to adopt a different way of living together.

Disseminate and deepen Joseph Wresinski's approach and work

The contribution of Fr. Joseph Wresinski to the ongoing combat for the dignity of every human being must not remain in the shadows, in silence, without witnesses; it must be brought into the history of humanity. The purpose of the **International Joseph Wresinski Center** is to find ways to protect and use the documents that record the history of people living in poverty and the Movement, in a spirit respecting the individuals involved, their dignity, and their culture. The opening of the center, in Baillet-en-France, 30 km north of Paris, with its collection of documents about the history of Joseph Wresinski and ATD Fourth World, is an important step forward. Those interested in the struggle against extreme poverty will find there both strength and food for thought in their commitment to building a more just world. The writings of

Joseph Wresinski and ATD Volunteers, and the histories of individual families constitute a valuable resource for those who want to learn about the fight against extreme poverty. Visitors will find ways to deepen their understanding of poverty and their commitment to peace and human rights.

Fifty years ago Joseph Wresinski joined families in a camp for the homeless at Noisy-le-Grand in France and, together with them, founded the ATD Fourth World Movement. His profoundly innovative thinking and action embodied a worldview that questions our civilization and calls on it to put its ideals fully into practice.

We are planning an international conference about the life, thoughts and work of Joseph Wresinski, to be held in France in 2008. To prepare for it, workshops will be held in different parts of the world. We are looking for partners to work with us to make these events possible, from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

When she met UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on October 17, 2005, Mrs. Tita Villarosa, a delegate from the Philippines, explained how those in extreme poverty survive mainly through their own efforts and by helping each other. Taking the Secretary-General's hand in hers, she ended her statement by saying: "Secretary-General, Sir, let us pool our knowledge, yours and ours. Let us no longer act separately, but together." Stressing that he would pass on our proposals to his close assistants, Kofi Annan said, "You can count on me and the people who work closely with me".

Those two clasped hands remind us that "*culture is creation, an encounter between people. It is the very negation of fatality*"³. It is the expression of a future where justice and the heart will at last be reconciled. ■

Eugen Brand
Director General

3. Joseph Wresinski

Bruno Couder, a French national, was born in 1950; he is married with five children. A graduate of the *École Polytechnique* in Paris (1971), he has been a member of the ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps since 1974. He headed the European anti-poverty project, which took place in Reims between 1976 and 1980, and was then advisor to the Secretary General of ATD Fourth World in Pierrelaye, France, from 1980 to 1983. As national ATD Fourth World Delegate for France, he coordinated public relations and actions in the different regional delegations from 1983 to 1992, and then served as national ATD Fourth World delegate in Spain from 1992 to 1999. He has been Deputy Director General of the International Movement ATD Fourth World since July 1999.

III. MAKING THE VOICE OF PEOPLE IN EXTREME POVERTY HEARD AT THE HEART OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Seeking to develop as an organization and to make the voices of those in extreme poverty heard, ATD Fourth World has set up a number of ATD Fourth World national associations and, in 1974, established the International Movement ATD Fourth World. The latter was granted consultative status at ECOSOC (UN) in 1991, and also has consultative status with UNICEF, UNESCO and the ILO, and participatory status at the Council of Europe. It has a permanent delegation to the European Union.

In close collaboration with the **Office of the Director General**, consisting of Eugen Brand, Director General, Bruno Couder and Susie Devins, Deputy Director Generals, the representation of the ATD Fourth World Movement at inter-governmental bodies is coordinated in Méry sur Oise (France) by an **International Relations Department** staffed by Thierry Viard, General Secretary, Cristina Diez, Humberto Lovaton, and Maria Sandvik.

The Delegate to the UN in New York is Vicki Soanes.

The Delegate to the UN in Geneva is Xavier Verzat.

The Delegates to UNESCO in Paris are Nicole de Clermont-Tonnerre and Huguette Redegeld, Vice President. Huguette Redegeld was appointed President of the NGO-UNESCO mixed program commission for human rights, set up in October 2005.

The Delegate to ESCAP in Bangkok is Marie-Claire Droz.

Xavier Godinot, Director of the Institute for Research and Training in Human Relations, is responsible for relations with the **international financial institutions**.

The Delegate to the institutions of the European Union is Gunda Maciotti.

The Delegate to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg is Jean-Pierre Gollé. He is deputy head of the Extreme Poverty and Social Cohesion Grouping.

Assistant Delegates are Annelise Oeschger, Vice President (2002-03), then President (2004-05 and 2006-2008) of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and François-Paul Debionne, Head of the Health Grouping (until 2005).

4. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The ATD Fourth World Movement is a non-governmental organization that invites individuals and institutions to join those in extreme poverty in their daily struggle to liberate themselves from poverty. Its aim is the construction of a society in which the dignity of each and every individual is recognized and in which extreme poverty and social exclusion are eradicated. It was founded in 1957 in the Paris suburbs by Father Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988), a man whose own family had lived in extreme poverty.

Today, ATD Fourth World is active in 30 countries, and thanks to the network of the Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World, it has correspondents in over 100 countries.

Working with families living in extreme poverty, it strives for a society in which all people have access to the resources needed to live a dignified life and to exercise their rights and responsibilities. It also carries out research in order to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms of extreme poverty and social exclusion. Finally, it lobbies authorities at both the national and international level, seeking to achieve representation of the poorest members of society in decision-making processes, and strives to raise public awareness with the aim of creating a general refusal to accept poverty throughout the world.

A. Building a partnership with those in extreme poverty

For many years, the fight against social exclusion and poverty has been on the agenda at summit meetings held by the international community. In September 2005, at the United Nations World Summit in New York, Heads of State and other members of the international community made a point of renewing their commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In spite of this commitment, social exclusion and extreme poverty remain a reality that is still widely misunderstood in countries throughout the world, and the poorest people continue to live on the fringes of society, excluded from the general progress being made everywhere. The eradication of extreme poverty is more than a development issue. The fact that it continues to exist in industrialized countries shows that economic development and job creation alone will not serve to eradicate poverty.

Joseph Wresinski was convinced that in order to eradicate poverty, coherent, long-term global policies would have to be put in place, with those in poverty at the very center of these policies. Seeking to put poverty on the international agenda, he met with the highest office holders of international organizations on several occasions.

Meetings with previous Secretary Generals of the UN helped to bring greater attention to the issue of poverty. The meeting with Javier Pérez de Cuellar in 1984 was the starting point for the study on the link between human rights and extreme poverty by the UN, followed by the designation of October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The meeting with Boutros Boutros-Ghali was a key contribution to the World Summit for Social Development, highlighting the need to promote joint policies to fight extreme poverty and social exclusion.

"The promise of the Millennium Development Goals still remains distant for many. More than one billion people still live below the extreme poverty line... and 20,000 die from poverty each day. Overall global wealth has grown but is less and less evenly distributed within countries, within regions and in the world as a whole. While there has been real progress towards some of the Goals in some countries, too few Governments — from both the developed and developing world — have taken sufficient action to reach the targets by 2015."

KUN Kofi Annan Secretary-General's Report,
"In Greater Freedom"
Paragraph 9, March, 2005

On October 17, 2005, the Secretary-General of the UN, Kofi Annan, received an ATD Fourth World Delegation at the UN headquarters.

This delegation constituted ATD Fourth World activists, supporters and members of the ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

Several members of the delegation recounted their experiences and the Secretary General was asked to take a number of measures to encourage a culture of poverty eradication:

Give priority to the elimination of extreme poverty, through the UN system.

1. Throughout the whole United Nations system, **priority should be given to the elimination of extreme poverty, and those with direct experience of poverty should be involved.** Key dates on the calendar of the international community should be earmarked for affirming this priority.



PHOTO: ATD Fourth World / MARIA VICTORIE

An ATD Fourth World delegation meets Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General, in New York on October 17, 2005.



Lenore Cola takes the floor at the celebration for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, October 17, 2005, at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

“Throughout the world, the very poorest members of society should be considered as partners in reconstruction and development. It is only through working together that we will be able to achieve the Millennium Goals.

The United Nations, with the support of the USA and other countries, should launch a major campaign for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, so that the struggles and efforts of the poorest are fully recognised“

Lenore Cola,
USA

Extreme poverty and human rights are inextricably linked.

2. Ensure that within the United Nations, **the definition of extreme poverty is clarified within the framework of human rights.** The Despouy report can be used to explain their interdependence and the inextricable link between them⁵.

3. Ensure that **international agreements take into consideration those people who are not reached**, or whom it is difficult to reach, by general policies on poverty reduction, in both rich and poor countries alike.

Such agreements could serve as inspiration for national and regional policies based on respecting the dignity of all human beings, starting with those who are most excluded from society and on basic human rights for all.

Increase the impact of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

4. Increase the impact of October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, in order to mobilize more people around the quotation that inspired it: “Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.”⁶

5. See Final Report on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty, submitted by special reporter Leandro Despouy (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/13) and adopted by the UN General Assembly Resolution 53/146

6. Joseph Wresinski, stone commemorating the victims of extreme poverty inaugurated on October 17 at the Trocadero, Paris.

The dynamic created by this day has made it possible to:

- Allow people in extreme poverty to speak out and draw attention to their suffering, their courage, and their daily efforts to improve their situation.
- Set up meetings between people from all walks of life and encourage the creation of new alliances against poverty
- Use the media to spread the message from those living in extreme poverty and explain the commitments made by local, national and international organizations
- Participate and promote the development of new policies

Based on the experience acquired, it is possible to increase the positive repercussions of the International Day throughout the world. This is what the UN General Assembly called for in a resolution adopted on December 22, 2005 (see page 26).

Focus on the basic links between parents and their children

5. Encourage the UN system to put the hopes of parents and children suffering from extreme poverty, whose main concern is to be able to stay together, at the very heart of general policies. This would be a central pillar to be used to strengthen the links between economic policies and human rights, access to employment, housing, and culture.



PHOTO ATD Fourth World MARIA VICTORIE

*"I've spent some time living on the streets. I had to leave my children with my mother.
For us, **family is important, being together is what counts.**
Watching your children grow up, that's what really brings joy.
Children make you get up and do something.
We're really trying to keep them. They keep us going.
The family is a safe place, a place where you're not abandoned, where you share your sorrows and your joys.
These are links that nobody can break.
We have to stop separating children from their parents because of poverty.
And if families have to be split up, brothers and sisters should be kept together.
They are torn apart twice if they can't stay together."*

Sylvie Clause at the United Nations headquarters in New York, October 17, 2005.

Supporting human investment with the most disadvantaged



PHOTO ATD Fourth World PAUL MARÉCHAL

María Teresa González Antuche (fourth on the left), Guatemalan delegate at the meeting with Kofi Annan, and her family.

Maria Teresa Gonzalez, Guatemala, described the daily struggle of a friend:

"Even though she has to make huge efforts and fight every single day to feed her family, nobody acknowledges what she is doing to keep her family together. Poverty and a lack of opportunities separate families. If she didn't love her children, she wouldn't be able to do what she does. She gets no help from anyone. She feels powerless when she sees some of her children going off the rails. Juan was able to do three years of schooling, but not his brothers and sisters. You can't learn anything when you're starving. My friend has a very difficult life. She needs friends, and not only more material support. She needs someone to stand by her to face those who judge her and look down on her."

6. There is an African proverb that says *the cure for man is mankind.*

Affirming the need for long-term involvement in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty requires

- Recognizing and supporting the commitment made by people in poverty themselves in their neighborhoods and villages, facilitating also their involvement in working groups and training sessions with other stakeholders at an international level;
- Supporting the training of citizens who, in their responsibilities, professions and activities within society, are seeking to join the most excluded in their efforts against poverty;
- Encouraging the creation of an informal working group with the role of identifying legal and financial ways of making such commitments possible throughout the world, and the specific role of defining the status of international volunteers who have committed themselves to poverty alleviation over the long term.

Refocus the fight against poverty on the basis of a partnership with people in extreme poverty

Extending the submissions made to the Secretary General of the UN, and passing on the lessons learnt from people in poverty themselves during the course of projects such as those described in the contribution to the Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002⁷, ATD Fourth World has suggested the creation of pilot projects which enable those in poverty and those working

7. "Partnerships with People Living in Persistent Poverty: the Missing Partners in Sustainable Development" ATD Fourth World International Movement, 2002 Available on-line at: www.atd-quartmonde.org/intern/docu_intern/Joho2En.htm

alongside them over the long term, to be recognized as sources of knowledge and active players in their future - for example in the definition of national strategies to fight against poverty, the framework of the UNDAF (United Nations Development Assistance Framework) or with the World Bank.

In order to ensure that such projects bear fruit, it will be **necessary to come up with ways of establishing a true partnership with those in extreme poverty.** The best way of going about this would be to consult the NGOs that have been working with them for many years. This approach will help to speed up the progress of the international community in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Involving those living in extreme poverty with the process is crucial, because the threat of exclusion of the very poorest forms part of the first MDG, which is to reduce poverty by 50% by 2015. What will happen to the others? How can such a goal be acceptable from a human rights point of view? How will it be viewed by the inhabitants of a neighborhood, a village, a whole country? What are the ethics of this sort of goal in the eyes of people in poverty, when all around they hear talk of the necessity to involve all stakeholders?

This partnership will be achieved through the mutual understanding of political leaders and people living in extreme poverty, as Mrs. Tita Villarosa from the Philippines explained to the Secretary General of the UN on October 17, 2005:

"The poorest families are the first ones to work together to support each other. This is not an obvious fact. As a resident of a cemetery in Manila for the last 15 years with my family, I have seen among my neighbors and experienced for myself how to

struggle to make both ends meet. Adonis is a young man from the cemetery who received a college degree last year. This is not an ordinary feat for one in our condition. He struggled to get a scholarship and with the encouragement of the whole community, finished his course. His success was the pride of the whole community.

But now he has yet to find a job. He has applied in 30 organizations but has not been accepted in one.

Adonis' first line of support is his community. Most people think that the poor wait on big institutions and governments to do something for them. What goes unheard is that the poorest communities help each other everyday. In order to create conditions to overcome poverty, the poor themselves must be involved.

Mr. Secretary General, we stand beside you, as head of the United Nations, as you make a difference for the poorest in the world. Make us your partners as you move forward the agenda on security, development and human rights. If we pool our knowledge together, yours and ours, we can turn things around. Let's act now, no longer separately, but together."



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD MARIA VICTOIRE

Tita Villarosa in preparation for the meeting with Kofi Annan in New York, October, 2005.



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD JILL CUNNINGHAM

The delegation that prepared the meeting with Kofi Annan, in the courtyard of the Fourth World House in New York.

Back: Bing Manlapaz, Maria Sandvik, Maria Victoire, Vicki Soanes, Jacqueline Plaisir

Middle: Paul Harris, Constantine Saasita Munema, Sylvie Clause, Lenore Cola, Oguié Anoman, Thierry Viard, Suzelle Midy, Eugen Brand

Front: Tita Villarosa, Bernard Mourgeon, Maria Teresa Gonzalez Antuche, Eida Garcia Galindo

B. Learning with people in extreme poverty

The International Movement ATD Fourth World has for a long time affirmed that when it comes to extreme poverty, the leading experts are those who experience it. Nevertheless, much research into poverty is the result of processes that have totally excluded the very people involved. Research into poverty can just as easily lead to the exclusion of people in poverty as well as to provide an opportunity to work in partnership with them. The relationship between researchers and those living in poverty is often very unbalanced, and participatory approaches are necessary in order to introduce greater fairness.

In 2004-2005, in a return to a long tradition of biographical writing, the methodology of which has evolved over time, the **ATD Fourth Movement Research Institute** facilitated the writing of two biographies. The first was by Paul, a young man living in Burkina Faso, and the second was by Benigno, Alicia, and their children, a family living in Peru. These family stories were used by World Bank researchers in a study entitled "**Moving out of Poverty**"⁸. The central aim of this research was to try to understand the point of view of those living in extreme poverty as well as the dynamics at stake within their communities, from a unique perspective.

These two biographies came to be written thanks to a longstanding commitment by ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps members working with families in extreme poverty in Peru and Burkina Faso⁹. In both cases, the writing of the biographies was the result of a process of action-research. Focusing on the life of one family or person, these biographies reflect the daily struggles and concerns of a much wider population. Benigno's family was chosen from about 400 others because it epitomized all of the problems that very poor families in Peru face. Paul's story is the story of many young people from Burkina Faso, who retain close ties to their home villages.

8. Under the direction of Deepa Narayan, Senior Counsellor, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management (PREM), World Bank, and Quentin Wodon, Lead Poverty Specialist for Sub-Saharan Africa, PREM, World Bank.

9. For more on ATD Fourth World's general long-term work with the very poor in Burkina Faso and Peru, see "Reaching the Poorest" UNICEF, New York, Edition Quart Monde, Paris, 1999, 124 pages.

The ATD Fourth World Research Institute has refined use of biographies and now invites authors to focus on three different sorts of expertise: the expertise of those living in extreme poverty, the expertise of professionals who are involved closely with them, and the expertise of academics. These essays do not only reflect the lives of families living in extreme poverty. They also reflect the experiences of all of the stakeholders involved, each giving his or her view of the situation. A four-day international seminar was organized around these biographies in October 2004, with the involvement of **Amédé Badini** (University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), **Nicolas Lych Gamero** (University of Lima, Pérou), and **Christopher Winship** (Harvard University, USA). The final draft, completed in May 2005, is the result of this meeting, which was necessary for a joint reading of the life stories of Paul and Benigno and his family. Through this drafting process, the authors were forced to negotiate an honest and equal relationship where each participant, considered an expert in his or her own right, had something specific to contribute. These essays, which will be completed by contributions from France and the Philippines, will be published in late 2006/early 2007.

Within the framework of a second project with the World Bank, the ATD Fourth World Research Institute has collected a number of documents analyzing the process for collating knowledge on poverty, as well as several other case studies, based on lessons learnt from actions in Madagascar, Tanzania, Latin America, the USA, and Belgium. In **Belgium**, a "**research – action – training**"¹⁰ program on **poverty indicators** was implemented over two years, involving 23 people, 12 of whom were people living in poverty. The contributors were selected from NGOs in which people living in poverty are given the opportunity to speak. Other participants were researchers or representatives of government departments. These case studies have been collected in a document to be published soon entitled "*Participatory approaches to attacking extreme poverty. Case studies led by the International Movement ATD Fourth World.*"

10. See final report: Another approach to poverty indicators: Research, action, training, Department for the Fight against Poverty, Insecurity and Social Exclusion, Brussels, March 2004, www.luttepauvrete.be/publicationsserviceindicateurs.htm

Seminar organized by the World Bank and ATD Fourth World in Washington DC

In 2002 and 2003, ATD Fourth World participated in events organized by the World Bank in Washington DC for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17th. In 2005, the results of the work described above were presented at a seminar organized on October 19th in Washington, entitled “Attacking Extreme Poverty”. High-level representatives of the World Bank spoke at the seminar, including the Director for Poverty Reduction, the Director for Social Development, the Director for the Development of Dialogue on Ethical Values, and the Senior Advisor responsible for the study “Moving out of Poverty”. A number of recent initiatives taken by the World Bank were examined and ways of strengthening or expanding its work in the fight against extreme poverty were discussed.

The “Crossroads of Knowledge” at the Social Forum in Geneva

The Social Forum in Geneva, an initiative of the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights¹¹, set up a dialogue in 2002 between people living in poverty, NGOs, human rights experts, inter-governmental agencies, and government representatives. Representatives of ATD Fourth World from Ivory Coast, Mauritius, and Europe successively spoke at this forum in 2002, 2004 and 2005.

In 2005, two representatives of ATD Fourth World presented programs on interlinking expertise and practice¹² developed within ATD Fourth World, the ambition of which is to come up with new ideas for tackling extreme poverty on the basis of the knowledge of academics, professionals, and people living in poverty. This presentation provided a rare opportunity for academics and representatives of international organizations to dialogue face to face with people living in poverty.



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD URS KEHL

Marco Ugarte and Rosario Macedo, ATD Fourth World permanent volunteers, Deepa Narayan, senior advisor, and Luca Barbone, Director for Poverty Reduction at the World Bank.



11. SCHR: UN Sub-Commission for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Geneva

12. “Crossroads of Knowledge – When the Fourth World and academics think together” Editions Quart Monde, 1999, 524 p; to be translated in English, “Crossroads of Practice– When the Fourth World and professionals train together” Editions Quart Monde, 2002, 225 p.

C. An approach to fighting extreme poverty based on human rights

The theme of the link between human rights and extreme poverty was put on the agenda of the United Nations at the request of Joseph Wresinski in the late 1980s. Since then, ATD Fourth World has had close ties with all of the UN's human rights institutions – the High Commission for Human Rights (HCHR), the Human Rights Commission (HRC), and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (SCHR). In this context, Wresinski met Bertrand Ramcharan, the Human Rights Commissioner, in 2003, and later Mehr Kahn, Assistant Human Rights Commissioner, in 2005. In 2005, Arjun Sengupta (India) replaced Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium) as an independent reporter on the theme of extreme poverty and human rights.

Lack of basic security and extreme poverty

Joseph Wresinski defined instability and extreme poverty as follows: *“The lack of basic security connotes the absence of one or more of the factors that enable individuals and families to assume basic responsibilities and to enjoy fundamental rights. Such a situation may vary in extent; its consequences can vary in gravity and may to a greater or lesser extent be irreversible. The lack of basic security leads to chronic poverty when it simultaneously affects several aspects of life, when it is prolonged and when it severely compromises people's chances of regaining their rights and of re-assuming their responsibilities in the foreseeable future.”*¹³

This definition shows both the continuity and the distinction between a lack of basic security and extreme poverty. It highlights the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, making it possible to think not only in terms of statistics or on the basis of financial criteria, but to find out how people live in the most difficult conditions, and to have an approach based on equality and participation in the fight against extreme poverty.

Contribution to the annual resolution on extreme poverty

Through this resolution of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva every year, the issues of

extreme poverty and the violation of human rights are raised, with a focus on the interdependence and indivisible link between them. It has been supported by France since 1988, and co-sponsored by a number of countries.

Every year, the ATD Fourth World Movement seeks to dialogue with government representatives on the basis of this text. Over recent years, this dialogue concentrated on the following two points:

- **Refusal of human rights for the very poor.** There is always the risk that, faced with situations of extreme deprivation, some rights could be considered a priority (right to water, clothing, shelter, and basic healthcare) whereas in the quest for universal human rights, achieving the right to survival is not enough, and every human should be able entitled to live in dignity.
- **The necessary recognition of the existence of extreme poverty in the North and the South.** No country, whatever its level of economic development, has succeeded in eradicating extreme poverty and social exclusion.

Guiding principles in the struggle against extreme poverty and for human rights

In 2001, the Human Rights Commission asked the sub-commission to “look into the need to define (...) guiding principles on the application of standards and criteria to human rights in the context of the struggle against extreme poverty.”¹⁴

The Sub-Commission mandated a 5-member working group drawn from the SCHR, coordinated by the Chilean expert José Bengoa, to come up with a draft proposal, by August 2006, of guiding principles in the struggle against extreme poverty and for human rights. The four other members of the group are Emmanuel Decaux, French expert, El Hadj Guissé, Senegalese expert, Iuliu Motoc, Romanian expert, and Yozo Yokota, Japanese expert.

These guiding principles should go beyond good practice and serve as inspiration for policies based on respecting the dignity of all human beings - starting with those who are most excluded from society - and on human rights for all. An approach based on the above definition

13. Final Report on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty by Leandro Despouy – Sub-commission on the fight against discriminatory measures and the protection of minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/13) Appendix III

14. E/CN.4/2001/RES/24.

and on the consultation of people with direct experience of poverty has already contributed to the adoption of general laws and directives that are consistent at a national and regional level in France, Belgium, Canada (Quebec), European Union, and Council of Europe.

These guiding principles will have a knock-on effect at regional and national levels and will also strengthen the mobilization of all stakeholders in civil society, especially those living in extreme poverty.

