



Joining Our Voices to Break the Silence of Poverty

“Whether in the aldeas of Guatemala, the mornes of Haiti, the slums of Africa or Asia, or the shantytowns of Europe, wherever families are trapped in the most intolerable poverty they sing their dignity.”

- Joseph Wresinski, founder ATD Fourth World

On October 17, 1987, thousands of people answered the call to action of Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World, at the Trocadero Human Rights Plaza in Paris: “Wherever men and women are condemned to live in poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure those rights be respected is our solemn duty.”

*Before I'll be a slave I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my lord And be free*

“Oh Freedom”

Hundreds of choirs and singing groups took part in the day's events as part of a campaign called “100,000 voices for the voice-less.” October 17 has since become the World Day for Overcoming Poverty, officially recognized by the United Nations in 1992, and today celebrated around the world.

2017 will mark the 30th anniversary of this call to action, the 60th anniversary of the founding of ATD Fourth World, and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Wresinski, a man born himself into extreme poverty. To commemorate the occasion, ATD Fourth World and the International Committee for October 17 are launching a year-long global campaign to collect stories that show how poverty can be overcome, to organize concerts to celebrate human dignity, to organize conferences and debates, and to call the world to action to leave no one behind.

From 14 to 17 October, 2017, hundreds of radio stations around the world will participate in a global broadcast centered around the United Nations in New York.

Truth, freedom, love, peace, You have to try.

“Faut Essayer”

ATD Fourth World is inviting any choir or singing group interested in celebrating the dignity of people living in poverty to organize one or several concerts between February and October, 2017. The goal is to raise awareness among the general public and, if possible, to collect donations to support helping people living in under-served communities to gain access to music, culture, art, and literature. These concerts can be large groups or small, they can bring together several choirs or just one.

We offer the following support to participating groups:

A collection of songs from around the world selected with people living in poverty that speak to the inalienable dignity of all people. These popular songs can be sung at each concert and as part of national and regional gatherings. A song book is currently being prepared.

Communications tools for concerts: a document that can be printed and inserted into concert programs that explains the campaign, a mini-exhibit of photos of initiatives to overcome poverty, web and social media publicity support, and flyers.

Invitations: Each participating choir will be put in touch with the nearest ATD Fourth World group to discuss co-organizing events. Choirs will also be invited to find local events on October 17, 2017. We will also provide some support for recording concerts to be broadcast worldwide on October 17, 2017.