Meetings between experts from the Sub-Commission and people living in poverty

The Sub-Commission also invited the members of the working group to engage in dialogue with people living in extreme poverty in different regions of the world, in order to enable them to contribute to an international text against extreme poverty.

The ATD Fourth World Movement facilitated meetings between the Sub-Commission experts and people living in extreme poverty in two countries.

A first seminar was held in **Bangkok** in March 2005 (see page 55).

A second seminar, financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EU, was held from September 22 to 24 in **Pierrelaye (France)** with delegations from five European countries (Belgium, Spain, France, the UK, and Poland).

Events organized by UNESCO in relation to human rights

As part of its medium-term strategy for 2002-2007, the Member States of UNESCO adopted two interconnected themes, one of which concerns the “elimination of poverty and in particular, extreme poverty”. Within the framework of a series of consultations, UNESCO organized “**Abolishing Poverty Through the International Human Rights Framework: Towards an Integrated Strategy for the Social and Human Sciences**”. Tom McCarty, a member of the ATD Fourth World Board of Directors, made a contribution in Bergen (Norway) in June 2003.

In May 2004, UNESCO and the City of Nantes organized the **First World Forum on Human Rights**. There were 1,400 participants, including civil servants, international experts, activists, members of parliament, and ordinary citizens.

Paul Bouchet, former President of ATD Fourth World France made the following statement: *“There are other important challenges in the world today, but poverty beats everything. Poverty is the priority above all others. The poor have for many years been waiting for us to give them something else, other than the hope that things will get better one day. The key issue is the quality of a dignified life. Dignity means both adequate resources for existing and better reasons for living.”*



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD XAVIER VERZAT

Eugen Brand, director general of the ATD Fourth World Movement, and José Bengoa, coordinator of the UN Sub-commission's expert panel, in the meeting between experts and people with direct experience of poverty.

D. Making education, culture, and modern means of communication accessible to all

The free exchange of information and knowledge between people in poverty and others in society is one of the key factors - along with the change in mentality that this implies - for breaking down barriers and overcoming the social misunderstandings that exist between the two groups. For the successful eradication of poverty and the creation of a culture of peace, there should be a two-way sharing of knowledge, with each side learning from the other side. This **reciprocity of knowledge** will enable people in poverty to explain what they have already done to overcome poverty, at the same time as they are given the tools they need to access their rights and assume their responsibilities.

Remembering the human dimension of the information society

In many regions of the world, new technologies touch the everyday lives of families living in poverty, and the ATD Fourth World Movement strives to factor this into its work.

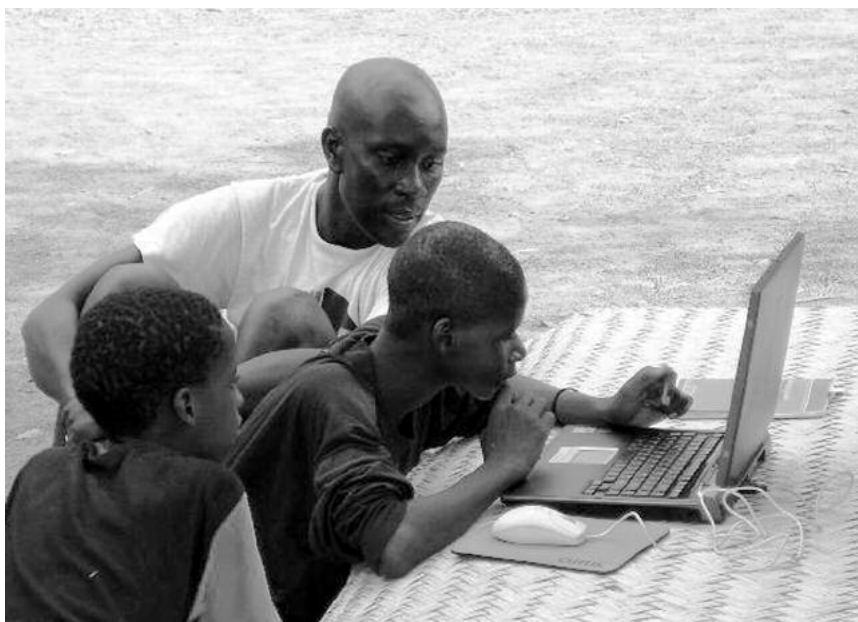


PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD MATTHIAS TUAL

Introduction to information technology workshop in Senegal.

In Peru, for example, in the community of Cuyo Grande in the region of Cusco, the **Joseph Wresinski Training Center** has been established. An apprenticeship program reaches out to children and young people from families in rural areas, and helps them to acquire knowledge without having to leave their communities.

The training center also houses an IT workshop project which enables children and young people to exchange ideas and to communicate with others around the world, and to learn how to use the new technology. This project addresses the aspirations of the farmers in the community, who want their children to keep pace with technological advances in today's society.

In Paris, **IT introductory workshops** are held to train people living in poverty how to use computers.

One participant said: *"You had to conquer your fear. I ended up finishing the course. I didn't throw the computer out of the window because all of those around us were calm. Nobody said, 'He'll never be able to do it.'"*

Summit on the Information Society

With the aim of working with others on the issue of access to technology, the ATD Fourth World Movement took part in the **Summit on the Information**

Society in Geneva in December 2003, and attended the preparatory meetings held in Geneva and in Paris. ATD Fourth World also provided feedback on the final NGO Declaration. The Movement focused on the idea of creating an inclusive knowledge society and on the need to strengthen the human its dimension.

As explained in the paper written for this Summit – **"An Information Society for All"**¹⁵ human centered development will come with the implementation of principles that are already recognized by the international community, in particular:

- The right to access information and to communicate
- The right to education and to culture
- The right to freedom of opinion and expression
- The promotion of peace and human dignity

15. An Information Society for All. Contribution of the ATD Fourth World International Movement to the Summit on the Information Society, July 2003. Available on-line at: www.atd-quartmonde.org/intern/wsis/atd_smsi-contrib_en.pdf

ATD Fourth World has requested that reciprocity of knowledge be included among these principles

If careful attention is not paid to these different issues, there is a risk that any positive changes brought about by the new technologies will amount to little, and could even widen the gap between those in poverty and the rest of society.

This concern was at the heart of a seminar organized by the Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World, held in September 2005, with the theme “The contribution of people and families in extreme poverty to the intercultural dialogue in the information society” (see page 29).

Ongoing dialogue with UNESCO

Since it was established fifty years ago, the ATD Fourth World Movement has held an ongoing dialogue with UNESCO. All of the fields in which UNESCO is active, especially culture, education and communication, are crucial for families living in poverty and social exclusion.

Over the past four years:

- Members of ATD Fourth World participated in 21 events organized by UNESCO, including general conferences and events such as the collective consultations on “Education for all” in Malawi in 2002, in Porto Alegre (Brazil) in 2003, and in Beirut (Lebanon) in 2004.
- The ATD Fourth World Movement is a member of eight working groups or commissions, including mixed UNESCO-NGO collectives at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on the elimination of poverty and especially extreme poverty, on inter-cultural dialogue, and of working groups on education for all in Paris and the regional office in Bangkok.
- Huguette Redegeld, Vice President of the ATD Fourth World International Movement, was appointed President of the NGO-UNESCO mixed program commission for human rights, set up in October 2005.
- In early 2005, halfway through the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), ATD Fourth World submitted a contribution to the World Report on a Culture of Peace to UNESCO and to the Peace Foundation.
- The national and regional branches of ATD Fourth World in Guatemala, Madagascar, Peru, Senegal, and Thailand have strong, long-standing relationships with the national and regional offices of UNESCO in these countries.



PHOTO ATD Fourth World FRANCIS PHILIPONNEAU

I Street library in Madagascar.

ATD Fourth World seizes every opportunity to raise the issue of partnerships with those in extreme poverty. The movement asks the question of how we can achieve the elimination of poverty if the victims of poverty are automatically excluded as partners and not considered equals.

Nevertheless, although it was legitimate to hope that the adoption of the medium-term strategy (2002-2007) on two interlinked themes – “*The elimination of poverty, especially extreme poverty*” and “*The contribution of information technologies and communication to education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society*” would influence the UNESCO programs, we have to acknowledge that they have only been modestly implemented and the results are below our expectations. This does not only apply to the Member States, the UNESCO Secretariat or its regional and national offices. It applies to all NGOs that maintain official relations with UNESCO, including ATD Fourth World. This reality should encourage us to redouble our efforts, in each of our fields, to work together towards these goals.



E. Raising awareness about the importance of the family in tackling extreme poverty

The family forms the foundation for affection, heritage, inherited values, and links between its members. Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family (...) the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State."

Nevertheless, families living in extreme poverty are often split up. Parents are faced with impossible choices - go out and work and leave your children alone and without protection, or stay home to look after them and not earn any money; pay the rent or send the children to school; buy medicine for one member of the family or food for everyone, etc. These situations often put a severe strain on a couple's relationship, or force children into leaving home to go out and work.

One mother from South East Asia, who had lived in a camp run by the police for homeless people said: *"In this camp, they split up families. Fathers and mothers are not kept in the same section as their children. How can they do that to people? They split us up – it's like destroying a bird's nest. Can they not see what they're doing? All we've got are our families. I can't read or write. But I understand enough to know that what they're doing is not right."*¹⁶

A child from the Indian Ocean region who had lived in a children's home shared his opinion: *"I want to be really free. A home isn't a place of freedom. Freedom means being with my parents and my sisters. In the home, you haven't got a mother or a father, so there's no one to look up to."*¹⁷

Raising the awareness in the international community of the importance of the family for those living in extreme poverty, and thus the importance of supporting and protecting it, has always been a priority of the ATD Fourth World Movement.

16. How Poverty Separates Parents and Children: A Challenge to Human Rights, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Editions Quart Monde, 2004, p. 19

17. The Tapori children are breathing life into the Convention on the Rights of the Child report prepared by the ATD Fourth World International Movement for the Special Session on Children of the United Nations General Assembly in May 2002, p.26

Two international studies take another look at why the family is so important for people living in extreme poverty

The first of these studies, entitled **"How Poverty Separates Parents and Children: A Challenge to Human Rights"** was supported by the United Nations¹⁸ and the European Commission. It covers six countries – Guatemala, Haiti, Burkina Faso, USA, UK, and the Philippines. Members of the ATD Fourth World teams working in the countries in question wrote each of the six chapters.

In the preface to this study, Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary General of the UN, described this document as *"a journey to six countries around the world (...) into the lives of some of the very poorest families in these countries. (...) A journey that brings us back each time to the strength and protection family members can offer one another in the face of destitution. (...) This journey to different parts of the world and to the misery people face leads us to a*



PHOTO: ATD FOURTH WORLD NICK TWEHUSEN

A friend of ATD Fourth World in Dar es Salaam visits her grandmother in a village in the Pwani region.

18. United Nations Trust fund on Family Activities



Guatemalan family that took part < in the study 'When extreme poverty separates parents and children: a challenge for human rights'.

PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD PAUL MARECHAL

Participation at two world summits on the family

The **World Family Organization**, which is made up of around 100 family-related associations throughout the world, organized two summits. They provided a rare occasion where the theme of the family is central in forums of international organizations.

question. If this determination of parents and children in extreme poverty is so strong, what would happen if we dared to put this aspiration at the heart of our anti-poverty policies?"¹⁹

This study was discussed at several UN round tables in New York and Geneva, at which ATD Fourth World members met with José Antonio Ocampo, UN Under-Secretary-General, in October 2004.

The second study was entitled **"Valuing Children, Valuing Parents"**. It was written with the financial support of the European Commission and examines 10 countries in Europe – Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, the UK and Sweden. It looks at the issue of child poverty in the context of the recognition of the family group and its networks as a resource in the fight against poverty, suggesting appropriate ways to support these bonds.

This document explores a wide variety of initiatives and practical ways of supporting family life. It is partially based on the experience and the history of the ATD Fourth World Movement as well as on contributions from academics. It includes accounts of very diverse types of action taken in the 10 countries examined, especially projects that aim to give those directly affected by poverty a say in, and control over the projects.

The first of these summits was held in December 2004 in Sanya, in the Hainan Province of China, for the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Family. The ATD Fourth World Movement contributed by highlighting the strong aspiration of people in poverty to live as a family and their daily struggle to keep the family unit together and to give their children a better future. ATD Fourth World insisted on the need to seek inspiration and direction for anti-poverty policies and initiatives at a local, national and international level. This is to be achieved through an understanding based on a combination of the experience, ideas and knowledge of those in extreme poverty, as well as people and academics working closely with them.

The World Family Organization invited ATD Fourth World to participate in the "World Summit on the Family + 1", which was held in December 2005 in Aracaju, Brazil. The theme of this summit was "Investing in Development: Working the Millennium Development Goals at the Local Level and in the Family".

This invitation represented a chance to discover common policies throughout the world around the issue of the family and whether they take the poorest families into account. It was also an opportunity to meet those who are closely involved with families living in poverty and to explore opportunities to work together in partnership. An example of this exists within the framework of the Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World (see page 28)

19. How Poverty Separates Parents and Children: A Challenge to Human Rights, op.cit, p. 6

F. The Tapori children are breathing life into the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Tapori Movement²⁰ is an international network of children raising awareness on the issue of poverty and human rights, creating friendship and solidarity among the children of the world, regardless of their social backgrounds. Set up in the 1960s with children living in a slum in France, the organization today is a network of over 10,000 children aged from eight to thirteen, from 42 countries. The Tapori Movement uses the following methods:

Monthly publication of the **Tapori Newsletter**, sharing news among children living in Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia, who are working against exclusion in their communities. The Newsletter is published in French, German, English, Spanish, and Dutch, with translations in Thai, Tagalog, Chinese, Malgache, Portuguese, Haitian, Esperanto, and Polish.

The **Internet site** www.tapori.org, aimed at children, explains the history of Tapori. It also shares news and contributions from children throughout the world. Children can write to the Tapori International secretariats via the site.

The **Tapori mini-books** tell the stories of children in poverty and their solidarity with others. These are true stories to which children can react and from which they can learn, through the experience of others.

The **Tapori campaigns**, which are annual campaigns in the Tapori Newsletter to mobilize children and encourage them to think about poverty-related issues. An example is the 2004 campaign, when the theme was “Doves of Peace”. Around 3,000 messages written on small dove-shaped papers from all over the world were sent to Guatemala and attached to multi-colored balloons and released. Several of these messages were read during the commemoration of October 17th at the Central Park of the capital of Guatemala, in the presence of Rigoberta Menchu Tum, winner of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize.

A **curriculum guide**, aimed at adults and teachers, was developed to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and is an excellent tool for those who want to study the issue of extreme poverty and social exclusion with children.

Seeking to raise awareness of the daily struggle of children living in poverty, Tapori has organized and participated in a number of different international events, such as the United Nations Special Session on Children in May 2002, and the World Food Day in New York on October 16, 2003 and 2004. An International Tapori Seminar was also held in Latin America in July 2003.

20. For more information see <http://www.tapori.org>

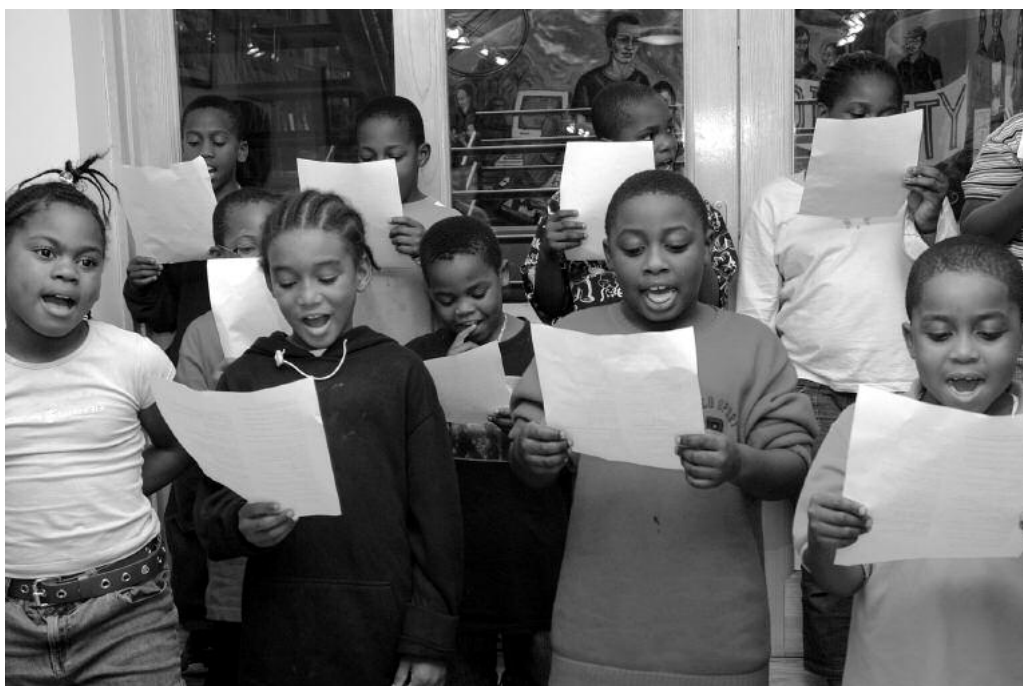


PHOTO: ATD Fourth World. JILL CUNNINGHAM

October 15, 2005: Children who take part in the street library in Brooklyn, New York, sing a song that they composed from messages written for children in New Orleans, hit by hurricane Katrina.

United Nations Special Session on Children

In May 2002, two children from the Tapori Movement, Nick from the USA and Malal from Senegal, were invited to take part in this session with 600 children from around the world.



March at the Special Meeting for Children, New York, May 2002.

ATD Fourth World wrote a contribution for this session: *"The Tapori Children are breathing life into the Convention of the Rights of the Child"*²¹ based on the experiences of groups of Tapori children and focusing on the importance of living as a family, of learning and of having friends.

Malal, who was 15 in May 2002, wrote after the session: *"We talked a lot about poverty. During meetings, I asked other children how many of them went to school. Most of them did. That's great for them, but that meant that we were talking about obstacles to attending school without involving the children who themselves do not go to school"*. The issues that Malal is particularly concerned with include armed conflicts, HIV/AIDS, and education. He said: *"My most important message is this – there must be no more war."*²²

Tapori at the World Food Day in 2004 with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Jamaica, New York Tapori Group took part in the FAO's "Growing Connection" program in 2004.

21. "The Tapori children are breathing life into the Convention on the Rights of the Child" report prepared by the ATD Fourth World International Movement for the Special Session on Children of the United Nations General Assembly in May 2002, p.26

22. Letter to Friends Around the World. Sept 2002 No 53

This program aimed to give children the opportunity to grow vegetables themselves.

Tapori children who live with their families in a shelter for homeless families interviewed their peers, family members, and staff at the shelter about memories and talents connected to food, cooking and gardening.

On World Food Day on October 16, two members of the group, Carissa Brown and Eon Hill, spoke at the United Nations. They explained how this experience enabled many people in the shelter community to remember the pride of teaching their children to cook or making a meal for other people, experiences which were not possible at the shelter.

The "Tapori, Source of Commitments" Seminar in La Paz

During the Tapori International Seminar that was held in La Paz, Bolivia, from June 30 to July 6, 2003, 107 people from 11 countries, including a number of teachers, came together to assess the work they were doing with children and to exchange new ideas.

One of the participants, a teacher working in a neighborhood that is often very violent said: *"What interests me in Tapori is its message of peace. I've spoken with my Tapori students so that they are able to understand other realities, other experiences, so that they can think about friendship and solidarity through concrete action, and I think that I've managed to get the message across."*

The organizers of the seminar wrote: *Once again, the children focused our attention on their concern that all of us have to work with them to give them the chance of a better future. They showed us that friendship can triumph over poverty and that sharing the best of yourself is the beginning of a true culture of poverty eradication, which is the basis for a culture of peace in the world."*

Many adults, parents and teachers request a copy of the Tapori curriculum guide, because they can see that children are looking for a way to express what seems to them to be unfair in everyday life.

G. The Importance of Commitment

Mobilizing people from all parts of society to build a world free 'from fear and want'²³, requires not only method and know-how but also ethics and commitment.

In February 2005, in Ireland, volunteers asked people who had been in extreme poverty what factors had helped them pull through:

- One spoke of close friends who had not turned their backs on them, whatever the circumstances; these friends had had their own difficulties in the past and no one to turn to themselves.
- Another spoke of the relationship they had established with social workers who had always shown them respect, whereas another person had experienced a total lack of confidence from health workers when her baby was born.
- One talked gratefully of a teacher who always had the best interest of her children at heart. Some, however, related how they felt belittled and humiliated by their children's teachers.

These accounts remind us that, in Ireland as in rest of the world, there may well be infrastructures, services or institutions set up to help people living in poverty, but in the end, the use people make of these services often depends on the dedication of a few caring people who stand up to the injustice they see around them.

Those living in extreme poverty need men and women who take the time to understand them and try to see the world from their point of view. They need people who can help them in their daily lives, who put them first and go about their work caring not only how many people take part in a project but also who participated and why.

Many accounts from NGOs across the world demonstrate the essential role of volunteers in the goal of social cohesion, the fight against poverty and for human rights. It is with these people firmly in mind that ATD Fourth World formulated the propositions presented at the **International Conference on Volunteerism & the Millennium Development Goals** held in Islamabad (Pakistan) from the 5th to the 7th of December 2004.²⁴

23. Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

24. See the International Movement ATD Fourth World contribution to the International Conference on Volunteerism and the Millennium Development Goals, 5-7 December 2004, Susan Devins, Deputy Director General

Strong incentives for volunteerism from all sections of society

The desire to build a fair and just society goes hand in hand with fostering voluntary action. Strong incentives are necessary to mobilize efforts in the fight against discrimination and social exclusion.

In order to accomplish this, governments and non-governmental organizations should:

1. Encourage people of all ages to commit a portion of their time and energy to the fight against social exclusion. This commitment can take many forms within governmental structures or civil society. This will require:

- Prioritizing the participation of young people in the process of social development, in particular in the fight against poverty. This can be done by encouraging voluntary work or positioning the development of voluntary services in line with national youth policies and international cultural exchanges.
- Taking measures that foster volunteerism. There are many good examples in certain countries: using pensions incentives, establishing student scholarships, organizing training and monitoring activities.
- Providing financial incentives for the voluntary work of disadvantaged people so that their contributions are recognized in the same way as a sabbatical, opening up an avenue to new skills and broader horizons.

2. More specifically, full-time, long-term commitment from people of all backgrounds in anti-poverty organizations must be encouraged. A period of commitment of one year or more is necessary if the aims of mutual understanding and working together are to be met.

In France, the reform of the status of international solidarity volunteers opens up new potential for commitment.²⁵

25. In France on February 23, 2005 new legislation (law n° 2005-159) relating to international solidarity volunteer contracts replaced an older measure (n° 95-94 of 30 January 1995); this new law acknowledges the commitment of all persons, irrespective of nationality, who carry out an 'activity of general interest in the area of cooperation in development and humanitarian action'.



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD FRANÇOIS PHILIPONNEAU

People whose lives are very difficult build a library in their neighborhood in Madagascar.

3. Incorporate the daily efforts of people living in poverty and exclusion into projects combating poverty and promoting social cohesion.

Recognizing the support given by people living in extreme poverty is a way to put into action the goals agreed at the Copenhagen Social Summit that underlined the indispensable participation of all people in 'all aspects of political, economic and social life, in particular in the planning and implementation of policies that affect them, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development'.²⁶



At the international level, the United Nations should:

4. Provide the incentives needed to encourage people from all nations and all walks of life (including those in need) to give **long-lasting** commitments as **volunteers in the fight against extreme poverty and the defense of human rights** throughout the world.

In line with this, an ad-hoc working group working under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the UN should be set up with the mandate to:

- Study the conditions and criteria required for volunteerism of this nature, on the basis of existing practices
- Examine an appropriate legal, administrative, and financial model
- Make propositions to create the legal framework necessary for its implementation.

NGOs with experience of these questions should be included on the deliberations of such a working group.

26. Copenhagen Social Summit, 1995, Program of Action, paragraphs 24 and 35

H. October 17: Towards a culture of refusing poverty

On October 17, 1987, in the Square of Human Rights and Liberties, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, a commemorative stone was inaugurated to honor the victims of extreme poverty.

The message engraved on the stone proclaims:

*“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 human beings are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated.
To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.”*

Fr Joseph Wresinski

Since that day those in extreme poverty and those who reject poverty and exclusion gather together all over the world to show their solidarity and commitment to respect dignity and freedom for all: this was born the **World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty**.

In December 1992, the 17th of October was proclaimed the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty²⁷ by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Since then, initiatives to commemorate this day have continued to grow. In 2004, the 17th of October was celebrated in more than 52 countries by people from diverse organizations as well as national and international institutions. Here are some echoes:

In Senegal October 17, which coincided with the beginning of Ramadan, was proclaimed a youth day against poverty and peace for all, by Muslims and non-Muslims alike. To mark the unity in this region, the ATD Fourth World Movement organized an Internet video-conference between families gathered together at the Courtyard of 100 Trades in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and at the Fourth World House in Dakar, Senegal.

In America, at the United Nations Headquarters, a commemoration was organized in 2003 by the

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Public Information, and the NGO Subcommittee for the Eradication of Poverty and ATD Fourth World. Those who spoke included people living in extreme poverty from the United States and Guatemala, as well as the Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations. The ambassadors of Burkina Faso, France, and Guatemala also spoke.

In Asia, for the last two years, China awarded a prize for the eradication of poverty to honor those who made the most significant contributions to the fight against poverty. In Indonesia, a local indigenous organization involved in the struggle for housing and against poverty organized a ceremony honoring their god of water.

In St. Petersburg, “People for People”, an NGO which supports homeless people, commemorated the 17th of October for the third consecutive year. Through exhibitions, concerts and street rallies, it sought to increase public awareness, involve volunteers and encourage those attending to take part in their work.

In Paris on October 17, 2004 a “Junior Senate” was organized, presided by the President of the Senate. Three hundred young people from throughout France, aged between 10 and 18 years of age, met

together in the Senate building. From the senators’ benches, they told of the difficulty of living in extreme poverty and of their efforts to create an environment where all children can have the same chances.



Peruvian women declare their determination to eradicate poverty in Cusco, Peru.

PHOTO: ATD FOURTH WORLD ROBERT QUISPE

27. Resolution 47/196 adopted by the General Assembly, 22 December 1992

Since 1987, 26 replicas of the “Trocadero Stone” have been inaugurated on four continents, three between 2002 and 2005.

One of these stones was inaugurated at the European Parliament in Brussels on May 29th 2002.

Belgian and European supporters of the ATD Fourth World Movement from diverse social origins and backgrounds worked tirelessly to ensure that the importance of the 17th of October be recognized. That is how they managed to insure Brussels’s agreement to publicly place such a symbol of solidarity within its borders.

The European Parliament requested that this commemorative stone be laid in the square of the European Parliament in Brussels, in line with those placed near the seats of other national and international organizations. The inauguration ceremony for the Brussels stone was developed with people from many origins and social backgrounds. The text of the stone was engraved in the three national languages of Belgium (German, French, and Dutch) as well as in English, on the esplanade along the length of the European Parliament buildings.

On October 17, 2004, replicas of the Trocadero Stone were inaugurated in **Mauritius**, on Port-Louis Waterfront (see the section, the Indian Ocean, page 65) and in the commune of Somain in the north of France.



Commemorative stone in honor of the victims of poverty, Trocadéro, Paris.

Strengthening the impact of the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty

The **World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty** will mark its 20 years in 2007. In an international context where the world has devoted itself to the elimination of poverty through the Millennium Development Goals, there is a real opportunity to draw upon the lessons and dynamics of the Day, in order to strengthen its impact and to develop a culture that refuses extreme poverty throughout the world.

On December 22, 2005, in a **UN resolution**²⁷ concerning the implementation of the First Decade of the United Nations for the Elimination of Poverty (1997 – 2006) the General Assembly of the United Nations expressed that it:

“Welcomes the observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992 in order to raise public awareness to promote the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty in all countries, and in this regard recognizes the useful role the observance of the Day continues to play in raising public awareness and mobilizing all stakeholders in the fight against poverty, and requests the Secretary-General to undertake a review of the observance of the Day in order to identify lessons learned and ways to promote the mobilization of all stakeholders in the fight against poverty.”

A steering committee was set up to perform this review, presided over jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the International Movement ATD Fourth World. Other members include the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and CONGO (The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relations with the United Nations), which was represented by the chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development.

The next steps:

- An international seminar in Canada in May, 2006;
- A report of the UN Secretary General will be presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations in the fall of 2006;
- At the end of 2006: an event in New York to publicly announce the conclusions of this work;
- October 17th 2007; the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of the commemorative stone for the victims of extreme poverty in Paris. An important gathering is planned in Paris in link with other events throughout the world.

28. A/RES/60/209 paragraph 55

I. The Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World

The “**Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World**” is a network of organizations and individuals who work very closely alongside people living in extreme poverty. The network communicates through the “**Letter to Friends Around the World**” which publishes the writings of correspondents in the Permanent Forum. Through this and other means, the correspondents develop friendships and share knowledge and valuable know-how related to their work alongside people in poverty all over the world. The Permanent Forum breaks the isolation of those involved, offering them encouragement and ways to develop and share knowledge which is important for the recognition of poverty. By their actions and their involvement, correspondents in the Permanent Forum are contributing to implementing and making tangible the ideas proclaimed by the Charter of the United Nations.

That their voices will be heard and their propositions taken into account within the context of local, national and international planning is one of the objectives of the Permanent Forum.

The dynamic of the Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the world relies first on a patient and regular correspondence with individuals and organizations living in different regions of the world. During the period 2002 – 2005, more than six hundred personalized letters were sent annually, corre-

sponding to the number received. A growing number of messages arrive by e-mail, reflecting changing technologies, but raising also the question of the involvement of those without access to computers and the Internet.

Certain correspondents of the Permanent Forum are involved alongside prisoners, others with people affected by AIDS, or families living dangerously close to garbage dumps, along railway tracks, or in sub-standard housing. Others are involved with isolated communities in rural areas. The depth and diversity of this involvement, very close to excluded people, is striking and often remains unrecognized by wider society. Sometimes they cope in isolation, at times with others, or within a community.

During their stay in Europe, some correspondents of the Permanent Forum were welcomed at the International Center at Méry-sur-Oise, near Paris, or in Marseilles. This has been the case recently for people coming from Sri Lanka, Brazil, Libya, Colombia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tunisia, and the Congo.

At the end of 2005, some 3000 copies of the “Letter to Friends Around the World” were published in French, English, Spanish, and Portuguese. On the occasion of the Mediterranean Seminar (see below), an issue was published in Arabic and a second will appear in the spring of 2006. This letter is now available on the website of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

When the relations with correspondents of the Permanent Forum develop, it is possible to take stock of all the knowledge and know-how accumulated. Their letters contain a great deal of knowledge and information. The ATD Fourth World Movement has always believed that their experience should be documented and passed on to others. It is with this in mind that the team at the Permanent



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD MICHEL HANNHART

**Mediterranean seminar,
Aix-en-Provence, September 26-29, 2005.**



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD MICHEL HANINART

Forum is currently supporting an Argentinean correspondent in the editing of writings relating to the lives of very poor families with whom she has been involved with for several years.

Development of contacts in the Mediterranean Basin: The Mediterranean Seminar at Aix-en-Provence (France)

For a number of years, friends of the ATD Fourth World Movement from the Mediterranean region have asked for a greater presence in this region of the world. Since the end of 2001, thanks to the creation of a satellite of the Permanent Forum in Marseille (south of France), contact with the countries around the Mediterranean Basin has intensified. Most of these contacts requested material aid at the outset, however the dialogue went further with several of them. They were able to gain knowledge of the realities and the hopes of the poorest in this region of the world and to better understand the involvement of the people who worked at their side.

Following these initial exchanges, the planning for a Mediterranean seminar accelerated throughout 2003. In 2003, 2004, and 2005, meetings with leaders of some of the member organizations took place in several countries of the region: Algeria, Egypt, Spain, France, Israel, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Turkey. More than two hundred people met together, some on several occasions. The majority of the participants were representatives from organizations, universities and individuals working within their local or national public sector.

From September 26 – 29, 2005, approximately sixty of these delegates, from ten countries, participated in a seminar in Aix-en-Provence on the theme: **“The contribution of people in extreme poverty and their families to intercultural dialogue in the information society.”**

Themes such as “living together” and “communication” were explored in depth using various means. One way was through exchange and reflection in working groups (the working languages were French, Arabic, Hebrew, English and Italian) and another way was through creative workshops, including calligraphy, painting, communication (new technologies as well as others), metal sculpting, and theatre.

At the end of this meeting, one of the participants said that the “the region of the future will be look like a day of our meeting!” The next stage in this Mediterranean dynamic of the Permanent Forum is the development, with the seminar participants, of an interactive tool that reflects and gives direction to the experiences shared. This will allow us to decide the new steps to take together.

Starting a Portuguese speaking secretariat

The request for a Portuguese secretariat within the Permanent Forum has existed for several years. The decision to start one was taken in 2005. Several people including permanent volunteers and friends of ATD Fourth World agreed to take part in this project.

Two examples of the “Letter to the Friends Around the World”, including one on October 17, have been translated into Portuguese. The responses received after the first mailing confirmed that many Portuguese speakers were pleased to find a place for dialogue and support in the Forum.



Message written at the Mediterranean seminar.
A gift from a calligrapher M. N. Bouder.

J. Promoting the message of Joseph Wresinski

The Wresinski Approach

ATD Fourth World Movement's efforts are based in the thought, action and philosophy of its founder Joseph Wresinski. The "Wresinski Approach" proposed by the ATD Fourth World Movement is founded on the conviction that poverty is a violation of human rights and that it can only be destroyed through a real partnership with those who live it on a daily basis. Human dignity and the essential values of humankind form its point of departure. It proposes partnerships between people of different cultural, social and economic backgrounds who see themselves as equals. These people build relationships without fear, dependence, and the use of power over another, to create human and social ties allowing everyone to give as well as to receive.

In a world marked by conflict and division, the Wresinski Approach seeks to overcome a lack of understanding and indifference by proposing that we unite in allowing those in extreme poverty to become active members of society. It invites us to change our outlook on poverty, substituting a top-down approach with a new outlook coming from how people in poverty live and listening to what

they say. It proposes that we come together and recognize the value in each other in order to succeed in transforming society on an ethical, juridical, and civil level.

The conviction that the founder of ATD Fourth World had was an original contribution to the understanding of what extreme poverty is and the means to confront it. This motivates those who are introducing the thoughts of Joseph Wresinski in their university teachings and work. The Catholic University of the West at Angers organized an International Symposium: "Joseph Wresinski, advocate and prophet for people in poverty, a new voice for humanity" in February, 2003. An inaugural conference with four themes, reflection, discussion workshops, and a round table enabled us to understand better that Joseph Wresinski was the initiator of a new approach that gives hope to humankind. At the Free University of Brussels, Tobias Teuscher presented a memoir on the political thought of Joseph Wresinski and his contribution to European development.

In the last few years, the ATD Fourth World Movement has made many efforts to **translate** Wresinski's writings into languages accessible to its mem-

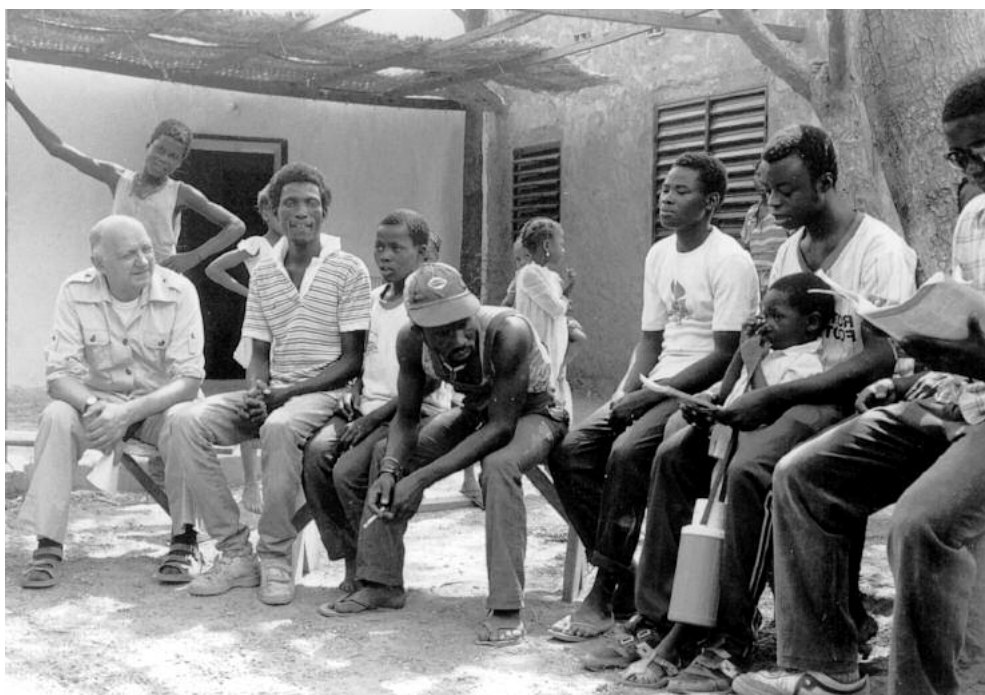


PHOTO: ATD FOURTH WORLD GABRIELLE ERICUM

Joseph Wresinski at the Courtyard of a Hundred Trades, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.



Photo ONU

Meeting between Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, then Secretary-General of the UN, and Joseph Wresinski, June 1984.

bers, which are becoming more and more international. Two volumes of his work have already been translated and others are in the works.

In 2004 the University of Fu-Jen published in Chinese “Defeating Poverty”, a conference which took place at the Sorbonne in 1983, on the reciprocity of knowledge. In the United States, the book “The Poor are the Church” was published in English with an introduction by Christopher Winship, Professor of Sociology and Director of Graduate Studies at Harvard University.

At the Joseph Wresinski House in Heerlen, Netherlands, a seminar entitled “**Joseph Wresinski, still relevant today?**” took place from the 5th to 11th of December 2004 with the participation of people living in poverty and volunteers and friends of ATD Fourth World. Participants discovered how Joseph Wresinski formed his ideas in the struggle against poverty and social exclusion across different continents, drawing on diverse examples of ideas and actions.

The journal “**Revue Quart Monde**” establishes and develops a channel of thought coming from the lives of people in poverty. It created a new section entitled “Fundamentals” which is dedicated to the philosophy of Joseph Wresinski as a source of inspiration for better understanding the world and the challenges it faces.

The “Joseph Wresinski Circles of Thought ” are reading groups, large and small, which have been running in Brussels, Cusco, Munich, New York and Port-a-Prince. At Brussels the group enabled some European officials to be confronted by the thoughts and actions of Joseph Wresinski. At Port-a-Prince the participants gave each other courage to cope with the difficulties throughout the country and learned from Joseph Wresinski a way to meet with those in extreme poverty.

In 2004 and 2005, the **Joseph Wresinski Foundation** saw the final stages of its creation. The

foundation has the goal of deepening and disseminating the beliefs and activities of Joseph Wresinski, developed and shared not only with the people in poverty around him, but also with people and associations from all cultural, philosophical, religious and social horizons. The French Ministry of Culture and the Director General of UNESCO have agreed to be representatives on the Foundation’s board of directors.

The Foundation will seek to introduce the cultural legacy left to the world by Joseph Wresinski. The Foundation will use its means to reinforce throughout the world a cultural channel of knowledge and thought by:

- Archiving Joseph Wresinski’s documents which speak of his influence;
- Storing the studies, historical research, biographies, and work related to his beliefs and actions;
- Sharing this heritage with others.

This legacy will be preserved and valued by the **Joseph Wresinski International Center at Baillet** (Val d’Oise, France). In the process of installation, the center will gather together all the archives of the ATD Fourth World Movement which document the lives of those in poverty, the beliefs and actions of its founder and the actions against extreme poverty and social exclusion which have been implemented by its teams over the past 50 years. The Joseph Wresinski International Center will be officially inaugurated in early 2007.

K. Colaborar con la sociedad civil

When closing the third conference on Less Developed Countries in Brussels on May 20, 2001, Boutros Boutros-Ghali²⁹ declared: “We must humanize globalization before globalization distorts the nature of democracy.” In international public life, civil society is taking on increasing importance, raising questions, and contributing to advances through its proposals and campaigns. An example of this being the movement for access to generic medicines by countries from the Global South, against anti-personnel mines, or the “2005: No more excuses” campaign by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty. In many countries, civil society organizations contribute to the development of participatory democracy, which complements and consolidates parliamentary democracy. As a member of civil society, the International Movement ATD Fourth World takes actions in several ways:

1. Joining forces with those in extreme poverty

Enabling people living in poverty to participate in non-profit organizations is a challenge for our societies. For example, the first attempt to create an organization bringing together the inhabitants of the emergency housing camp³⁰ in Noisy le Grand, so that they could participate in improving their living conditions and create social relations, ended in failure. This is because the authorities viewed them as a group of “disreputable” people. For this reason the organization that later became the ATD Fourth World Movement included, from its beginning, people integrated into society who supported the efforts of the inhabitants of the Noisy le Grand camp.

This reminder of the origins of the ATD Fourth World Movement says a lot about the change it seeks to create in the world. It's a movement that, on the one hand, seeks to

enable the participation of those in poverty based on their lives, their thoughts, aspirations, and experiences. On the other, it groups together people in poverty and people from all backgrounds to create a dialogue, which builds a society refusing extreme poverty and social exclusion.

Participation by people living in extreme poverty in the ATD Fourth World Movement requires creating the right conditions: not merely presence, but also training in speaking out, in exercising responsibilities, and in knowing one's rights. In the section that illustrates ATD Fourth World's projects in the world; we find examples such as the monthly gatherings in Haiti despite the instability of the country, or the seminar in Warsaw which took place in February 2004: “Acting together for a Europe with dignity for all”.

Representatives of ATD Fourth World participated in the World Social Forums in 2002, 2003, and in 2004 in Mumbai (India), 2005 in Porto Alegre (Brazil), as well as in the Paris Saint-Denis European Social Forum in November 2003. In Porto Alegre in 2005, ATD Quart Monde, Caritas France, and the Collective for a Quebec Without Poverty facilitated a seminar entitled: **“Together, working alongside people living in great hardship in order to build fairer social development”**.



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD

29. Boutros Boutros Ghali was then Secretary-General of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

30. This temporary housing camp made up of asbestos-cement “Nissan” huts for homeless families was intended to last 2 years. It in fact lasted 18 years and housed around 250 families.

Delegates from Colombia, France and the United States at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2005.

2. Partnership with civil society

ATD Fourth World participates in various NGO collectives or committees in order to learn from other networks about new ways of fighting against poverty, and so that these networks take into account the most disadvantaged people. This is because the fight against extreme poverty cannot be limited only to the means advocated up to now (aid, development, free-market economics, alter-globalization etc.): it is essential to introduce a new partner - people in poverty themselves - into all of the debates about the fight against poverty and the future of our societies.

Many initiatives against poverty exist. Big or small, covered by the media or not, they require constant commitment so that all can fully participate. Examples include a group of women in Togo who, exhausted by farm work, have grouped together under the name "Law-na-acenam" ("Do it; the universe is going to help you") and created a mutual-aid fund by growing several acres of cotton. Equally as important is the woman in charge of cleaning a train station in Poland, who often lets homeless people use her service room to change clothes, warm up, take care of themselves, and even sleep.

In the midst of the analyses and alternatives proposed to build "another world"³¹, are these people's voices, experiences, and ideas sought after? Are they being listened to and do they carry weight? It has become urgent, within civil society and beyond, to move past the perception of these initiatives as praiseworthy but hardly effective. It is urgent to listen and learn from the poor what is required to build another world, through long-term commitment, solidarity, and partnership. It is important that the sharing of knowledge and skills takes place with reciprocity and respect.

Within this spirit, in New York, ATD Fourth World contributed to the document "**Best Practices in Poverty Eradication**" produced by the subcommittee for the eradication of poverty in August 2003 (see p. 53). In 2005, it participated in the "**2005:**

31. See Huguette Redegeld, Vice-President of the ATD Fourth World International Movement, *Revue Quart Monde* N° 186, May 2003, p 57, « Après Porto Alegre, une urgence s'impose... », Ed. Quart Monde, Paris

No more excuses" Global Call to Action against Poverty campaign, notably through several events on 1 July. In addition to demands for a global coalition on fair trade, debt cancellation, and increase in official development assistance, it insisted on the following points in its positions, which are crucial for the success of programs to fight against poverty:

- The impact of development policies on the most disadvantaged populations must be evaluated.
- The poor must be considered as the primary actors and experts in the efforts to eradicate poverty, and not just as beneficiaries of aid.
- With the aim of overcoming social exclusion and extreme poverty in all the countries of the world, in the North as well as the South, new ways of living together must be invented.

If these points are not considered seriously, the most disadvantaged people will continue to be marginalized.

As part of the assessment of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, a response to Kofi Annan's report "**In Larger Freedom**"³² was published, and a member of the ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps participated in the informal civil society hearings organized by the UN General Assembly held on June 23rd-24th in New York. She highlighted how schools should consider it necessary to involve parents as partners in their children's education. ATD Fourth World also worked as part of the MDG + 5 network to try to ensure that these proposals be included in the Member States' final declaration of the Summit. ■



32. www.atd-quartmonde.org/intern/docu_intern/freedomATD05_en.pdf

ANNEXE: ATD Fourth World's Participation in Public Events, Chronologically 2002 – 2005

From 2002 to 2005, the International Movement ATD Fourth World participated and contributed through regular written or oral statements at meetings of the international community, notably:

- At the UN in New York, at the debates of the High Level Session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), on the issue of poverty at several Commissions (**Social Development, Sustainable Development, and Status of Women**), and at the **DPI/CONGO** conference;
- At the UN in Geneva, participating in debates on the theme: "Extreme Poverty and Human Rights" at the **Commission for Human Rights** and the **Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights**. In 2002, 2004, 2005, ATD Fourth World spoke at the Social Forum of the Sub-Commission for Human Rights;
- In Bangkok, at the annual session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**CESAP-ESCAP**).

In Europe, ATD Fourth World participated in and spoke at the **North-South Center of the Council of Europe** in Lisbon (Portugal) in 2002, 2003, 2004 and at the **European Round Table Discussion on Poverty and Social Exclusion** which was held in Aarhus (Denmark) in 2002, in Turin (Italy) in 2003, in Rotterdam (Netherlands) in 2004, and in Glasgow (UK) in 2005.

The ATD Fourth World Movement was involved in and organized workshops at the **World Social Forum** in Porto Alegre (Brazil) in 2002, at the **European Social Forum** in Paris (France) in 2003, at the **World Social Forum** in Mumbai (India) in 2004, at Porto Alegre (Brazil) in 2005, and at Bamako (Mali) in 2006.

Since 2003 the Research Institute of ATD Fourth World Movement has organized an annual seminar entitled **Campus** at the International Center in Méry-sur-Oise. This event promotes the exchange of information and ideas between universities and participants involved at a practical and theoretical level in research on extreme poverty.

October 17, 2002: Press conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York for the International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Second right is Eugen Brand of ATD Fourth World, far right is Jean-David Lévitte, Ambassador, representing France at the United Nations.



PHOTO ONU

Beyond the regular work mentioned above, listed below are important events related to the International Movement ATD Fourth World:

January 18, 2002: International Movement ATD Fourth World convened a General Assembly meeting in Pierrelaye, France.

February 14, 2002: Death of Geneviève de Gaulle-Anthonioz, born in 1920, President of ATD Fourth World in France from 1964-1998.

May 5, 2002: The United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children was held in New York. Two children from the United States and Senegal represented Tapori. ATD Fourth World contributed the written document "The Tapori children are breathing life into the International Convention of the Rights of the Child".

May 29, 2002: A commemorative stone in honor of the victims of extreme poverty was laid at the European Parliament in Brussels.

June 4-6, 2002: ATD Fourth World Movement participated in the annual General Assembly of the ILO in Geneva

July 9-12, 2002: Representatives of ATD Fourth World spoke at the European Youth Convention at the European Parliament in Brussels.

August 26 – September 2, 2002: ATD Fourth World participated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (South Africa); and contributed a 24 page essay "Partnerships with People Living in Persistent Poverty, the Missing Partners in Sustainable Development."

September 30 – October 2, 2002: ATD Fourth World participated in the Collective Regional Consultation of NGO's by UNESCO on "Education for All" held in Malawi.

October 1, 2002: Eugen Brand, the Director General of ATD Fourth World met with Mr. Nitin Desai, the Under-Secretary General of the United Nations.

October 16-17, 2002: Eugen Brand presented an intervention at the 2nd International Forum on Social Development "What international cooperation for what development?" Organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York.

October 17, 2002: ATD Fourth World spoke at the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty seminar organized by the World Bank: "Social services and poverty: the challenge of reaching the poor." in Washington.

October 22, 2002: ATD Fourth World spoke at a meeting with the IMF on the "Analysis of poverty and the social impact on the poorest people" which took place in Washington.

October 25-27, 2002: The movement participated in the NGO North-South Dialogue Forum on "The new ways for the 21st century - Getting the dialogue going", in Tlemcen, Algeria.

October 28-29, 2002: The movement participated at the Western-Europe Network of NGO-UNICEF, the theme was: "Children in Western Europe living in poverty" in Geneva.

December 1, 2002: Contributed to those who suffer at the convention on the future of the European Union in Brussels.

December 9-13, 2002: The Movement participated at the Asian Civil Society Forum "Building Capacities and Networks for Human Rights and Sustainable Development" in Bangkok.

January 2003: The movement participated at the Committee for Children's Rights in Geneva.

January 30-31, 2003: ATD Fourth World participated in the discussion of "Local appropriation of public aid to be used for development" organized by the Coordination for Human Dignity in Namur, Belgium with an intervention on community pre-schools and family at Port-au-Prince (Haiti).

February 10-11, 2003: International Seminar "Joseph Wresinski, representative and voice of people living in poverty, a new voice of humanity" at the Catholic University of the West in Angers (France).

April 24, 2003: The 20th Anniversary of the European Youth Forum at the European Parliament in Brussels; ATD Fourth World participated and spoke.

May 1, 2003: ATD Fourth World launched research on best practices in poverty eradication in partnership with the NGO sub-committee for the eradication of poverty in New York. One of the practices that ATD Fourth World had suggested was selected to be included in the document as a best practice to eliminate poverty.

June 5-6, 2003: The movement participated in and contributed to the UNESCO consultation, "Abolishing Poverty through the International Human Rights Framework: Towards an integrated strategy for the Social and Human Sciences." in Bergen, Norway.

June 7-8, 2003: A meeting between the Under-Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, and the Deputy Director General of ATD Fourth World, Bruno Couder, took place in Strasbourg, France.

June 21-28: International seminar: "Joining the families of children who live on the streets." in Kongoussi, Burkina Faso.

June 22-24, 2003: Participated at the event for young Europeans on the theme: "The method to opening the coordination between politics and young people: participation and information" at Rethymno, (Crete, Greece). The written contribution was titled "Comments on the Communication from the Commission to the Council on Proposed Common Objectives for the Participation and Information of Young People".

June 30 – July 6, 2003: International seminar, "Tabori Source of Commitment" in La Paz, Bolivia.

July 4, 2003: ATD Fourth World Director General, Eugen Brand, met with the interim High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bertrand Ramcharan, in Geneva.

September 1, 2003: ATD Fourth World participated at a conference with the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly and the European Union in Strasbourg.

September 6-12, 2003: ATD Fourth World attended the launch of the United Nations Literacy Decade in Bangkok.

September 15-18, 2003: ATD Fourth World participated in an international discussion on workers and the decline in work in agriculture at the ILO in Geneva.

September 29 – October 18, 2003: ATD Fourth World participated in the UNESCO General Conference in Paris.

October 14, 2003: Conference run by Eugen Brand, organized by the Association Fourth World European Solidarity on the functioning of European Institutions in Brussels, "The participation of the most poor for stable development".

October 17, 2003: Round table discussion presided over by Bertrand Ramcharan, High Commissioner for Human Rights: "Eliminating extreme poverty: the challenge aimed at partnering with the most poor." This interactive discussion took place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

October 23-25, 2003: ATD Fourth World participated at International Symposium, "Volunteering and Development of Capacity in the Information Society", organized by the Volunteer Family of the International Civil Society Bureau of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Dakar.

November 2003: The study "Valuing Children, Valuing Parents" was published, in the context of a European Convention.

November 14-15, 2003: ATD Fourth World participated at the conference in Malta on the access to organized social rights by the European Council in Saint Julian, Malta.

December 4-5, 2003: Spoke at World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society organized by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Lyon (France).

December 10-12, 2003: Participated in and contributed an essay to the World Summit on the Information Society. "The Information Society for All" in Geneva. This was organized in workshops.

January 26-30, 2004: Participated in a seminar entitled "Women and Justice" organized by the Foundation of Asiatic Women in Pune, India.

February 1, 2004: Round table discussion on the study of "When Poverty Separates Parents and Children: A Challenge for Human Rights" in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN in New York.

February 6-7, 2004: Organized an international meeting in Warsaw: "Acting together for a Europe with dignity for all". This was a public dialogue with people living in extreme poverty, as well as those working closely with them, and politicians.

March 30, 2004: Participated in a seminar with the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom and the World Bank in London, following up on the Human Development Report of 2004.

March 31 – April 2, 2004: Participated at the World Forum Alliance for cities against poverty, organized by UNDP in Rome.

May 16-19, 2004: A round table discussion at the 1st World Forum on Human Rights organized by UNESCO and the Mayor's Office of Nantes (France); Paul Bouchet, ex-president of ATD Fourth World France spoke, and a stand was set up to present the activities of ATD Fourth World.

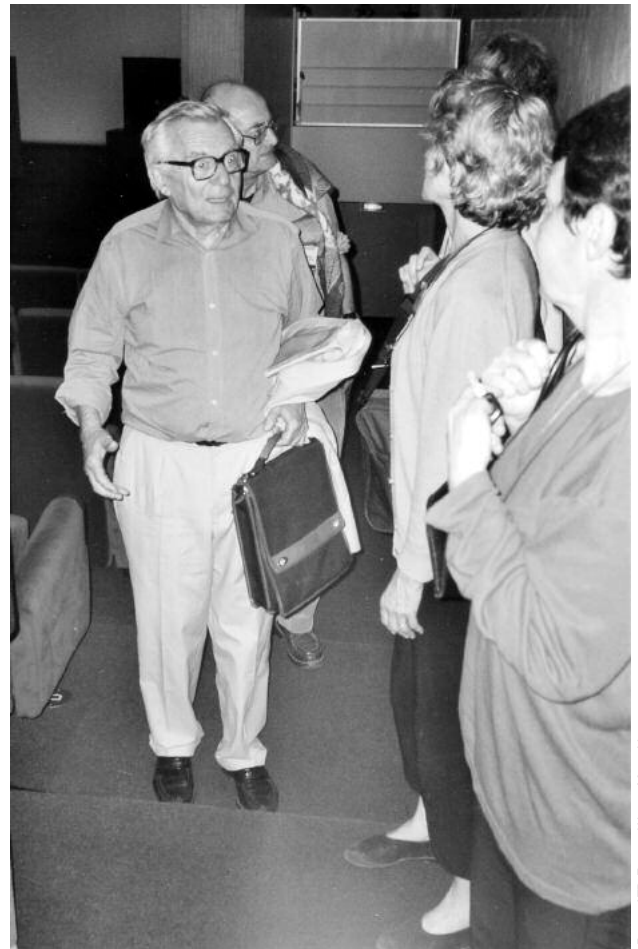


PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD MARIA VICTORIE

World Human Rights Forum, Nantes, France, May 2004, Paul Bouchet, ex-president of ATD Fourth World France.

October 11-15, 2004: Organized an international seminar, "Family, Dignity and Hope" in Guatemala presented by Rigoberta Menchu, winner of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize.

October 14, 2004: Meeting between José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary General of the UN and Eugen Brand in New York.

October 17, 2004: The unveiling of a commemorative stone in honor of the victims of extreme poverty in Mauritius and Somaine, in France.

October 20, 2004: Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, received a delegation from ATD Fourth World in Brussels.

December 5-7, 2004: Susie Devins, Deputy Director General, spoke at an International Conference on Volunteerism and Millenium Development Goals, organized by the UNDP in Islamabad, Pakistan.

December 6-9, 2004: Spoke at the World Summit on the Family organized by the World Family Organization in Sanya, China and at Aracaju, Brazil in December 2005.

January 13, 2005: Representatives of ATD Fourth World met with Mehr Khan Williams, Secretary of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

February 27 – March 4, 2005: Members of the Movement attended a seminar with the experts of the Sub-Commission for Human Rights on the theme of extreme poverty, in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

March 18, 2005: Spoke at the FAO Council, celebration of the 60th anniversary in Rome.

March 26-27, 2005: Attended a seminar with experts on human rights. Cited an international text written against extreme poverty with experts from those living in poverty, in Bangkok, Thailand.

May 23-24, 2005: Organized a side event at the annual conference of the World Bank on the economic management of development.

June 23-24, 2005: Spoke on the subject of access to education by children in Madagascar at the United Nations General Assembly Civil Society informal interactive hearings to evaluate progress of the MDGs, in New York.

June 28-30, 2005: Participated at the International Discussion: "The poor: fully-fledged actors in development for all." Organized by the French Foundation for Political Innovation and the L'Institut Afrique Moderne in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso: contributed a paper: "The unrecognized agents of development."

July 1, 2005: Participated in the World Action against Poverty: "2005: No More Excuses" in Paris, London, Madrid, and New York.

July 2, 2005: Meeting between Guy Ryder, Secretary General of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Eugen Brand and Huguette Redegeld, in Brussels.

September 26-29, 2005: Organized an international seminar: the Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World: "The contribution of the very poor people and families to the intercultural dialogue on the Information Society" with participants from the Mediterranean Basin, in Aix-en-Provence, France.

October 4, 2005: participated in the UNESCO General Conference, in Paris.

October 17, 2005: A delegation of people with direct experience of poverty met with Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN, with the goal of establishing a regular dialogue between the Secretary-General and people in poverty within the context of the Millennium Development Goals.

October 17, 2005: A delegation from the ATD Fourth World Movement met with Jan Eliasson, President of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.



PHOTO: ATD FOURTH WORLD MARK VICTOIRE

Meeting between Jan Eliasson, then President of the UN General Assembly and a delegation from the International Movement ATD Fourth World, October 2005.

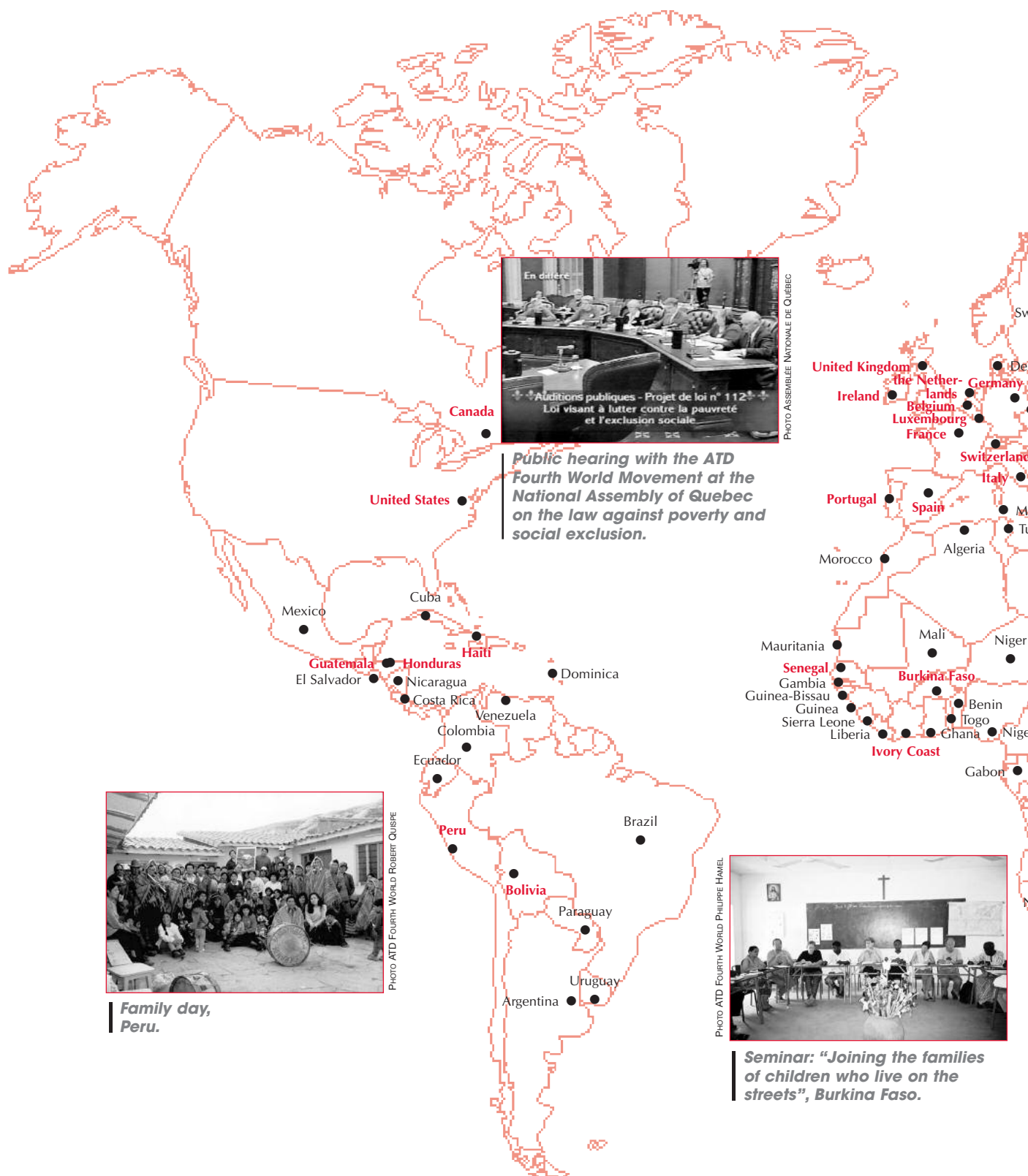
October 19, 2005: "Attacking Extreme Poverty" an international seminar organized by the ATD Fourth World Movement and the World Bank in Washington.

December 3-8, 2005: Spoke at the World Summit on the Family +1 organized by World Family Organization, in Aracaju.

December 19, 2005: The first meeting of the steering committee to review and reinforce the impact of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in New York. This was co-chaired by DESA and ATD Fourth World, and included the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

December 22, 2005: Adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly to understand the lessons learned and reinforce the impact of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (A/RES/60/209 para 55). ■

Building a partnership with the poorest for a fairer world.



Public hearing with the ATD Fourth World Movement at the National Assembly of Quebec on the law against poverty and social exclusion.

PHOTO ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE DE QUEBEC



Family day, Peru.

PHOTO ATD Fourth World ROBERT QUISRE



Seminar: "Joining the families of children who live on the streets", Burkina Faso.

PHOTO ATD Fourth World PHILIPPE HAMEL

In red – 30 countries in which the International Movement ATD Fourth World is present.

In black – 114 countries with correspondents in the Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty, receiving the “Letter to Friends Around the World”.



PHOTO ATD Fourth World

European meeting: “Acting Together for a Europe of Dignity for All”, Warsaw, 2004.



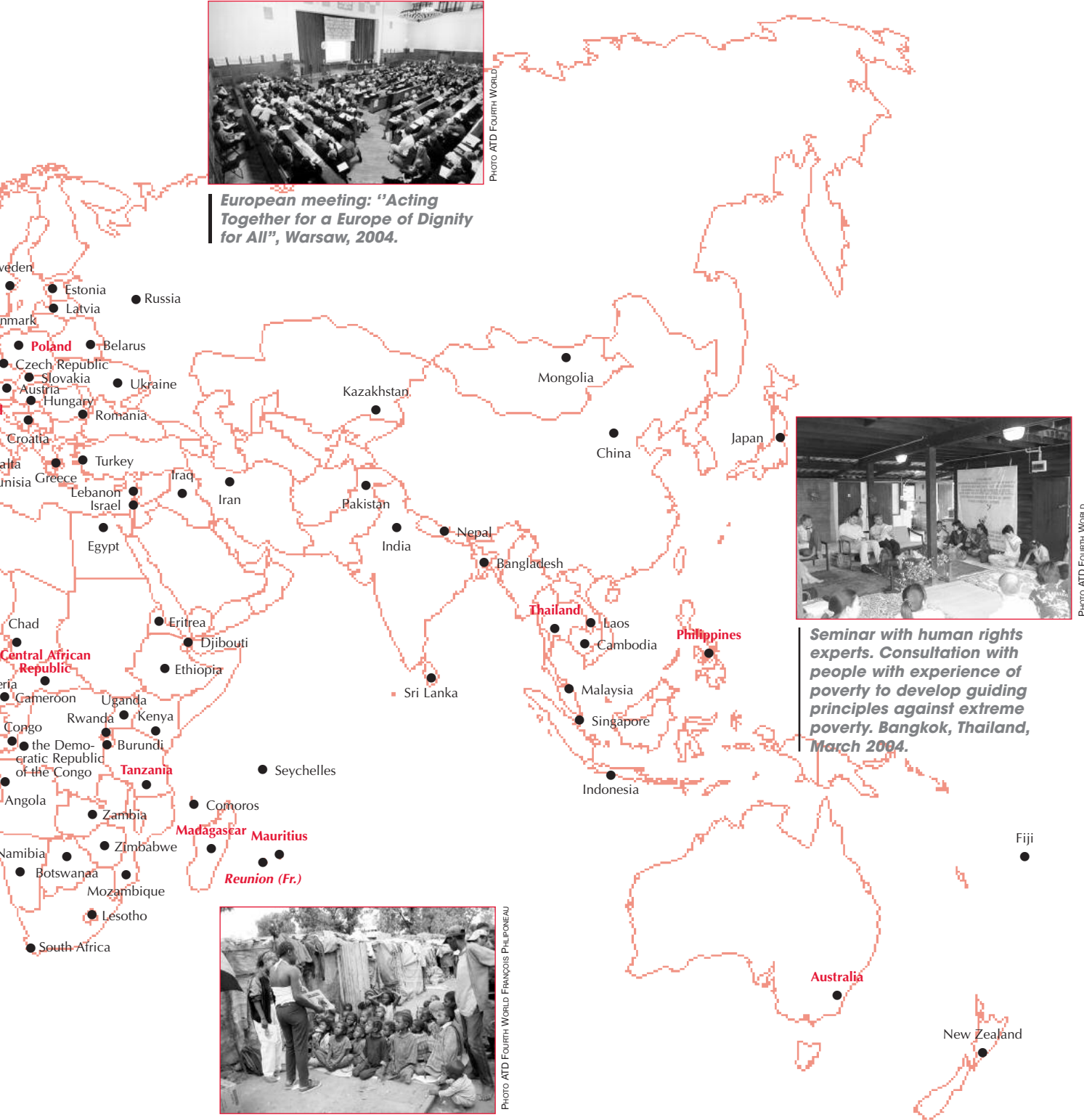
PHOTO ATD Fourth World

Seminar with human rights experts. Consultation with people with experience of poverty to develop guiding principles against extreme poverty. Bangkok, Thailand, March 2004.



PHOTO ATD Fourth World FRANÇOIS PHILIPONEAU

Street library in Madagascar.



IV. ATD FOURTH WORLD ROOTED WITH THE WORLD'S POOREST

When Joseph Wresinski joined the families in the emergency housing camp at Noisy-le-Grand in 1956, he felt deeply that he was joining “his people”. He said, *“Those destitute families will never be able to pull through on their own; but if I join them, they will climb the steps of the Elysée Palace, the Vatican, the United Nations, and all the great international organizations. They must become full partners of our society.”*³³ In his mind, the ATD Fourth World Movement had no borders because social exclusion exists in all countries, whatever their political or economic systems. He constantly questioned the people he spoke to about the place given to the most disadvantaged in their societies, and encouraged them to get involved alongside these people.

The Movement first grew in France, and very soon spread to other industrialized countries - the United Kingdom, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States - before becoming established in the rest of the world after 1979. ATD Fourth World now operates in thirty countries and has friends and correspondents in over a hundred countries.

All this has been possible thanks to friends who have trusted the Movement and provided support for the full-time volunteers working in poor neighborhoods, both urban and rural.

In each part of the world, the ATD Fourth World Movement has started from small teams with a long-term local presence. From there it has grown, put down roots, generated hope, and encouraged deep commitments.

The regional development of the ATD Fourth World Movement

In an increasingly complex world where countries and communities are ever more interdependent,

33. See “The Poor at the Church, A conversation with Fr. Joseph Wresinski”, Gilles Anouil, 2002, Twenty Third Publications, page 11.

the fight against poverty and social exclusion must grow out of a sharing of experiences from different cultures and countries.

To take this diversity into account, in the early 2000s ATD Fourth World chose to strengthen its growth in the parts of the world where it operates. Six regional delegations have been formed, for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Asia, Europe, and the Indian Ocean.

ATD Fourth World is different in each of these regions, in terms of its history and action, the skills and availability of the people involved, and depending also on the country's situation. The regional delegations must therefore draw on local and regional resources that enable them to:

- Meet people in extreme poverty, get to know them and become involved with them in combating poverty on the basis of human rights, respect, and the dignity of all people;
- Identify the ways of combating poverty that have initiated in each culture and each society, so as to enrich the struggle everywhere;
- Create the conditions for involving and training people who want to invest their time and energy in combating poverty, starting with those who live in poverty.

In this section of the report, we will present the projects under way in each region.

ATD Fourth World or associations of friends of the Movement run projects, however in some developing countries they are implemented by ATD Fourth World ? “Terre et Homme de Demain”.

ATD Fourth World ? Terre et Homme de Demain is an organization recognized by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an association for international solidarity (under Law 2005-159). It provides administrative and financial support for ATD Fourth World teams in Africa, Central and South America, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Indian Ocean.

A. AFRICA

The International Movement ATD Fourth World has teams of full-time volunteers in Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Senegal, and Tanzania. The volunteers come from twelve different countries including Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Senegal, and Tanzania. There are groups of friends of the movement in Benin, Ivory Coast, Mali, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In the Central African Republic, the political situation forced ATD Fourth World's full-time volunteers to withdraw for four years. In early 2002, a volunteer returned to Bangui to work for the country's nutrition center; then another volunteer was sent in 2005.

In Kenya, between 2002 and 2004, ATD Fourth World took part in the work of an association that assists refugees in the Great Lakes region, with a volunteer working in their team.

Through the Permanent Forum, ATD Fourth World also has relations with people and voluntary associations involved in combating poverty in the 21 other countries in Africa.

The Movement looks to support Africans who are committed to working alongside the weakest members of their communities.

For example, in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Senegal, and Tanzania, street libraries in village markets, in the streets of poor districts, and under street lamps where street children gather are a good way

of reaching the most isolated children and families. The parents often say *"You bring new knowledge to our children and our families"*. Through the libraries, adults and young people (some of whom have just had a few years' schooling) are proud to do something meaningful and find a response to their thirst for learning and knowledge.

Since late 2001, two full-time volunteers based in Ouagadougou have been monitoring all the Movement's actions, supporting meetings, and exchanges of experiences among ATD Fourth World members in Africa.

In April 2002 a meeting was held in Dakar between members delegated by families, friends, and volunteers in Burkina Faso, Senegal, Tanzania, and Ivory Coast. In May 2003, in Yamoussoukro in Ivory Coast, a member of ATD Fourth World who works as a social worker with displaced families organized a training session, which was animated by two members of the Movement from Ouagadougou.

Reaching The Poorest

The examples below illustrate how members of the ATD Fourth World Movement and excluded communities meet and learn from each other.

In Tanzania, we have been drawing attention to the positive contributions made by disadvantaged young people.

ATD Fourth World started in Dar es Salaam in 2000. A volunteer went regularly to the fish market to meet young people living on the beach and in old wrecks. These young people help the merchants by bringing the wood they need to smoke fish. These regular visits started a dialogue with the young men, and gradually built up trust. The volunteer saw that, despite their poverty and isolation, the young people take care of the most vulnerable among them. They pool money for healthcare and funerals, visit each other in the hospital or prison, and share their food.

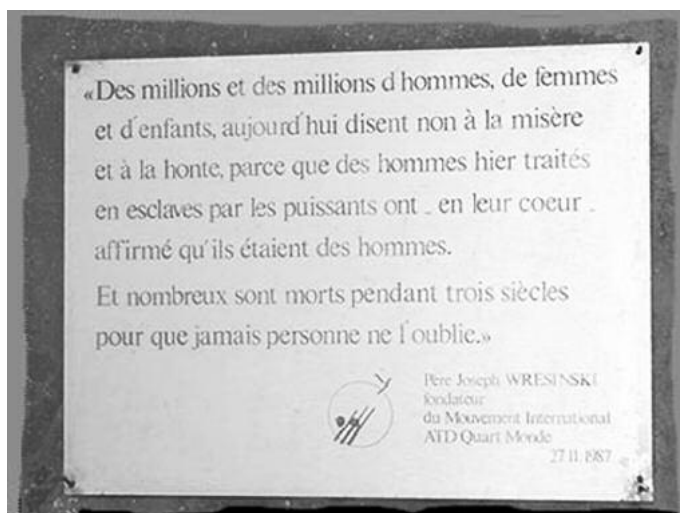


PHOTO UNESCO

Words of Joseph Wresinski displayed at Slave House, Gorée Island, Dakar, Senegal, a UNESCO world heritage site.



I English classes in the “Tower of knowledge”.

These are unseen actions, but a project initiated by the ATD Fourth World team brought public attention to the young men's know-how and their capacity to support others in need of help. Ten of these young men living on the beaches of Dar es Salaam offered their services to a work camp in Moshi, about 500 km northwest of the capital. There they helped to renovate the dormitory in a school for the blind. The school director pointed out to the teachers, parents, and local authority the fine example these young men were setting, when they themselves lived in such difficult circumstances.

Samueli, one of the young men, said afterwards: *“A few years ago, my life on the street was one of loneliness. I was living like an animal until I was able to take part in activities to help other people. That’s when I opened my eyes and realized that even I could contribute something to society, that even I can help others. These days I feel confident.”*

In order to maintain the dialogue with the excluded youth and to continue to show that they can be useful in the development of the country, we created projects in two significant places. One is a disused quarry in which men, women, and children still go to extract rocks and break them to make pieces of gravel for concrete. The other is a dangerous neighborhood, where many are afraid to go, and where a street library was successfully created. These projects were made possible due to young Tanzanians who, having known poverty themselves, have joined the team after a year of training.

In Burkina Faso: “Joining the families of children who live on the streets”

Since 1982, ATD Fourth World has been meeting children and young people who live on the streets in Ouagadougou. We help them re-establish contact with their families as part of a project entitled **“The Courtyard of a Hundred Trades”**. This action receives financial support from the UNICEF office in Burkina Faso.

In June 2003, a seminar entitled: “Joining the families of children who live on the streets” was an opportunity to assess this project’s eight years in operation. Some

thirty people met for this weeklong seminar in Burkina Faso. They included young people no longer living on the street, parents, craft workers, youth workers, social and educational policy makers, a teacher from the university, and friends of the Movement from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Madagascar, Senegal, Tanzania, Haiti, and France.

Based on the changing nature of society in Burkina Faso, this reflection highlighted that:

- The education one receives by being raised within a family is an important factor for resisting extreme poverty. Without this reference point, any plan a child might have for the future is fragile.
- The way a family community raises and develops its children by living together helps provide them with support and security so that they can succeed in the plans they make and become independent.
- Projects that strengthen the family unit must be encouraged because, for the very poor, the family community is still the main place that provides them with a sense of belonging, where they have roots and security, and where knowledge is shared between members.
- Parents and children alike need to be able to openly discuss their thoughts if they are to adapt to the very fast social changes going on around them.

In Senegal: Every child has the right to be recorded in the civil register

In Dakar, where it has been working since 1982, ATD Fourth World encounters very poor communities in the shantytowns and expulsion zones through cultural activities in the street. Some parents in these neighborhoods say, "Except for you, nobody has ever come to see us or talk to us, or take an interest in us or our children." Thanks to this trust, in 2004 excluded families agreed to take part, with support from the Movement, in a campaign to register any child that had not been registered at birth. The campaign was launched by the Senegalese government and is supported by many NGOs and international bodies such as UNICEF. ATD Fourth World feared that the most excluded families would not be informed or approached, and would not be able to contribute.

Their contribution was heard at a meeting at the town hall held in Sam-Notaire (Guédiawaye) on January 17, 2004 and it was attended by the divisional head of the civil register of the Ministry for Local Authorities and Decentralization, civil register officials from several town halls, and officers from UNICEF and NGOs. The families told of the difficulties faced by the most vulnerable among them. *"I know a family with five children, none of them registered (...) They lack the means, and the time, because of day to day conditions (...) They are so taken up with finding enough to meet the family's needs that they don't think about registering their children."*³⁴

34. ATD Fourth World Senegal policy report, 2004, p. 6.

But they also talked about the hopes this campaign has raised. *"You must help us as quickly as possible to get papers for our children. We want to give them the same chances as other children, give them a chance to succeed (...) Our children must be able to go to school, and if they succeed, they can help us solve some of our difficulties."*

It took a great deal of courage and tenacity by families and members of ATD Fourth World to make sure that everyone who took steps to get civil registration saw the process through to the end – as well as the courage and tenacity by all those people who took part to draw up lists of children and adults they knew who were not on the civil register so as to get them involved in the process. In the end, 161 adults and children were able to obtain birth certificates.

When the project was evaluated, the families put forward solutions for the problems encountered at the registration hearings. More broadly, their reflections covered all the numerous requirements for better access to this right for communities living in extreme poverty.

Public dialogue

The international colloquium *Les acteurs méconnus du développement* (The unrecognized agents of development) in Ouagadougou, on 28 and 30 June 2005, was an example of the discussions the ATD Fourth World Movement initiates with public sector partners. The event was organized jointly with the *Fondation pour l'innovation politique en France* (The Foundation for Political Innovation) and the *Institut Afrique Moderne (IAM)*, chaired by Zéphirin Diabré, Associate Administrator of the UNDP head office in Burkina Faso.



"Joining the families of children who live on the streets", Burkina Faso. Working in small groups.

PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD PHILIPPE HAVEL

Two members in Burkina Faso represented ATD Fourth World.

Their contribution, entitled "The poor: fully-fledged actors in development for all," alerted listeners to the intense disappointment of all those who are denied the chance to participate in the development of their countries:

"The hardest part is not hunger or deprivation, even though we live daily with those. The hardest part is seeing projects take shape in our district or our village when no-one has asked anything of us or our families.

My life, my suffering are no use to anyone or for anything. I spend my life watching others advance." Explains a father from Dakar.

The ATD Fourth World Movement proposed three guidelines for everyone to be able to take part in development:

- The impact of development policies and programs should be assessed together with the communities concerned, including those worst off;
- People with direct experience of poverty should be considered as the genuine stakeholders, as well as experts in combating poverty where no one is excluded;
- Human investment within communities should be strengthened to support the initiatives of the most vulnerable.

October 17th, the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty celebrated throughout Africa, originates from this desire for inclusive dialogue.

Through October 17 many ways have been found to give expression to the courage and resistance of communities whose history has made them some of the most vulnerable.

In southern **Rwanda**, two associations of friends of ATD Fourth World (one of which has been active for fifteen years, the other for one) have made October 17 the high point of their community action to end the isolation of the poorest members and organize a form of development that leaves no one out. In the run-up to October 17, community work teams open to all (rebuilding a hut, digging a widow's field, etc.), have showed how contact with the most isolated families strengthens the links within the community. These families know from experience that most of the time, organized discussions have little impact on the reconciliation process and on community life. In 2005, they went from district to district, offering their homemade sorghum beer to isolated families and public decision makers alike. Some of the decision makers expressed surprise and admiration at being invited to meet and talk with families they once merely considered paupers.

■ Books and publications:

- *D'une terre que l'on disait morte* (on the action of ATD Fourth World in the prison camp at Bouaké in Ivory Coast), Editions Quart Monde
- *"La rue n'a pas d'enfants"* based on the experience of the Courtyard of a Hundred Trades in Burkina Faso. *Revue Quart Monde* N° 189, February 2004, Editions Quart Monde.
- *Three years of learning in Tanzania*, ATD Fourth World, Dar Es Salaam, 2003.

■ Documentaries:

- *The Courtyard of a Thousand Trades*, Burkina Faso, 2003, 26', by Philippe Hamel (Moré, FR, EN, SP)
- *S'unir pour la dignité de tous*, Senegal, 2004, 25', produced by Philippe Hamel. (Wolof, FR)

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PHOTO MUSEO DE MANEGA

The African Fourth World Sacred Commemorative Stone in Manega, Burkina Faso.

B. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ATD Fourth World is active in Bolivia, El Salvador, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Peru. In these countries, the Movement provides regular support to families in extreme poverty in both urban and rural areas. Most of its work is aimed at providing children and young people with access to learning, through street libraries for example. The activities it runs are always outdoors and are offered in areas where people tend to congregate - for example, close to a garbage dump, a railway line, in the middle of a slum or in the countryside. The activities are not intended to replace school, but aim to help children and parents to understand that each and every child, including those who are generally viewed as unsuitable for the education system, has the ability to learn, to read a book, to draw, and to work well. In Haiti, these learning activities are combined with activities related to health.

This regular contact provides parents with the opportunity to express their thoughts on the support that's being offered and on life in general. There are times when some of them want to have more in-depth discussions. Little by little, in all of the places where ATD Fourth World is present, there is a spontaneous emergence of groups of people who meet and talk. It's always a challenge to ensure that those who have the most difficulty in express-

ing themselves in front of others do not feel too intimidated to do so.

The quest for social justice is at the core of what the Latin America and Caribbean region is all about. The countries in this region have all experienced, in the quite recent past, dark years of oppression and terror. Today, all of them are doing their best to invent new ways of living in peace.

ATD Fourth World is very keen to play a role and to make a contribution. The on-the-spot services that attempt to involve all, from the smallest child to the family suffering the greatest exclusion, play a role in building peace, as do the meetings where everyone has a chance to express themselves.

The ATD Fourth World teams in Latin America and Caribbean search to meet, understand, and work with young people. Young people are often saying: *"We want to be useful, we want to contribute to our society"*. There would be practically no street libraries in this region if the young people in these countries did not put all of their energy into these projects. Over and above their contribution to these projects, this involvement enables young people to deepen their understanding of the world. The experience shows that many; whether they continue to work for ATD Fourth World or not, often go on to play a major role in building peace wherever they live.

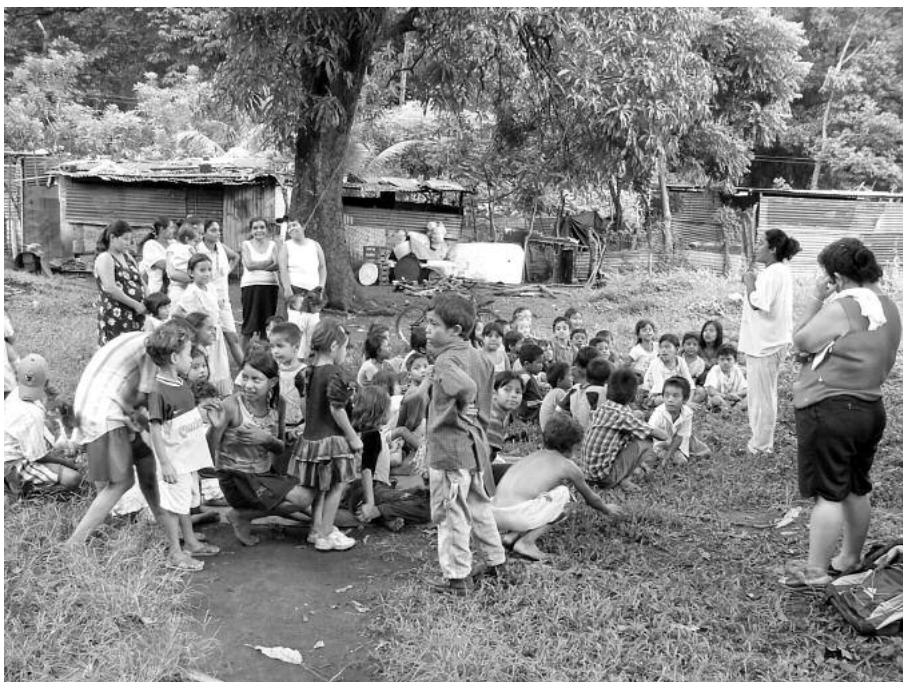


PHOTO: ATD FOURTH WORLD DIMAS PEREZ VANEGAS

Summer Street Festival week in Escuintla, Guatemala.

In Haiti

1. Getting involved in helping the community

In Haiti, ATD Fourth World is preparing to assess and commemorate 25 years in the country, working with very impoverished families in the rural commune of Fond des Nègres in the south of the country, and in Martissant Bolosse, one of the most underprivileged parts of Port-au-Prince.

The two delegates from Haiti who met Kofi Annan on October 17, 2005, in New York, spoke to him about their work with small children:

“As you know, Haiti is a very violent country today and is seeking peace. We’d like to tell you about what two underprivileged people are doing for their community.

Mrs. M is 50 and can’t read or write. For the past eight years, she’s allowed us to use the porch in front of her house for a pre-school activity set up by the Movement to help the poorest of families. Mrs. M is a reassuring element for the parents in the neighborhood and provides the teachers with support. There are some who claim that she does it for money. Her reply is that it’s her way of helping to change the future and that she’s proud to offer the use of her premises free of charge. She’s even been attacked because of her commitment, but she still continues to help.

Mrs. R., the head facilitator, grew up in a poor family and experienced great suffering and bullying, especially at school, but she was determined to learn and to share what she knows with children. (...) Parents confide in her, sharing their worries and their failures, seeking to find a way out. They also share their plans with her, and their knowledge and skills too, even though these may be rather fragile. Mrs. R says that parents need to be recognized - their suffering and the enormous efforts they make for their children needs to be acknowledged.

There are many people like these two women, who have led difficult lives, but who are committed to helping others. They are strong and positive examples to the whole community. Their work focuses attention on the efforts made by families and gives them back their dignity. They are peace activists and key partners in the struggle against poverty”.

2. Promoting knowledge and health, a launch pad for development in underprivileged areas

In the Martissant Bolosse district, ATD Fourth World runs a project called “Promoting knowledge and health, a launch pad for development in underprivileged areas”. Today, around 300 families are involved in this project and are regularly



Action pré-école

Beaucoup d’animation sous la chaleur
Jacqueline Page - mai 05 - Haïti

A lot of animation in the heat, Jacqueline Page, Haiti, May 2005.

invited to evaluate its progress as well as being involved in running some of the workshops. The project is built around two key pillars – education and health. There are four programs developed on an understanding of the families’ lives, their expectations, and contributions:

- **Welcome Babies**, a project aimed at helping children to thrive in their fragile early years (0 to 3). 80 children and their parents are involved in this project.
- **A pre-school** for 55 children aged 3 to 6.
- **A health education program** for adults, which is run on a cycle or according to a theme. Around 250 people per year are involved in this program.
- **Access to health care** for the family through a health card given to 300 families and a special card for children’s activities for 150 of these families.

The two pillars of the project - health and education - are of paramount importance. The goal is to work with the poorest families in areas that concern them and to look at ways of fighting poverty and finding new partners and friends.

The project has evolved substantially over the past three years. At the outset, the main facilitators were ATD Fourth World permanent volunteers. Today, the project is run in partnership with two Haitian associations: **the Centre d’Education Spéciale (CES) and the Service Oecuménique d’Entraide (SOE)**. ATD Fourth World International continues to support those working in the field with families.

3. Creating space for solidarity

Over recent years, in spite of the instability resulting from the situation in the country and the difficult conditions in which people in poor areas live, the residents in neighborhoods where ATD Fourth World is present and all of the Movement's friends have made a point of continuing the monthly meetings in order to "break the silence and share and hope together".

The fact that it has remained a place of peace where people can meet has resulted in the creation of a forum where solidarity can be expressed, where people from all walks of life can come together despite their problems. ATD Fourth World has remained very close to families without allowing itself to be overwhelmed by the violence or having to take sides, which is a major achievement and has helped to bring about as much of a feeling of peace as possible.

During a meeting with a Haitian association, an extremely poor woman started out explaining how difficult her life was, how she had to struggle to raise money to feed her family by selling water. Then she said: *"This meeting has enabled me to find my place in society again"*.

In Peru, making a contribution to the reconciliation process

ATD Fourth World has been working in Peru since 1991. It currently runs two street libraries in the town of Cuzco. The Movement also runs projects to provide access to knowledge in the rural area of Cuyo Grande (department of Cuzco) through its rural libraries and is building a training center.

October 17th is an important day in Peru for ATD Fourth World, although in a very original way, since activities relating to the day last for the whole month of October. A very diverse program – art exhibits depicting the fight against extreme poverty, video forums, commemorations, meetings, parades, inter-institutional concerts, exhibits of children's art – is used to reach as wide and as varied a public as possible.

During the course of 2003, **the Truth and Reconciliation Commission** officially submitted its report on the armed conflict that has plagued Peru for years. This commission sought to engage civil society in order to move beyond the causes of the conflict that had dragged the country down over this period. The ATD Fourth World team took part in the NGO Conference, whose aim was to distribute the Commission's report and to encourage

discussion on its contents. The team was thus able to provide input from the point of view of the most disadvantaged.

For the commemoration of October 17 that same year, the team organized an inter-organizational workshop, the theme of which was "The faces behind the theory and figures on poverty: how to avoid violence being done in their name?" Thirty organizations (NGOs, grassroots organizations, rural associations) were involved in this workshop. The report by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had established that violence in Peru was the cause of 70,000 deaths, and that 75% of victims were Quechuas from rural areas. ATD Fourth World underlined the fact that this violence was directed against oppressed sectors of the population and that among the victims; many were men, women, and children who lived in extreme poverty.

In 2005, the ATD Fourth World Peru team also became involved in writing up the experiences of a family from Cuzco they had known for 12 years³⁵. This biography was undertaken within a joint project between the World Bank and the ATD Fourth World Movement, as part of the study "**Moving out of Poverty**" which had been launched by the World Bank. This work has been written in consultation with the family, who agreed, *"only if it will help prevent other families from experiencing the suffering we have experienced"*.

Building a regional dynamic

Just as in other regions of the world, the Latin America/Caribbean region has, over recent years, been trying to strengthen its regional identity. It is seeking to achieve this through an exchange of correspondence and information between the Fourth World teams in Bolivia, Guatemala, Haiti, and Peru, and also through exchange visits, with Guatemalan permanent volunteers visiting Peru and the Peruvian permanent volunteers visiting Guatemala. ATD Fourth World in Guatemala also supports the activities undertaken by young people in Honduras and El Salvador and creates opportunities for meetings and training sessions involving all three countries.

Two regional seminars were also held, a demonstration of regional dynamics in operation, and support was provided to the International Seminar "Tapori: sources of commitment", held **in La Paz, Bolivia** (see p 23).

35. See "Learning with those in extreme poverty", page 14



Family Meeting in Friendship House "La Casa de la Amistad", Urkupiña, Bolivia.

PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD VLADÍMIR PINO AWACH

In **Guatemala**, the Movement celebrated 25 years in the country and progress in neighboring countries with a commemorative ceremony on October 17th. A number of personalities were present, including Rigoberta Menchu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992. An international seminar entitled "Family, Dignity and Hope" was held from October 11th to 15th and included 35 people from Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, the USA, France, El Salvador, and Canada.

Speaking on the theme of the interdependence between the family, work, education, and the home, one participant said: *"Our experience shows that there is a clash between finding work and looking after our families, because a pre-requirement for work is that one must abandon one's family. If you want to work, you can't look after your children, and if you look after your children, you can't work and then you can't feed them. This is why (...) we need the community (...) which can transform the community into a big family (...) and set an example in terms of solidarity within our society as a whole".*

The conclusions of this meeting show the interconnections between family, culture, and the quest for peace (...): *"Our message is a message of peace because peace is born in the home. We are hurt by the suffering of others, we see people suffering all around us, and we know that violence and poverty tear families apart. (...) Security starts in the family, because if there is no security within the family, there will be no security in the community and in society either".*

■ **Books and Publications:**

- *"Familia, Dignidad, Esperanza"* (Family, Dignity, Hope) Report on the Guatemala Regional Seminar, 2005
- *"Cuando sea grande..."* (When I grow up...) Book and CD, Sharing moments in the lives of children and their parents in Urkupiña (Senkata - El Alto), Editions Quart Monde, Paris, 2005

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C. NORTH AMERICA

The Fourth World Movement has been active in the USA since 1964. It was invited to help fight in the “War against Poverty” through a youth project in a New York neighborhood.

Today, it is active in Maryland (not far from Washington DC) where the national center is located, the Appalachia region, New Orleans, and New York, and has a network of 11,000 supporters. The Fourth World Movement has been in Canada since 1982, in Quebec, and in Toronto since 2004.

The organization’s goals in North America include:

- To understand and raise awareness of what the poorest members of society experience on a daily basis and what they think and feel about their situation
- To make a firm stand against poverty by leveraging the dynamic of October 17th. For example, October 17th, 2004 was celebrated in 32 places throughout Alberta, Quebec, and New Brunswick. The October 17 dynamic continues to gather momentum each year. In Quebec, over 200 organizations – people’s groups, religious groups, trade unions, and human rights groups – joined forces to say no to poverty.
- To develop a partnership with other organizations involved in the fight against poverty and for human rights.
- To support the commitment of each member of the Fourth World Movement and to provide people from all walks of life with the opportunity to get involved in the fight against social exclusion and poverty.

- To create a dialogue between those in extreme poverty and local decision-makers, in order to influence the public policies and programs that affect their lives and those of their children.

In the **United States**, two major projects took place. In Boston there was a partnership between a university and the Fourth World Movement helping train and work with young social workers. In New Orleans there was a study done on access to education, where volunteers, community workers, and partners from a university worked with public elementary schools to actually see what kind of access to education the children actually had.

In **Canada**, one of the main aims has been to change the way people view poverty and people living in poverty through the campaign “Together, let’s change the way we look at poverty”.

For around 15 years, the teams in Canada and the USA have provided joint training for new volunteers and they continue to pool the knowledge and ideas that come out of their projects. Since 2004, permanent volunteers have begun working in Toronto, with the responsibility of helping the Fourth World Movement to develop in the region.

The three Fourth World Movement projects in North America presented in this report demonstrate its ambition to influence behavior and institutions, at a local or national level, in the areas of education and community development for all.

Hurricane Katrina

After Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, the permanent volunteers helped to evacuate families that the Movement had known for years. With two other volunteers, they then went to an emergency shelter in Baton Rouge and helped to provide refugee families with support.

On October 17, 2005, when meeting UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, a delegate from the US said that:

In New Orleans, the poorest members of society were invisible before Hurricane Katrina struck. The whole world was witness to how the poor were trapped and unable to get out. Families said: Now that we’ve become visible, the government will have to take us into account when they rebuild the town. Katrina made people aware that the very poorest members of society contributed to the economy and to the cultural and social aspects of New Orleans. Without their involvement, there will be no real reconstruction”.

The team and their friends are still trying to locate the families they had known, and who remain scattered across the US. In the emergency shelter, permanent volunteers were able to get to know new families and to prepare for a new stage in the life of the Movement in New Orleans.

A law aimed at fighting poverty and social exclusion in Quebec

On December 13, 2002, the Parliament of Quebec introduced a law aimed at fighting poverty and social exclusion in Quebec (law 112). The law was formulated and driven forward through the mobilization of people, a process launched by the inter-institutional committee set up to define a law on the elimination of poverty. The work of this committee was based on the contribution and experience of many people living in poverty. In addition, a major effort was made to consult people from all walks of life. 215,000 petitions were collected between 2002 and 2004, 167 submissions were made to a Parliamentary Commission by trade unions, academic groups and various other groups. The submission by the Fourth World Movement was drafted in partnership with people living in poverty, and efforts were made to reach the very poorest among them. The Fourth World Movement believes that there are two conditions for eliminating poverty that are closely intertwined – the material needs of all must be met and the way society views the poorest must change. It is these two principles that this law recognizes and will seek to apply. One of these principles has been written into the preamble to the law: *“Considering that people living in poverty and social exclusion are the first to act, to transform their situation and that of their family”*.

An activist working for the Movement made an emotional comment at this historic time. *“This law will give all of us an opportunity to move on, both those living in poverty and others whose view of them will change... I felt as if I were one of them.*

I was proud to know that our Members of Parliament unanimously confirmed that they were aware that some of the people of Quebec are living on the edge, every day of their lives”.

Following the introduction of the law, the Movement worked intensively on monitoring the Government’s Plan of Action, which is intended to implement the strategy for fighting poverty and monitor the process for amending the law on financial support and social solidarity (draft law 57). The stakes are high, because law 57, which was recently adopted, is a step backwards from law 112. One of the activists who had been involved in preparing for the hearing before the Parliamentary Commission in October 2004 said: *“The draft law 57 fails to respect the rights of the individual, and it also fails to comply with the law aimed at fighting poverty”*.

Follow up on the “Unleashing Hidden Potential” seminar

For several years, the Fourth World Movement in the USA has been involved in a project whose aim is to create a dialogue between parents living in extreme poverty and others involved in education. The highpoint of this project was the New York seminar in November 2000. Over three days, around 50 people – parents, teachers, social workers, Fourth World Movement volunteers, and university professors – shared their success stories in teaching children whose learning problems are exacerbated by the fact that they live in poverty. They looked at ways of improving school programs in order to increase the chances of success for these children.



PHOTO: ATD FOURTH WORLD ROBERT JORDAN

Street Library,
New York.

The basic conclusions of this project are:

- The state education system in the USA is still having problems in providing quality education to all children, especially those from poverty backgrounds and from minority groups.
- Some parents from these backgrounds have very little positive contact with their children's schools and they should be invited to play a role in reforming the school system.
- There are many success stories for both schools and pupils, which show the way forward in how to teach children from poverty backgrounds and minority groups.
- In order to enable all children to reap the benefits of this success, all of the stakeholders – parents, communities, teachers, civil servants, academics, and politicians - will have to work together to improve schools.
- It is possible, and also vital, for parents living in extreme poverty to become constructive partners in the education of their children and in efforts to reform the school system.

The Fourth World Movement is able to pursue this dialogue through the use of an interactive CD Rom, created with participants following the seminar.

This CD Rom was presented at the Annual Convention for Partnership in Community Action, which brings together professionals from the world of education at a national level. It was also used for a three-day training session for teachers, organized jointly by the New Jersey Education Department and the Fourth World Movement. At each of these training workshops, parents living in extreme poverty shared their knowledge of the community and their experiences with the children.

"This CD Rom is exactly what we need. We know how to teach all children if we want to. But we don't do enough to force ourselves to go all the way." Dr MF, City University of New York.

"I think that the teachers working in schools where the children are from underprivileged backgrounds need to know that not everything we learn can be found in books. Don't pass judgement before you know what's really going on. Communicate and show respect". Parent talking to teachers.

Supporting community development in a county in the Appalachian Mountains

The Fourth World Movement has been active in Dickenson County, a mining region of Virginia, since 1995. As a result of the closure of the coal mining companies in the area, the county's geo-

graphic isolation and the poor quality of its infrastructure, Dickenson is facing problems of unemployment, a lack of minimum social security coverage and a low level of education compared with the state average. However, there is great potential to move forward, thanks to the strength of family bonds and traditions, such as music.

One father stated:

We're not protected here, we don't have social security, we don't have insurance, so we've got to take care of everything ourselves. I work and I earn 187 dollars a week and I pay the doctor 147 dollars; how am I supposed to live and feed my family? It was a good idea for the government to introduce social reform, but we're still stuck in the poverty trap and it's becoming unbearable. When will it stop?³⁶

The main goals of the Fourth World Movement in Appalachia are to:

- Support community efforts to fight poverty and its consequences.

For example, as the region is attempting to attract new technology companies, an ATD Fourth World volunteer, working in partnership with the Binns-Counts Community Center, runs a computer workshop for adults, aimed at helping the local people to develop skills that are in line with market requirements. To date, over 500 people have benefited from this program that has enabled some of them to find a job and others to acquire computer skills. Many of them continue to follow training courses. A new computer workshop, run by another volunteer, was set up in a part of the county that has been hit hardest by unemployment.

- Develop partnerships with groups formed to defend people's rights, in order to influence laws in favor of the poorest members of society. Two volunteers are members of the "Virginia Inter-faith Coalition", a group that unites church and community organizations. The group puts pressure on legislators to improve state laws relating to poverty, access to work, housing, health, and the homeless, and is also an advocate for the abolition of the death penalty.
- Provide a forum for members of the Fourth World Movement to share experiences with and learn from the local community, through training sessions with local community groups.

36. On August 30, 2005, the National Statistics Office in the USA recorded 37 million people living in poverty (12.7% of the population) of which 15.6 million are "extremely poor". (Le Monde, Paris, September 1, 2005).

At the United Nations headquarters in New York

Through its representation at the United Nations, the Fourth World Movement is in dialogue with the international community. It sits on committees and attends UN events, and makes a number of contributions both in writing and through personal meetings. For example:

- In October 2002, Eugen Brand, the Fourth World Movement's Director General, attended an international forum on social development. He spoke at the international meeting to commemorate a decade of working towards eliminating poverty: *"This decade has been an important one: It is an opportunity to build vital, lasting relationships in the fight against poverty and the recognition of the dignity of all. We'd like to put in place the goals and agendas that will take all of those living in extreme poverty into account. We could work towards these goals by building a partnership with those living in such extreme poverty that they've been cut off from their communities. It is only by starting to work with these people that we can be sure that the projects we set up will take each and every one of them into account and that they will serve a useful purpose for all men and women"*.
- **"Best Practices in Poverty Eradication"** is a document of case studies compiled by the NGO sub-committee for the eradication of poverty, which was co-chaired by ATD Fourth World from 2001 to 2003. It analyses dozens of projects worldwide. One of seven projects that stands out in it is the *Courtyard of a Hundred Trades*, a Fourth World Movement project in Burkina Faso.
- In February 2005, at a meeting of the Commission for Social Development, Grégoire Kantoucar, a permanent volunteer from Senegal, was one of a handful of NGO representatives invited to attend a high-level round table meeting of the UN. Speaking to the representatives of governments on the issue of eradicating poverty, he quoted M.A., a person living in poverty from Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso: *"A poor person is like someone who's been caught off guard when a war has broken out. The poor are generally always caught off guard. But together, we're not short of ideas. Let's continue to exchange ideas with those who believe in our strengths. That's how we're going to be able to get out of the trap of being unable to plan ahead."*

- The Fourth World Movement published an article in the United Nations Chronicle on the importance of building a partnership with the poorest members of society if there is to be any hope that, one day, we'll be able to eradicate poverty. The article concludes with a message from inhabitants of the suburbs of Poznan in Poland: *"When we realize how we're part of a large group of people, moving forward together, we keep our hopes up so that we can encourage others"*.

■ Books, Publications:

- **Press Review: Poverty and Human Rights**, ATD Fourth World, Montreal
- **"Germaine"**, Maryvonne Caillaux, Fourth World Publications, 2002
- **"The Poor are the Church"**, translation of "Les pauvres sont l'église" by Gilles Annouil, Twenty-Third Publications, 2002
- **"Every Child Should Have a Chance"**, Tapori Resource Guide, Fourth World Publications, 2005
- **"Taking a Country at its Word, Joseph Wresinski Confronts the Reality and Ideals of the United States"**, Fanchette Clément-Fanelli, Fourth World Publications, to be published in 2006

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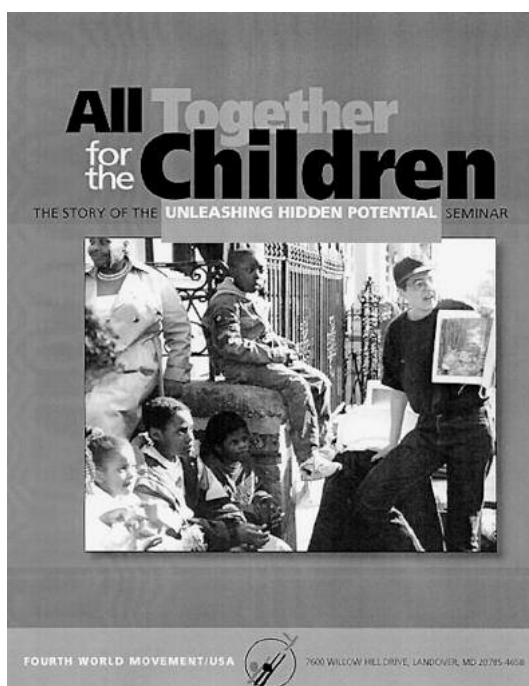


PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD

■ Forthcoming in 2006.

D. ASIA

Asia is a continent experiencing rapid economic growth and the general outlook for the future is positive. However, millions of people continue to live in abject poverty. Statistics show that two-thirds of the world's poor live in the Asia-Pacific region, since this is also the largest and most populated region of the world.

The ATD Fourth World Movement has been active in Asia for a number of years, mainly through the Permanent Forum. In the early 1960s, Joseph Wresinski traveled to India in order to learn how the country was combating the extreme poverty in which a large number of its citizens lived, and continue to live in today. Permanent volunteers in Asia continue to deepen their understanding of the conditions that surround the lives of those in extreme poverty, and to follow the impact of the policies introduced by successive governments to fight extreme poverty.

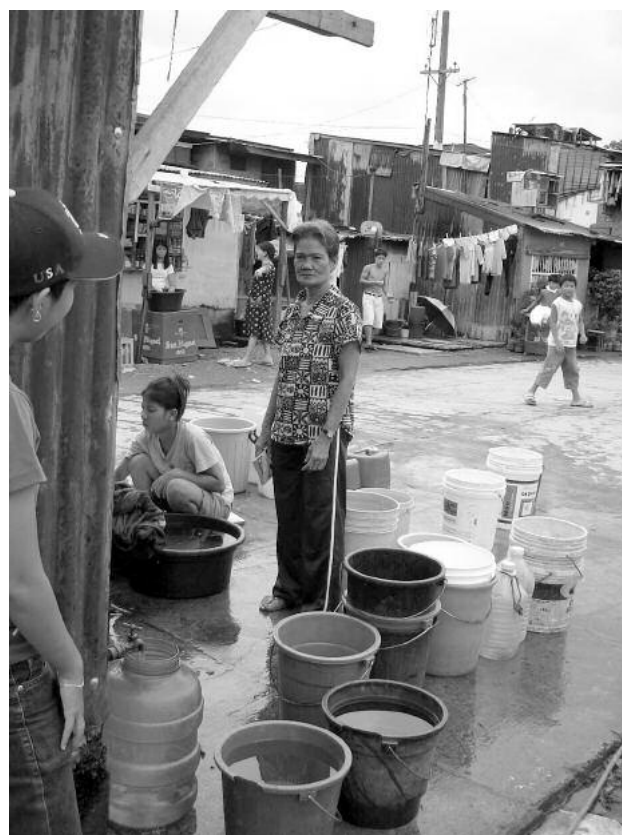
ATD Fourth World first became involved in Asia in late 1979, spurred on by European families in poverty. They had been deeply moved by television reports of the Cambodian exodus, and had asked ATD Fourth World to do something to show their solidarity with those thousands of distressed families. In 1979, two volunteers went to work in a refugee camp run by the Red Cross in **Thailand**, on the Cambodian border. Through various contacts, they very soon discovered the slums of Bangkok, where ATD Fourth World continues to work with extremely poor people today.

The decision to become active in the **Philippines** was based mainly on three factors: (i) media reports in the 1980s showing the inhumane conditions in which street children were living, (ii) a meeting with an activist working with very poor children in the country, and (iii) the support provided by Dr Estefania Aldaba-Lim, a well-known Filipino whom Joseph Wresinski met at the UN, and who was prepared to house the volunteers and help them get started. ATD Fourth World's main goals in Thailand and in the Philippines are to:

- Help families living in poverty to turn their lives around, by strengthening their self-awareness and self-confidence through cultural and artistic activities, and by finding new ways forward by building on family support.
- Increase public awareness of the positive contribution that the experience and knowledge of people living in poverty can make in the search for ways of creating a fairer society. A network of friends and supporters contributes to this effort through publications and public events, such as the celebration of October 17th, working with other organizations. The Friends of ATD Foundation was set up in 1992 and registered under Thai law in order to create a formal structure for their work. It is currently chaired by Sarawut Pratoomraj, a lawyer
- Advocate for greater attention to the situation and potential contribution of the poorest, by taking part in events organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (ESCAP) and by UN agencies, on themes such as social development, education, culture, and peace.

In addition to its own teams, ATD Fourth World has developed links with other countries in South East Asia and with NGOs and individuals involved in the fight against poverty.

Following the tsunami in December 2004, and the high level of solidarity that it generated, ATD Fourth



Families fetch water from a public standpipe, Philippines.

PHOTO: ATD FOURTH WORLD

World, even though it had not launched a public appeal, received generous donations for victims. As the Movement was not involved in the emergency and relief operations, it decided to look into ways it could allocate this money in order to benefit the poorest members of society. A year after the tsunami, two volunteers from the ATD Fourth World team in Bangkok traveled to Thailand to meet small Thai associations that were looking for support for the tsunami victims' projects.

In Australia, an ATD Fourth World program is in the process of being set up by an Australian national who had previously lived in Europe for several years. For the past two years, she has run a youth program in two villages in Queensland where there is a high percentage of aboriginal families.

Extreme poverty and human rights: concrete support for Thai families³⁷

In Bangkok, the projects launched by ATD Fourth World and its long-term presence has led to the establishment of trust between members of these communities and the Movement. Permanent volunteers are invited to attend major family events such as the celebration of the birth of a child, funerals, and ordination ceremonies;³⁸ they go with the families on visits to their home villages. When asked they support parents in dealings with schools, social services and other NGOs, or when visiting family members in the hospital or prison. Artistic and cultural activities mainly take place in two communities: a shanty town with no official name, but which the volunteers call Saphan Phut due to its location near a bridge with the same name,³⁹ and a group of homeless families under the Arun Amarin bridge, not far from the Bangkok Noi railway station.⁴⁰

37. According to an article in *Feuille de route - Quart Monde*, n° 341, June 2005

38. This ceremony marks the start of the period that young boys spend in a Buddhist monastery.

39. When the volunteers started working in this neighbourhood in 1988, around 100 families were living there in very precarious conditions. The construction of a road in 1992 and two fires between 1997 and 2000 resulted in the departure of many of them. Today, around 80 families continue to squat on this private property, under the permanent threat of eviction.

40. The volunteers first started working with this community in 1996, which they met through a family that had left Saphan Phut to come and live under this bridge.

In 2004, in Geneva, the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (SCHR) decided that there were two indispensable steps it would have to take if it was to come up with a comprehensive international text against extreme poverty. First, it would have to gain an in-depth understanding of the circumstances of those living in extreme poverty, and second it would have to dialogue directly with them. Accordingly, the sub-commission has launched consultations on several continents along the theme of "Extreme Poverty and Human Rights". In Thailand, this dialogue began on March 26, 2005 at the Fourth World House in Bangkok and in two neighborhoods.

There were six representatives of the Saphan Phut and Bangkok Noi communities in an encounter with Yozo Yokota, Japanese specialist from the SCHR, Mr. Klok (Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) and Jaran Ditapichai (National Commission for Human Rights in Thailand).

The ATD Fourth World team had carried out a series of interviews based on Adult Forum Meeting themes:⁴¹ difficulties of maintaining a proper family life and remaining together, the right to live in dignity (decent housing, education, a work), understanding or ignorance of their rights, and access to or denial of rights. Feedback from these interviews was given on March 26.

"I want my children to study"

Noy, from Saphan Phut, stated: *"Living conditions are better than if we'd stayed in our village, without any source of income. At least here we can find something to eat, even if it's not much. (...) We weren't able to study. The biggest problem is lack of money. For my husband, on some days he sells a lot of fruit. If I had more free time, I'd like to make little decorative objects. There are several little jobs we've already done – pulling the stalks of pimentos or garlic cloves from the Pakklong fruit and vegetable market. Those that know us come to us with work. But at the moment, there's nothing"*.

Paa Kwang, from the same community, remembers the fire that swept through the shanty town: *"Families who lost everything were living together (...) we'd share the little we had. But being squashed*

41. The adult forums, organised every two or three months by the ATD Fourth World Movement in Thailand with the assistance of friends, provide a forum for adults and young people in poverty to work through their experiences, to express themselves and to be heard.

together like sardines in a tin, with all of the noise, living together became very difficult. If you asked me whether I'd like to go somewhere else, I'd say yes. But how could I do that? I've got nothing, no support".

Ploy from Bangkok Noi survives by selling garlands of flowers. She tells her story: "My daughter-in-law works and when she comes home at night, I can go out and sell garlands of flowers. I make enough for one person to live off, but it's really not enough for two. On Saturday and Sunday I can sell a lot more, but it also depends on the season". Khung talks about the children who've come from the provinces and who are living in the community: "They've fled the family home because of problems; they've run away from their parents and come to live under the bridges. If we haven't got anything, we go over to the Buddhist monastery and ask for food so that we can give them something to eat. As soon as we've got a bit of money, we buy food from the little street restaurants".

"All people should be able to be proud of themselves"

Reacting to all of the contributions made, Yoza Yokota said: "I noted that all of you had a dream, of a home or a job you hoped to find, even though you're all well aware that it's not easy, but you're making an effort. You may not be entitled to housing or to help, but the fact that you're human beings gives you the right to live where you are. This is a human right. Human rights go beyond the rights you're deprived of. We're trying to convince the government representatives that they've got to look after people first, before deciding whether they're entitled to housing, to find out whether they have family members if they're from another country (...) Some of you must have felt shunned and disregarded because of your poverty. This shouldn't happen. All people should be able to be proud of themselves".

Access to knowledge: the real contribution of families in the Philippines

In the Philippines, street libraries help to solve a problem that many parents are concerned about – how they can provide their children with access to learning materials. They are held in four poor neighborhoods in Manila. At the end of the school

year, a "Festival of Knowledge" is held. Culminating with a concert or a visit to a cultural attraction (e.g. a museum or artists' village), the festival means to great deal to children from disadvantaged neighborhoods that have little opportunity to enjoy leisure activities or holidays.

These programs stimulate the children's creativity and thirst for knowledge, as they discover the pleasure of reading, drawing, and other activities adapted to their age groups. The programs also serve to convince parents that their children are capable of learning and are just as intelligent as more privileged children. Parents feel they are getting some support and encouragement in the efforts they are making for their children.

In late 2003, around 15 mothers made an active contribution to the evaluation carried out on the street libraries. Their expectations encouraged the volunteers facilitating the library to pay more attention to very young children, and to come up with activities best suited for each child's age. This enables them to finish the work started, and to spend more time with those who have the most problems. One of the mothers has set up a new street library in another neighborhood and organizes activities every week.

Parents were involved throughout the whole of 2004

Several mothers were involved in running the libraries on weekends. Every week they go to the ATD Fourth World office to evaluate the previous

46 .Desde 1985, el Festival del Saber propone a personas de todos los horizontes, artistas, artesanos, profesionales, deportistas, bibliotecarios... y toda persona que tenga buena voluntad, venir a compartir lo que saben con los niños, los jóvenes y los padres en los barrios más desfavorecidos en diversos lugares del mundo.



I Street library, Manila, Philippines.

PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD

session and to prepare for the next one. These mothers are highly motivated and they provide their services free of charge, even though they have to make up the hours they've taken off from their paid employment, which is vital for their families. One mother said:

"Before I just used to watch, I didn't know what I could do to contribute, but even then I used to hope that I'd find some way of helping. Now I'm very happy to be part of the project. Sometimes people ask me how much I'm earning. I don't mind what they think. I'm happy to be able to do something for the children in our neighborhood".

In 2003 and 2004, five young people who themselves had participated in the street library when they were small, became involved in running the Festival of Knowledge for their little brothers and sisters. The time that they had spent in workshops and doing assessments with the other facilitators helped them to develop story-telling and craft-making skills, and they knew how to help and guide the children without actually doing the crafts for them.

Poverty in Manila

Manila is the most well known city in the Philippines, even though Quezon City is the capital. Manila is a commercial and industrial center, with a population that reaches 4 million during working hours, and falls to 1.7 million at night. There are pockets of extreme poverty in the city, especially in the Tondo district, close to the port. Many underprivileged people live in overcrowded shantytowns. Manila attracts large numbers of migrants from the rural population, which has a higher poverty index than other sectors of the economy. These people come to Manila hoping to find work, but most of them are unable to.

Children from the poorest families have access to free schooling in primary and secondary school. But statistics show that six out of ten children cannot stay at school for longer than four years, for economic reasons. Approximately 15% of children and young people between the ages of 6 to 24 received no schooling at all.



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD

Commemorative stone for the victims of poverty, Rizal Park, Manila, Philippines.

International representation

ATD Fourth World is involved in the efforts of international organizations, especially in Bangkok:

- The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (annual sessions). We participated in high-level debates on the regional follow-up to the Fourth International Women's Conference, and the first session of the Sub-Committee on Vulnerable Groups in September, 2004).
- Asian Civil Society Forum, organized by NGOs (CONGO) from November 21-24, 2004
- UNESCO: working group on the theme of Education for All, which meets three times a year; the regional launch of the United Nations Literacy Decade in September 2003; and the meeting of national coordinators of the Education for All Initiative (2003 and 2004).
- Forum for Practitioners of Human Rights and Development.

At the World Social Forum from January 15-22, 2004 in Mumbai (Bombay), India, a volunteer from Bangkok and a friend from Manila ran a workshop entitled "The poorest people, partners with no say in sustainable development".

As part of the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Family, Eugen Brand, General Delegate spoke at the Summit organized in Sanya (China). See page 21.

Representative for the Asia region:

Marie-Claire Droz: mcdroz@cscoms.com: See page 76.

E. EUROPE

ATD Fourth World was founded in 1957, the year in which the Treaty of Rome was signed. Joseph Wresinski never stopped asking the same question on behalf of all families living in extreme poverty: *“Whether it be economic, social, cultural or political, are we all also working for a Europe for all Europeans? Will all Europeans have equal opportunities to exercise their rights and their responsibilities?”*

Today, ATD Fourth World is present in Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland, and has links with Hungary, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.

ATD Fourth World’s actions in Europe are coordinated by two regional Delegates who support the Movement’s teams and groups, and at the same time, encourage exchanges and meetings among all countries.

Its projects and undertakings in Europe aim at ensuring that all have access to fundamental rights. These core fundamental rights include the right for families to live together, and to benefit from community support services in which each individual is respected and supported. Each person should be able to develop his or her abilities and make a meaningful contribution to society. These undertakings take the form of pilot programs in areas where very poor people live, public awareness raising and mobilization campaigns, and lobbying of institutions (political, economic, and social). There are currently four dynamic ways in which the Movement carries out these actions:

- **Reaching out** to people and families in poverty and exclusion, especially young people, and working to gain an understanding of who the very poor are in each country.
- **Seeking** to work with other organizations and concerned citizens on poverty issues, both locally and at a national and European level.
- **Providing** an opportunity for those living in extreme poverty to play an active role by sharing their experiences.
- **Facilitating and promoting** the possibility for those who have been excluded to participate in the broader society – to live together - and encouraging all members of society to get involved, especially on October 17.

Persistent instability of people living in extreme poverty in Europe

- In all European countries, there are individuals and families who have to try and survive on resources that prevent them from living in dignity. *“We have to walk everywhere, in all weather, all the time. We have to wear second-hand clothes and be grateful for them. We don’t want our children to have to experience what we have.”*
- Long-term unemployment is very high among the chronically poor, to the point where a large number of youths and adults feel completely



PHOTO: JEAN-LOUIS SAPORITO

**Belles Familles
(Beautiful Families),
Jean-Louis Saporito,
Editions Les Arènes,
2002.**

useless. *“When you work, you feel good about yourself, you feel less agitated, even within your own family.”* Unemployment figures are very high, but, in addition, with an increase in the number of poorly paid, unstable jobs, there are now around 14 million people who fall into the category of the “working poor” in the 25 member states of the European Union.⁴²

- There is no guaranteed right to housing (people live in hotels on a temporary basis, slums are springing up again, etc.)
- Because of their poverty, people are unable to obtain the medical care they need. Associations working with the poor have noticed how very few of them reach retirement age.
- The majority of children who are taken into care or placed in a foster home are from families living in poverty.
“When they take our children away, it’s as if we were losing our lives. It’s time that people started to listen to us,” say the parents of these children.

In 2004, it was estimated that 68 million people in the 25 member states of the European Union were forced to live in poverty. Before EU expansion, there were 55 million people (or 15% of the population) in the 15 EU member states living in poverty, half of whom were at risk of long-term poverty.⁴³

UNICEF has found that the proportion of children living in poverty rose in most of the developed economies in the world between 1990 and 2000.⁴⁴

REPRESENTATION OF THOSE IN EXTREME POVERTY AT THE EUROPEAN UNION

In 1972, Joseph Wresinski met the then EU Commissioner Albert Coppé. Meetings followed with subsequent Presidents of the Commission (Gaston Thorn, Jacques Delors, Jacques Santer, and Romano Prodi). In 1972, ATD Fourth World set up a Delegation at the European Union in Brussels and in 1976; it established the association European Fourth World Solidarity. These two platforms enabled it to participate actively in the construction of the European Union.

42. Source, Poverty of Workers, Eurostat, EU, May 2005

43. See Report by the Commission to the European Spring Council, February 2004

44. Innocenti Report Card N°6 Child Poverty in Rich Countries 2005, UNICEF, 2005. This report covers 26 of the 30 OECD countries, including 19 in Europe.

The work of the ATD Fourth World Movement is aimed at ensuring that people living in poverty and social exclusion - people with a unique experience – are considered as indispensable partners in the construction of a better world and are directly involved in the process of defining, implementing, and assessing policies for combating poverty and social exclusion. Inclusion of those in poverty strengthens the quality of our democracy itself, which is in the best interests of everyone.

For many years, the fight against social exclusion and poverty was limited, at a European level, to programs supporting local projects. ATD Fourth World, working with other NGOs⁴⁵, strongly advocated for the fight against poverty to become a basic policy of the EU, involving the highest-level representatives of the member states.

In 2000, at the European Summit in Lisbon, the European governments openly discussed poverty and the fact that it was intolerable. A decision was made on a new direction for the EU for 2000-2010, in order to give new impetus to the elimination of poverty in Europe. Thanks to this political drive, common objectives in the fight against poverty and social exclusion were adopted at the Nice Summit. Until 2004, the fight against poverty was considered to be an essential part of sustainable development. However, the revision of the “Lisbon Strategy” in 2005 seemed to call into question the commitments made in previous years to strengthen economic, social, and environmental cohesion within the EU. ATD Fourth World, along with other NGOs, has spoken out against this process on several occasions.

The common goal of all of the players mobilized in the fight against poverty and social exclusion is to get the EU to move forward in terms of its social inclusion strategy. One of the vital components of this mobilization is the promotion, in line with common practices in each country, of the “participation and expression of those people victim to exclusion”.

Over recent years, in order to ensure that the voices of those in extreme poverty are heard and that they are able to be involved in the construction of Europe, the ATD Fourth World Movement has:

- Ensured that people living in poverty or those working alongside them were informed on the advances made in terms of the EU’s strategy on social exclusion.

45. ATD Fourth World is an active member of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), the European platform of social NGOs and the Civil Society Permanent Forum.

- Participated in four European Round Table Meetings on poverty and social exclusion (Aarhus, Turin, Rotterdam, and Glasgow).
- Facilitated, in several member states and at the EU level, the progressively active involvement of people living in poverty in defining and assessing national action plans for social inclusion.
- Organized several meetings, exchanges, and seminars within the framework of the EU's transitional exchange program, which is part of the EU strategy to combat poverty and exclusion.
- Made several contributions to the work on the Convention on the future of the EU.
- Continued to work with the European Economic and Social Committee and was involved in exchanges on participatory democracy and the role of civil society.

ATD Fourth World received two financial grants from the European Commission for its work in Europe and the exchanges it organizes at a European level between people living in poverty and other citizens from very diverse backgrounds. One of the grants came from the Directorate General for Enlargement and supported the Warsaw meeting in 2004. The other was from the Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs, and granted within the framework of a cross borders exchange as part of the project "The poorest members of society, key participants in discussions on the fight against poverty and access to basic rights for all".

The European Sessions of the Fourth World People's Universities

From 1989 to 2001, the Fourth World People's Universities held seven European sessions in Brussels, under the aegis of the European Economic and

Social Committee. The Warsaw Meeting in February 2004 was organized along the same lines. These sessions brought together attendees of the Fourth World People's Universities (people living in poverty and those working alongside them), European leaders, and various associations. Participants sought to establish a dialogue based on the experiences and aspirations of the poorest members of society, in order to identify ways in which the European Union could better serve all of its citizens.

The Fourth World People's Universities and the Warsaw Meeting provided places where the words of those in extreme poverty could be heard and listened to with respect. Their abilities are recognized and strengthened by the knowledge and experience of other citizens who themselves benefit from contributions made by people living in extreme poverty.

Acting Together for a Europe with Dignity for All

In Warsaw, in February 2004, a meeting organized around the theme "Acting Together for a Europe with Dignity for All" brought together 400 Europeans from 16 countries, with the support of the European Economic and Social Committee.

People living in extreme poverty and people working alongside them created a dialogue among themselves and also with people in positions of public responsibility (within European institutions, national governments, trade unions, churches, associations, etc.) The exchanges that took place during this meeting and the enjoyable moments that Europeans from very different cultures and backgrounds spent together, highlighted the unacceptable conditions that many Europeans still live in, but also underlined the aspirations and the commitments of all those involved in building a Europe

The principle of participatory democracy

In order to enable all citizens to make their voices heard, ATD Fourth World stresses the importance of implementing a new culture of dialogue, bringing together all layers of society.

Special efforts have to be made to create conditions that will encourage the active participation of the most underprivileged members of society at every level (in neighborhood associations, their children's schools, trade unions, associations, national and European public institutions).

Those in extreme poverty should be given the opportunity to make themselves heard through established channels and should be provided the necessary training to speak and to participate in public life. They should also, like all citizens, be entitled to meet political leaders and other members of civil society in person. This will help them to understand the impact of political processes on their lives, to express their pain, the efforts they make and their aspirations, and to contribute to the progress made by society.

The Fourth World People's Universities and the Warsaw Meeting (see below) show that this sort of dialogue is both necessary and possible.



European meeting: 'Acting Together for a Europe of Dignity for All', Warsaw, 2004.

tions, players in the field of social cohesion. Organized civil society should ensure a liaison between the actions of organizations and individuals who are doing something concrete to combat exclusion". Member of the French Economic and Social Council.

In its different contributions (the first of which was made in March 2002) to the work of the Convention and subsequently to the Inter Governmental Conference, ATD Fourth World emphasized four priorities:

- The eradication of extreme poverty must be one of the key objectives of the EU.

for all. These are a few quotations of what people said:

- A Polish mother explained that her child had been taken into care because she was unable to provide him with proper housing. She concluded: *"I'm poor enough for them to take my child away, but not poor enough to qualify for housing!"*
- *"What I liked most about this meeting was when the Mediator for the Rights of Polish Citizens said that we had to fight for all of our rights, and for the right to decent housing. All of us, both rich and poor, have the same right to life and to respect."* Mr P., Spain
- *"We believe that we need to build up trust in order to live together. But how do we go about breaking down walls? We've noticed that those parents who'd benefit most from coming to a training session, don't come. At first, we used to criticize them. Then we started thinking that perhaps they didn't come because they felt inferior. In order to get beyond these barriers, we went to see them and to offer to come with them to the meeting. It's often the children who push us and make us get out. When a neighborhood party is organized, it's the children who bring us together."* Mrs L. and Mrs D., Italy.
- *"Exclusion is a major political issue in Europe. The impact of these two days should be extended to the representatives of our institutions – the managers of both private and state-run companies, who are also citizens, trades unionists who are called on by those excluded from the workplace, representatives of associa-*

The Draft Constitutional Treaty

Thanks to a number of interventions⁴⁶, consensus was reached to ensure that the text of the Draft Constitutional Treaty would state, in its objectives, that the EU intended to "combat social exclusion and discrimination". However, ATD Fourth World stated its regret that the **eradication of extreme poverty** was not stated as one of the express objectives of the European Union.

- Sustainable development, which is a coherent and balanced policy involving economic, social and environmental development, should be a priority for the EU.
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights should form an integral part of the treaty, thus ensuring that fundamental rights will be respected in all policies implemented.
- The treaty should recognize European NGOs and make it possible for the most excluded members of society to be represented and heard.

Meeting with Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission

In October 2004, a delegation from the ATD Fourth World Movement met with Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission. Several people

46. The ATD Fourth World Committee facilitated these interventions at the European Parliament – an inter-group committee set up in 1980 on the initiative of ATD Fourth World in order to contribute to the work of the European Parliament by drawing on the experiences and thoughts of the most excluded members of society.

who had lived difficult lives were given the opportunity to voice their concerns. A delegate from France said: *“How can you stop the vicious circle of exclusion so that everyone has a place in society? Where I live, I try to encourage people to learn to trust again, because if we learn to trust each other, if we do things together, we can all move forward (...). I want everyone to enjoy the rights that I have!”* The President of the Commission also voiced his concerns: *“Europe still has a long way to go in the fight against poverty. But we can talk about it.”* This meeting demonstrated that a dialogue is possible and that we need to continue working in order to ensure that it has a practical impact on the construction of Europe.

The fight against poverty and social exclusion, an integral part of the strategy to encourage sustainable development

There is increasing concern today about the problems experienced in economic and social domains. After the mid-term revision of the Lisbon strategy which was held in May 2005, ATD Fourth World stated its regret that a clear commitment had not been made to ensure that the strategy for fighting against poverty and social exclusion remained a binding and ambitious priority for strengthening economic, social, and environmental cohesion. The eradication of extreme poverty must be one of the key objectives, a cross-cutting objective in the light of which all of the policies of the EU should be re-examined.

An ambitious policy for fighting poverty should result in:

- **Access to fundamental rights:** extreme poverty is an affront to human dignity and a breach of human rights. Fundamental rights are interdependent and indivisible and people living in extreme poverty should have access to all social, economic, political, civil, and cultural rights in order to ensure that their dignity is respected and that they are able to assume their responsibilities.
- **Support for families:** A family support policy, whatever the composition of the family may be, is a vital element in the fight against poverty and exclusion. The main purpose of a family policy is to support each family in achieving its aspirations. This support is more efficient when it is based on existing abilities and skills within the family, on links between family members, and on the hopes they have for each other and for the future.

AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

ATD Fourth World was granted consultative status at the Council of Europe in 1977 and, since then, has participated actively in the activities of the Council of Europe and has played an influential role in several projects. Between 1989 and 1998, ATD Fourth World was the key initiator of and active participant in the Council of Europe’s project “Human Dignity and Social Exclusion”. This project takes some of the elements from the Wresinski report to the French Economic and Social Council (1987) and tries to apply them across Europe. Based on this project, and following the second summit of heads of state in 1997, the Council of Europe set up a new structure, the European Committee for Social Cohesion, which was tasked with defining a strategy for social cohesion.

ATD Fourth World has also been involved in several other major projects, specifically the revision of the European Social Charter and the adoption of article 30 of the Right to Protection from Poverty and Social Exclusion, the inauguration of the stone repudiating poverty on the Plaza of the Palais of Europe, and the activities of the European Youth Center.



PHOTO ATD Fourth World

Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, meets an ATD Fourth World delegation in Brussels, October 2004.

Access to social rights: the Malta Conference and subsequent events

The report on access to social rights in Europe (Malta Report 2002), which was translated into 16 languages, has become the reference document on access to social rights. It includes an analysis and a study of access to social rights in Europe, examining the various activities introduced by the Council of Europe over recent years in relation to access to housing, social protection, employment, health, and education. At the Malta conference, ATD Fourth World was invited to participate in a workshop, presenting its views on the terms and conditions necessary for creating cohesion between public policies at a country level, emphasizing the importance of sharing knowledge on the situation of people experiencing extreme poverty, and their aspirations.

Following the Malta Conference, ATD Fourth World was involved in several events organized by the Council of Europe (Training day in Paris in May 2003, conference on access to social rights entitled "Fighting Against Exclusion and Reducing Inequalities", at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris in November 2003).

ATD Fourth World received at the Council of Europe

In July 2003, the General Delegation of the ATD Fourth World International Movement met Mrs de Boer Buquicchio, the Deputy General Secretary of the Council of Europe, and Alvaro Gil Robles, the Human Rights Commissioner, as well as several other senior members of the institution.

Third Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw

The Third Summit of the Council of Europe was held in Warsaw from May 16-17, 2005. A unique event at the Council of Europe, and quite remarkable in the history of International NGOs (INGOs) represented in international organizations and civil society, as INGO representatives were invited to attend the Summit. This involvement of INGOs is the remarkable result of the granting by the Council of Europe in 2003 of participatory status (and not just consultative status) to INGOs. The INGOs not only made several contributions to the preparatory work for the Summit, but also, Annelise Oeschger from ATD Fourth World, as President of the INGOs at the Conference, addressed the Heads of State. The INGOs asked the Heads of State to



ATD Fourth World delegations at the Council of Europe, May 2003.

reaffirm the indispensable role to be played by the Council of Europe in striving for a unified Europe and to confirm the importance of social cohesion and the fight against poverty as a key priority for the Council of Europe⁴⁷.

The ATD Fourth World delegation is very active at the Council of Europe. It has participated in a number of events on themes such as childhood, youth, North-South dialogue, and relationships with NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe. It has also played a role in organizing the International Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty and works with other bodies that are related to the Council of Europe (Parliament, local and regional authorities).

For more information, see the report by the Delegation to the Council of Europe.

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47. See contributions made by INGOs and text of Annelise Oeschger's speech at www.coe.int/summit/EN

F. INDIAN OCEAN

The International Movement ATD Fourth World has been active in the Indian Ocean region since 1981, first in the Reunion Island, followed by Madagascar and Mauritius.

Even though there are very different contexts and economic circumstances between the different islands in the region, families, young people, and children have all been active drivers behind a dynamic process of meetings and exchanges. These meetings and exchanges take place by having family days, Taporí groups, Fourth World People's Universities, and monthly or annual meetings such as the commemoration of October 17th, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Street libraries, Summer Street Festivals⁴⁸ and a preschool enable the organization to be on permanent lookout for new families living in extreme poverty.

A monthly publication of ideas and personal stories, "*Dis cette lettre*", was published between 2002 and 2005, just before the 17th of each month, in order to support groups who held meetings on the 17th and also for those living in isolation and known to the Movement in the Indian Ocean region.

Madagascar: a library in the heart of an impoverished neighborhood in the capital

The organization has run street libraries in this neighborhood for over a dozen years. Volunteers barely had time to set up, before there were 30 to 80 children sitting down and waiting eagerly for the first story. Parents often stopped and listened as

48. Since 1985, Summer Street Festivals invite people from all walks of life, artists, craftsmen, professionals, sports men and women, librarians, and anyone who wants to take part, to come and share their knowledge with children, young people and parents in the poorest neighbourhoods in the world.



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD FRANÇOIS PHILIPONEAU

Madagascar:
library in the Antohomadinika district.

they were passing by. One day, one of the mothers asked the volunteer running the library for some books for her. "*Our children ask us questions and we don't know what to tell them. When will you bring some books for us too?*" The next week, the volunteer came back with a few books for adults in her backpack, but every week, there were more and more adults asking for books. The number of adult readers who needed books grew to 250.

As a result of this demand, it was decided to set up a real library in the heart of the neighborhood. The locals took to the project immediately, saying: "*We no longer talk about the shantytown, but the place where the library is.*" On the day on when the floor for the building was laid, around 60 people turned up to lend a hand - all families living in the neighborhood and friends of the Movement. By the time night fell, the foundations of a place of learning where people could meet had been laid. The name of the building, *Fanovozantsoa Joseph Wresinski*, which means "the place where it can be done", was chosen after a competition was held in order to choose a name. It honors the founder of ATD Fourth World, and reflects the Movement's history and links with the world.

Two young mothers in the neighborhood have been trained as librarians. Thousands of locals turned up for the inauguration of the library on October 17, 2003, including a number of political leaders. At the time, one mother said:

"Books have been part of our neighborhood and our lives for a long time. When I read, I live the whole experience of the book and I see all of the characters in the story in my head. Both my heart and my imagination are stirred by books. Books, culture and escaping poverty are closely intertwined, because books open up the mind. I can't read, but my husband and my daughter read to me and tell me stories."

Mauritius: inauguration of a monument in honor of the victims of poverty

On July 22, 2004, Patricia Achille, member of ATD Fourth World, described her country as follows at the Social Forum in Geneva: *Mauritius is an island of 1.2 million inhabitants, an emerging country that enjoys political, economic and social stability. Economic growth today stands at 5.3%. Inflation has fallen to 4.9%. Mauritius has become an example for the whole world. This is a country in which health care and education are free. Notwithstanding all of the progress that has been made and the positive outcomes of which we are*

very proud, there are still around 50 pockets of poverty on the island, and severe poverty still exists in all sectors of society, among Creoles, Hindus, Muslims, although poverty is sometimes more visible in the Creole community.”

ATD Fourth World has been active in Mauritius since 1992, and a replica of the Trocadero Stone was inaugurated on October 17, 2004 on the Port Louis Waterfront. This monument has been named “Memwar”, which means memory. The words on the Human Rights stone in Paris are engraved on three sides of the monument in Creole, English and French. The fourth side bears a quotation by Cassam Uteem, former President of the Republic of Mauritius, who for many years expressed a wish that such a symbol be erected in the country: “The only war worth fighting this century is the war against poverty. Let’s work together so that Mauritius becomes a shining example to the world, where all human beings are free from poverty, the poverty we can see, and hidden poverty too.”

Reunion Island: cultural action

The Movement has been active in the Reunion Island since 1981, and has a history of mobilizing families living in poverty and young people who want to become involved in developing the island. In 1992, the Fourth World and Human Rights House for the Indian Ocean was built by young people, with the help of a number of partners, and has become a place where people can meet and reflect on their lives.

Today, action to fight poverty takes three forms: organizing street libraries and special events, such as the Summer Street Festivals; working with young people in poor neighborhoods; and meeting with families, for example during family days on when preparing October 17.

■ Publications:

- “**Fati**”, Jean-Michel Defromont, Editions Quart Monde, Paris, 2003, 320 p
- CD “**Ten pa la vi**” (Don’t kill life) interpreted by Baster, ATD Quart Monde Réunion, 2005
- “**Sarobidy ny silaky ny aina**”. (Our children are treasure), Mouvement ATD Quart Monde, Madagascar, Second edition in 2005, 94 p. “This work was done to help you understand that mothers can think about the health of their children, different diseases, education and the relationship between patients and medical staff.” Prof Roland Rakotoarimanana
- “**Jour Désiré**”, (Desired Day) Patricia Achille, Editions Quart Monde, Paris, 2006.



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD MARIA VICTOIRE

Inauguration of a commemorative stone for the victims of poverty, Mauritius.

So that no one forgets

I can see myself in all of the personal statements that have been read out today.

Dry bread, sugar water, I’ve done that.

Wearing second-hand clothes, I’ve done that.

Waiting outside the school because your parents didn’t have enough money to pay the school fees, I’ve done that too.

Going to hospital by bus when I was about to give birth, I’ve done that

Seeing your father come home at night empty handed because he couldn’t find anything

Feeling in the way he looks how hurt he is, I’ve done that too.

When I get really down, I gain strength through prayer.

When I see people who are worse off than I am, I know that I’m not alone.

If we manage to get together, we’ll manage to stay afloat.

This is why I’ve decided to get involved today.

To commit myself to walking alongside those who are suffering and with whom I identify.

To commit myself to fighting, to taking a stand, because I know that you can move out of the shadows and into the light

So that our children do not experience the same suffering as we did.

Some people think that we don’t want to get out of the poverty trap.

But who’d like to be in our shoes?

This Memory, it’s part of me, it’s part of us.

It’s like a current that passes between us, that creates a link, a spark

That we can pass onto others and create light that spreads

This Memory, before it was there, we all had it in our head, in our dreams.

Now that it’s here, it can stay in the memory of all

So that no one forgets.”

One of the texts read out during the inauguration

ATD FOURTH WORLD FOUNDED ON PEOPLE'S COMMITMENT

A. The different types of commitment

In carrying out its actions, the ATD Fourth World Movement is supported by people whose commitment is expressed in three different ways:

- At the center of its actions is the irreplaceable work of those who themselves have experienced the challenges of poverty and choose to join the ATD Fourth World Movement: the grassroots leaders or “**Activists**”. ATD Fourth World Movement activists are actively involved in finding and supporting those who are in even worse situations than themselves, to enable everyone to play their part in the eradication of poverty.
- “**Forth World Volunteers**” are employed full time, living and working along side people and families in poverty and developing the ATD Fourth World Movement. Together, they form the **ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps**. Today there are nearly 390 full-time volunteers, representing 39 different nationalities, from all social and cultural backgrounds. The number of full-time volunteers originating from the southern countries (Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Indian Ocean, and Asia) is increasing, due to the growing influence of the ATD Fourth World Movement in these countries over the past few years.
- **Friends and “Allies”** of the ATD Fourth World Movement are involved within their own social, professional, or cultural backgrounds. They strive to put into action improvements and social transformations that are necessary to create more equitable, supportive, and human-rights-based social structures. They create new ways of fighting for a more just society. Within the ATD Fourth World Movement, they join together in groups such as professional networks (education, health, culture, law, etc), committees such as the Committee on the Aims of the ATD Fourth World Movement, Committee on the Commemorative Stone Symbolizing the Fight Against Poverty... and associations such as the European Fourth World Solidarity and Friends of the House of Joseph Wresinski, Geneva.

All over the world, more than 100,000 people work together as friends or supporters of ATD Fourth World.

ATD Fourth World Movement General Assembly:

Today, the ATD Fourth World Movement represents a vast collection of different experiences, thanks to the diversity of its members. Fifty years after its creation, it was necessary to bring its members together to articulate the commitments which constitute the foundation of the ATD Fourth World Movement. This initiative, launched at the end of 2003, was named ‘ATD Fourth World General Assembly’.

The assembly represented a number of important challenges: to work together, to understand differences of expression, to listen to diverse points of view, to discuss and agree on issues close to our hearts. We were able to write with people who had never had the chance to learn in school, enabling them to contributing as equals.

Around 30 countries worldwide participated in these assemblies and each country found its own way of organizing itself. In Canada, a newsletter was created called ‘The Path Towards the Assemblies’. Each month, news on developments and suggestions of working methods were shared. For Canada and America, the creation of these congresses was an opportunity for members and allies from different parts of the continent to get to know each other and to work together. During a weekend when everyone came together, one member stated, “*the movement joins us together and it is thanks to this unity that we can truly fight. We are free to say what we like and equally what we don't like. I noticed that out of all the suggestions brought to the Assembly, and all the ideas presented (in each of the different workshops), everything relates to providing a better life for our children*”.

In Madagascar, the preparation started towards the end of 2003 with around forty people meeting together for one day a month. During one assembly lasting 5 days, the members of the ATD Fourth World Movement from all different regions, joined

together to express what the ATD Fourth World Movement personally meant to each of them. One mother stated, *“as part of the movement, we speak out, we communicate with the others without fear of neither criticism nor scorn, we listen to one another with respect”*, an attitude that was vital in writing a text between us all.

Various approaches were developed to enable each person to participate and to allow communal expression: individual writing, interviews, conferences, chances to meet one another, writing and exchange workshops; often with very basic tools, all thanks to numerous visits to very isolated families. In certain countries destroyed by war, instability and natural disasters, this approach could not really take hold, but overall it has succeeded in stirring up enthusiasm and hope. Each contribution has been taken into account. Each personal attribute, each collective text has been recorded. Compiled together, they form a true reference library for ATD Fourth World.

Finally, 27 national texts in 20 different languages were drafted. They were translated, sent to the dif-

ferent countries and worked on by delegates in their own language, to prepare for the International General Assembly Meeting. This took place from November 21-28, 2004 at the International Center of the ATD Fourth World Movement in the Paris region. Around eighty delegates, supporters, volunteers, and allies from 25 countries and all continents were brought together. They all worked with the aim of creating a communal public text, written in English, Spanish, and French and then translated into each national language.

The final version is not written in stone. Above all it is the result of a mix of different languages, experiences, and ways of self-expression, fused together to enable all the different sensitivities to be recognized and taken into account. For example, an individual from Burkina Faso, who did not participate directly in the editing of the final text, stated on reading the final version, *“all those who participated from Burkina, can see themselves in the text. For us, this text is a birth certificate. If ever we want to know the identity of someone, we ask them for their birth certificate.”* ■



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD PIERRE SIGONDI

ATD Fourth World Movement General Assembly, November 2004.



B. Text of the General Assembly of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, November 2004

All human beings, regardless of their place in society, are equal in dignity, which must be respected, not violated by anyone for any reason. Equal dignity is the basis for fundamental rights especially the right to freedom of expression, to live as a family, to housing, to health care, and to work. Those who live in extreme poverty are the first victims of the violation of human rights.

Keenly aware of the world's long history of human suffering and hope, Father Joseph Wresinski, born in extreme poverty himself, founded the International Movement ATD Fourth World in 1957 with families from the homeless camp of Noisy-le-Grand (France) and others who joined them. His belief that *"Every person is a chance for humanity"* is a source of inspiration for many people all over the world.

Injustice, powerlessness, shame, humiliation, and exclusion as experienced by those living in extreme poverty must not be tolerated. Our priority is to reach out to the poorest and most ignored people, be alongside them, and create links with them and between them. Ensuring that those with the hardest life are at the heart of all projects and listening to the dreams and aspirations they have for themselves and their children, we can reach a mutual understanding. When the most excluded people can contribute their knowledge and experience to society as equals, extreme poverty will be overcome.

ATD Fourth World welcomes everyone. It unites people whatever their origin, social status, culture or beliefs to fight against poverty. In building trust, solidarity and friendship, all have a place to realize their full and best potential. Working together and learning from each other, everyone is free to express themselves without being judged. The Movement develops partnerships at all levels of society.

It was founded with the conviction that people have created the conditions for extreme poverty and social exclusion. Therefore, a long-term commitment is needed to ensure that no one is left behind. Embracing such a responsibility is a source of pride for everyone.

As long as the power of money is the primary value, the world will be menaced by poverty and violence. If humanity is our primary value, the world will be transformed and we can all enjoy peace. October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, inaugurated by ATD Fourth World in 1987 and recognized by the United Nations since 1992, annually presents this on-going challenge:

"Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, Human Rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty."

Father Joseph Wresinski

C. Structure of the Board of Director's and the Board of Director's Office



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD PIERRE SECONDINI

I Board of Directors Meeting, February 2006.

Junta Directiva

President: Nina Lim Yuson - **Philippines**

Director General: Eugen Brand - **Switzerland**

Vice-President: Huguette Redegeld - **France**

Vice President: Marco Ugarte - **Peru**

Treasurer: Bruno Dabout - **France**

Other members

Oguie Anoman – **Ivory Coast**; William Brandt – **Haiti**; Bruno Couder – Deputy Director General – **France**; Georges De Kerchove – **Belgium**; Susie Devins – Deputy Director General – **USA**; Nick Edwards – **United Kingdom**; Javier Espindola – **Bolivia**; Vincent Fanelli – **USA**; Felicien Feliho – **Benin**; Claude Ferrand – **France**; Hans-Peter Furrer – **Switzerland**; Paul King – **Germany**; Tom McCarthy – **USA**; Guillermo Monroy – **Guatemala**; Monique Morval – **Canada**; Janet Nelson – **USA**; Narumol Nirathron - **Thailand** ; Ton Redegeld – **Netherlands**; Juan-Carlos Sacsá – **Peru**; Cecile Vorms – **France**; Stuart Williams – **United Kingdom**.

The following members asked that their mandate not be renewed during the General Assembly in February 2006. Jean Bouche – **Luxemburg**; Jean-Christian Cary – **Switzerland**; Mascha Join Lambert – **Germany**; Aporn Poompanna – **Thailand**; Margaret Varma – **India**.

We would like to thank them for their commitment and their advice over the last years.

Alwine de Vos van Steenwijk (**Netherlands**) was president from 1974 to 2002 and is now Honorary President.

Thierry Viard (**France**), Executive Secretary, provides administrative support to the Office.

A new President, Ms. Nina Lim Yuson

In 2006 and after period of consultation, Nina Lim Yuson (Philippines), was elected President of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, replacing Oguie Anoman. It was her mother who passed on to her a deep commitment with ATD Fourth World. Estefania Aldaba Lim (who passed away on March 6, 2006) wrote the first page of the Movement's history in the Philippines. As Minister of Social Affairs, she met Joseph Wresinski during the International Year of the Child in 1979. Tying itself so closely with those in extreme poverty, she saw that the Movement had a real role to play in her country.

Nina Lim Yuson is equally committed with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and is director of an interactive museum in Manila for children between the ages of 2 and 12. She has set herself the goal to deepen and promote proximity with the most disadvantaged families, diffuse the writings and philosophy of Joseph Wresinski, and build a culture of resisting poverty based on the meeting of people through the Movement.

Chantal Joly, extract from Feuille de Route, No. 350

D. Financial Accounts

Accounts summary

As a non-governmental organization, the ATD Fourth World International Movement produced its financial statement, summarized in the tables below. It reflects the revenues and expenses relating to the work carried out at the headquarters at Pierrelaye (France) at the level of international public life, of the dynamic of the Permanent Forum "Extreme Poverty in the World", as well as of the share of expenses of the Office of the Director General.

Financial Results - International Movement ATD Fourth World

I – Expenses (Euros)	2004	2003	II – Revenue (Euros)	2004	2003
1 – Real estate maintenance and rent	14 073	10 151	1 – Donations	67 598	359 447
2 – Equipment/Materials	1 009		2 – Interest	97 689	4 406
3 – Telephone expenses	6 512	6 123	3 – Grants	159 939	77 442
4 – Postage expenses	2 484	2 185	<i>European Commission (Youth)</i>	28 476	16 000
5 – Office supplies and photocopies	4 296	1 777	<i>Council of Europe (Youth)</i>		16 442
6 – Writings (books - summaries)	1 411	1 339	<i>World Bank (Biographies)</i>	40 794	
7 – Printing of documents	15 094	4 353	<i>UN (study)</i>	11 204	
8 – Membership fees	4 334	1 707	<i>Unesco (Permanent Forum Seminar)</i>	12 818	
9 – Gasoline (vehicles)	1 474	1 696	<i>Public Organisation Grants (Poland)</i>	2 221	
10 – Travel and Visa expenses	47 470	31 900	<i>ATD Foundation</i>	64 426	45 000
11 – Food and lodging	18 209	2 390			
12 – Honorary guest fees	74 832	36 880	4 – Miscellaneous Donations	2 597	2 301
13 – Support to ATD national friends network	17 445	16 802	5 – Accounts Receivable	362 052	83 847
14 – Contribution J. Wresinski Center	430 251				
15 – Accounts Payable (up to 1 year)	12 104	330 267			
16 – Financial Charges	54 759	77 014			
Sub-total	705 757	524 584	Sub-total of revenues	689 875	527 443
Profits/Losses from 2003		2 859	Loss	15 882	
Total	705 757	527 443	Total	705 757	527 443

Information on ATD Fourth World accounting worldwide

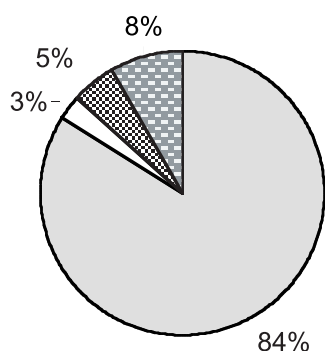
In each country where the Movement exists through the involvement of people in accordance with its guiding principles, an ATD Fourth World national association has been created where possible. This ensures public, administrative and financial responsibility in the country. There are 14 ATD Fourth World national associations: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Guatemala, Luxembourg, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Switzerland, Spain, and United States. The Foundation "Aide à Toute Détresse" in France provides financial security to all of these national associations. The association "Terre et Homme de Demain" provides administrative and financial support in every country where ATD Fourth World is present, outside of Europe and North America. **The calculation for all expenditures for these activities comes to 14 million euros.**

According to the legislation mandated by the countries listed above, the financial statements of each association are subjected to the necessary controls to show transparency in the accounts: internal control, commission of accounts and if necessary, adherence to an agency of ethical conduct (AERF in Belgium, Charter of Ethics in France, Charity Commission in Great Britain, Centraal Bureau Fondsendwerving in the Netherlands, ZEWO in Switzerland). All of these financial statements are not consolidated. However a financial synthesis is executed for 75% of the budget for ATD Fourth World throughout the world by including all of the projects carried out in France, Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, as well as the development of the International Centre in Pierrelaye, France. The amounts of this synthesis are certified by a Commissioner of Accounts. Tables presenting the source and use of funds, excerpted from this synthesis, are presented below. (The complete document is available on request)

Account Listings⁴⁹ in Euro

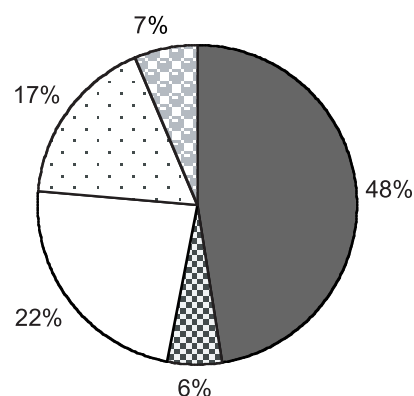
Use of cash resources	2004	2003	Cash resources	2004	2003
1 – Projects	9 187 885	9 076 141	1 – Donations	5 281 510	4 809 057
2 – Fundraising expenses	287 898	233 879	2 – Other private funding	673 017	567 305
3 – Operating expenses	548 571	561 626	3 – Public grants	2 393 000	2 376 538
4 – Exceptional Charges	916 203	265 539	4 – Exceptional proceeds	1 877 058	1 737 549
Total Expenses	10 940 557	10 137 185	Total cash resources	10 224 585	9 490 449
			Deficit of year's cash resources	715 972	646 736
Total	10 940 557	10 137 185	Total	10 940 557	10 137 185

Use of cash resources - 2004



- Projects
- Fundraising expenses
- ▨ Operating expenses
- ▨ Exceptional Charges

Cash resources in euros - 2004



- Donations
- Other private funding
- ▨ Public grants
- ▨ Exceptional proceeds
- Deficit of year's cash resources

Balance Sheet⁴⁹ (in thousands of Euro)

Assets	2004	2003	Liabilites	2004	2003
Real Estate (net value)	11 826	6 944	Association Capital	31 577	31 122
Advances on Guaranteed Issues	51	53	Fiscal Year Loss	-716	-647
Stocks (net values)	26	37	Capital Forfeited	65	507
Grants receivable	590	640			
Money Market Account gains of ATD Fourth World	23	69	Money Market Account losses of ATD Fourth World	64	68
Other debtors	32	24	Loans	91	92
Accounts receivable	471	460	Advanced proceeds payable	2	
Securities Investments	17 812	22 501	Short-term debt	848	791
Cash Balance	1 100	1 205			
Total	31 931	31 933	Total	31931	31 933

49. ATD Fourth World Movement (France), ATD Fourth World Foundation, Equipes Sciences et Service – International Volunteer Corps, ATD Fourth World

E. Extracts from Statutes

A. ARTICLE 1: OBJECTIVE

The International Movement ATD Fourth World assembles individuals, families, and groups that refuse the fate of extreme poverty in which they are condemned to live. The Movement engages men and women from all origins and all countries who share in this refusal. Together, they named themselves the «Fourth World». The International Movement ATD Fourth World acts for the advancement of a society where the equal dignity of each human being is recognized, and where extreme poverty and social exclusion will cease to exist.

The united efforts of the association are deep-rooted in the thought, action, and spirituality of its founder, Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988).

From this perspective, the Movement gives priority to the poorest.

The Movement is an independent and non-profit organization. Without political or religious affiliations, it respects diverse identities as well as philosophical, cultural, political and religious convictions. Its principle is to work respectfully in close association with the concerned public authorities of each host country.

ARTICLE 2: PRINCIPLES OF ACTION

To reach its purpose, the Movement:

- a) Unites national associations and foundations of *Aide à Toute Détresse* or A.T.D. Fourth World, in order to develop their cooperation in implementing their common project of a new society. Each national association contributes to the realization of the Movement's objectives in the world, according to its means;
- b) Encourages the creation of national, regional, or local organizations of ATD Fourth World or Friends of the Movement ATD Fourth World in pursuing these same objectives;
- c) Represents, especially at the international level, the interests and hopes of the most disadvantaged people, families and groups, in order that their voices be heard in every place where decisions are made – decisions that concern their future and the future of humanity – and that these people be recognized as true partners;
- d) Develops the message of the Movement's founder, Joseph Wresinski, and propagates this message throughout the world;
- e) Creates or encourages the establishment of ad hoc structures at the international level, and supports, in particular, the teams of ATD Fourth World volunteers;
- f) Calls upon men and women, of all generations and of all social, cultural, religious or philosophical backgrounds, to engage themselves with the most disadvantaged in all parts of the world, notably, by joining the volunteer corps of International Movement ATD Fourth World;
- g) Regularly solicits an evaluation of its actions and those of its members in order to stay true to those in extreme poverty;
- h) Develops friendships, knowledge and mutual support with those who, in their daily efforts, seek to join the most excluded and isolated;
- i) Uses appropriate means and the diffusion of publications to mobilize public opinion by making known the conditions in which people in poverty live and the daily efforts they make, organizes campaigns and the marking the 17 October, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty;
- j) Participates in and encourages studies, surveys and research related to the Movement's objectives;
- k) Collaborates with national and international organizations with whom a shared project can be developed, promoting with them the importance of taking into account and working with those in extreme poverty to act together in a way which improves their situation.

F. Some Key Dates in the History of ATD Fourth World

■ **1956:** Joseph Wresinski arrives at Noisy-le-Grand (in the region of Paris, France).

■ **1961:** International meeting on disadvantaged families adopted under the overseeing of the National French Commission for UNESCO, at UNESCO.

■ **1975: International Year of the Woman.** ATD Fourth World sends a delegation to the World Conference on Women in Mexico City. The Fourth World Women's Charter is published. The Fourth World Conference on Women is held in December in Pierrelaye, France.

■ **1981:** December: "Fourth World Families and Human Rights", conference organized by ATD Fourth World in collaboration with the Directorate General II – Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

■ **1982:** Gathering in Brussels for the 25th Anniversary of ATD Fourth World. An "Appeal to Human Rights Defenders" is made to identify extreme poverty as a violation of human rights.

■ **1983:** "Defeating Extreme Poverty," speech given by Fr. Wresinski at the Sorbonne on the need for learning from the poor reciprocally.

■ **1984:** "The Plight of the Poorest: the United Nation's Chance for Renewal," memorandum given by ATD Fourth World to Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, UN Secretary General.

■ **1985: International Youth Year.** Gathering of the Fourth World Youth Movement in Geneva, at ILO headquarters. Francis Blanchard, Director-General of the ILO, welcomes 1,000 Fourth World Youth Movement participants.

■ **1987:** October 17: Gathering of human rights defenders in Paris and inauguration of the Commemorative Stone in Honor of the Victims of Extreme Poverty.

■ **1988:** February 14th: Death of Fr. Wresinski.

■ **1989:** June: First European Session of the Fourth World People's Universities at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Committee in Brussels.

■ **1989:** UNICEF General Assembly adopts the resolution: "Reaching the Poorest."

■ **1989:** July: An ATD Fourth World delegation of 300 people from around the world met Pope John Paul II in Rome.

■ **1994:** Some of these delegates took part in a UN seminar called Poverty, "Denial of Human Rights", based on the work of Leandro Despouy, UN Special Reporter on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty. For the first time, a seminar brought together human rights experts and people who have experienced extreme poverty.

■ **1995:** World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen. ATD Fourth World presents the document: "Rethinking Human Activity in Order to Eliminate Poverty and Exclusion," written under contract with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

■ **1996:** International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. Three hundred delegates of ATD Fourth World, many of them living in extreme poverty, meet with Mr. Boutros-Ghali at the UN in Geneva.

■ **1996:** October 17: A replica of the Commemorative Stone is offered to the United Nations and inaugurated at the UN garden in New York, in the presence of the Secretary-General Mr. Boutros-Ghali.

■ **1999:** November: International Children's Forum, Tapori: Friendship Triumphs Over Poverty, organized in Geneva in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A delegation of 80 children from over 30 countries met with Mrs. Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

■ **2001:** International Year of Volunteers. ATD Fourth World authors a paper on "Volunteering and Social Inclusion."



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD VOLKIEF VAN GALEN

Human rights defenders gather in Paris, October 17, 1987.

Studies, Research, Publication and Stands

- 'Attacking Extreme Poverty. Learning from the experience of the International Movement ATD Fourth World' edited by Quentin Wodon, 'World Bank Technical Paper ATD Fourth World', edited by Quentin Wodon, World Bank Technical Paper number 502, May 2001, 138 p.
- 'Tapori children bring to life the International Convention on the rights of the child'. The International ATD Fourth World Movement, France 2002. Contribution to the special session of the United Nation's General Assembly, dedicated to children. Published in French, English and Spanish.
- 'The poorest, missing partners in sustainable development". Contribution to the international ATD Fourth World Movement at the summit of Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002 (FR, EN, SP)
- 'Le croisement des pratiques quand le Quart Monde et les professionnels se forment ensemble'. Research group, action training, Fourth World Partner, ed. Quart Monde, Paris 2002
- Contribution to the report 'l'accès aux droits sociaux en Europe'. Report prepared by Mary Daly, European Council Editions, Strasbourg, October 2002
- "An information society for all", The International ATD Fourth World Movement's contribution to the Information of Society Summit, July 2003, published in French and English
- 'Précieux enfants, précieux parents', Valuing children, Valuing Parents - Focus on 'fundamental links' in the fight against child poverty in Europe. Quart Monde Editions, Paris 2003.
- Grande pauvreté et précarité en Europe a l'horizon 2010', Extreme poverty and precariousness in Europe towards 2010, studies and documents of the Quart Monde review Number 10, Quart Monde Editions, Paris 2003
- 'La pauvreté en Europe ; essai de prospective. Quatre scénarios sur la précarité et la grande pauvreté en Europe a l'horizon 2010'. Xavier Godinot and Saphia Richou, Futuribles review, October 2003, p. 33-48
- Comments on World Bank development report 2004 'Making services work for poor people', International ATD Fourth World Movement, Mery sur Oise, September 2003
- 'Three years of learning in Tanzania', ATD Fourth World, Dar Es Salaam, 2003
- A study of the meeting "Acting together for a Europe of dignity for all", Warsaw. The International ATD Fourth World Movement, France, June 2004, in French, English and Spanish
- 'How poverty separates parents and children: a challenge to Human Rights
Quart Monde Editions, Mery sur Oise, 2004, published in English and French
- "Another approach to poverty indicators: research-action-training", service for the fight against poverty, security and social exclusion, Brussels 2004, in French and Dutch.
- "Contribution to the World Report for a Culture of Peace", International ATD Fourth World Movement, France, May 2005. Contribution written for the United Nations General Assembly, half way through the International decade of the promotion of culture and peace, to help the children of the world.
- In the 'Revue Quart Monde', quarterly review of the Institute of Research and Training in human relations of the ATD Fourth World;
 - No 181 L'Europe au pied du mur, Quart Monde Editions, Paris, February 2002
 - No 183 Le 17 octobre : un pacte pour l'avenir, Quart Monde Editions, Paris August 2002
 - No 186 Droits de l'homme : en danger ? Quart Monde Editions, Paris May 2003
 - No 187 Internet au service de qui ? Quart Monde Editions, Paris August 2003
 - No 189 La rue n'a pas d'enfants ! Quart Monde Editions, Paris February 2004
 - No 192 Reconsidérer la pauvreté, Quart Monde Editions, Paris November 2004
- The Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World publishes 'La lettre aux Amis du Monde' (Letter to Friends around the World) three times a year, in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.
- Tapori, the children's section of ATD Fourth World, publishes a monthly newsletter in French, German, English, Spanish and Dutch with translations in Thai, Tagalong, Chinese, Malagasy, Portuguese, Haitian, Esperanto and Polish.



H. All help is welcome

You can:

- Learn about the experiences of people in poverty and the action against exclusion and poverty by reading reports, studies, books (simply ask for a catalogue of Fourth World publications to be sent to you), and by participating in discussion groups.
- Contact your nearest ATD Fourth world group of friends or “allies” to participate in their efforts to meet and develop relations with people in extreme poverty.
- Participate in an event aimed at the sharing of knowledge (Summer Street Festivals, street libraries, family days, Fourth World People’s Universities...)
- Voluntarily offer your services: secretarial, interpretation or translation, accountancy, administration, campaigning, manual work, and all other skills.
- Participate in the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, October 17th.
- Join the ATD Fourth World Youth Movement and participate in a summer workshop
- Become a member of the ATD Fourth World Movement
- Financially support the International volunteer team and the ATD Fourth World Movement
- Commit yourself full time and for an indefinite period by joining the volunteers corps.

Subscriptions

- National newsletters; Belgium, Canada, USA, France, UK, and Switzerland
- ‘La lettre aux Amis du Monde’ (Letter to Friends around the World), a newsletter between the correspondents of the network, permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World)
- La Revue Quart Monde, four times a year.
- Taponi Letter, proposing exchanges of testimonies and reflections between children
- International Liaison sheet

Send us your views, suggestions and information requests to ATD Quart Monde, 107 avenue du General Leclerc, F-95480 Pierrelaye or by email atdint@atd-quartmonde.org

Visit our site www.atd-quartmonde.org
www.editionsquartmonde.org



PHOTO ATD FOURTH WORLD FRANÇOIS PHUONEAU

Children washing their hands before a street library, Madagascar.

I. Contact Us

Head Office

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World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty, Trocadéro, Paris, October 17, 2005.