

# LETTER TO FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD – SPECIAL 17 OCTOBER EDITION



**1992**

"This World Day is a sign of universal solidarity but to contribute to the lowering of human suffering, we need to be committed on a daily basis." *Budhu Puri*

"I'm a teacher and for eleven 17 October, I let my students know about the meaning. My heart and spirit were consistently with you on that day." *Yusef Ismail*

And for us this year? What does this World Day represent? Who will we speak with?

**1997**

At the Purvudaga centre, the celebration began with each person lighting the oil lamp and adding light to the poverty relief world. One youth said: "I would like to know more about Father Joseph, looking after the poor. I understand my own life better. I am not ashamed any more." *M. Landa*

A local radio station broadcasted messages from Taperi children, other children expressed themselves through painting, singing and acting. They also searched in the streets of San Salvador, New.

And for us this year? Will the life and thinking of father Joseph be a source of strength for our actions? Will we involve children and young people?

This website work visiting <http://www.joseph-reminded.org> <http://www.taperi.org/>



[www.overcomingpoverty.org](http://www.overcomingpoverty.org)  
International Movement ATD Fourth World  
12, rue Pasteur - 92680 Neuville - France June 2017 - N° 97

SPECIAL EDITION - 17 OCTOBER

Dear friends,  
We are happy to send you this special 17 October edition of our Letter to Friends Around the World. Thirty years ago, 100,000 people gathered on the Boulevard Human Rights Place in Paris to answer Joseph Wresinski's Call to Action.

"On the 17 October 1987, thousands of human and civil rights law many countries gathered on this place. 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. Whenever 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!"  
*Antoine Joseph Wresinski*

2017 marks the 30th anniversary of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty and the 25th anniversary of its recognition by the United Nations as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. For this year's special 17 October commemoration, the theme chosen by the United Nations is:

**"Reversing the Call of 17 October is not poverty. A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies"**

Let's affirm our commitment to eradicating extreme poverty by celebrating 17 October, and signing the 2017 Call to Action so we can "Build a peaceful world where no one is left behind."

Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty Team

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(2) 2017 Call to Action [www.poverty.org/](http://www.poverty.org/)

**2002**

Many people participated. Some were reading for the first time, others the 17 October, we visited the following countries: what gave you the strength to carry on fighting poverty? In Cameroon, "We could never allow to remain in the shadows of the past." *Tobias*

"We found a great reason to celebrate the World Day for Hunger and Malnutrition later than, we had to face the effects of the drought. In 2002, we had the opportunity to help the children and women to understand the importance of the recognition of their rights." *Demosthene Papadakis of Congo*

And for us this year? Will we feel the need to fight extreme poverty while defending human rights for everyone?

**2012**

All over Paris, young people distributed messages written by homeless people. High poverty, these messages showed they need for friendship, welcoming places, sustenance and recognition. *Portugal*

In Rouen-Normandie, Buxelles, people searched towards the regions of the commemorative stone. They listened to testimonies and messages highlighting the dignity of those living in persistent poverty as a daily battle. *Canada*

And for us this year? How will we ensure that the voice of the poorest people will be heard?

**2007**

The fact "I hear often to you" was read by representatives of different religious communities. It was a strong sign of unity. *Germany*

"That's why I participated on 17 October 1997, by Joseph Wresinski in Paris."

"Our celebration of 17 October took place at the Town Hall. A banner made by the children was displayed. All the preparations for the day's event were organized jointly." *Belgium*

And for us this year? Where will we celebrate 17 October? With whom? What will be our strong gesture of solidarity?

**2017**

The Movement League for Equality and Human Rights has already told us that they have decided to organize several events this year. Amongst them it is national march against poverty in October. *Peru*

And for us this year? What are our plans for the next commemoration?

As always, the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty, will be very happy to receive testimonies, photos and videos of your special 17 October events. We will share them on our website: [www.overcomingpoverty.org](http://www.overcomingpoverty.org)

The Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty is a network of committed people who want to develop friendship and exchange knowledge about what poor and very poor people teach us. In people who suffer from multiple disadvantages in the areas of education, housing, employment, health and culture their role are critical and urgent for social. This forum invites people to join a sustainable movement to overcome extreme poverty, in mutual cooperation with people living in extreme poverty, inspired by their lives. This movement represents itself in the Letter to Friends Around the World, which publishes the testimonies by its participants three times a year in French, English, Spanish and Portuguese. The Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty is run by the International Movement ATD Fourth World, an international NGO.

Dear friends,

We are happy to send you this special 17 October edition of our Letter to Friends Around the World. Thirty years ago, 100,000 people gathered on the Trocadero Human Rights Plaza in Paris to answer [Joseph Wresinski's](#) Call to Action:

“On the 17th of October 1987, defenders of human and civil rights from every continent gathered on this plaza. They paid homage to the victims of hunger, ignorance and violence. They affirmed their conviction that human misery is not inevitable. They pledged their solidarity with all people who, throughout the world, strive to eradicate extreme poverty.”

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

Father Joseph Wresinski

## **30th anniversary**

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**[“Answering the Call of 17 October to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies”](#)**

Let's affirm our commitment to overcoming extreme poverty by celebrating 17 October, and signing the [2017 Call to Action](#) so we can “build a peaceful world where no one is left behind.”

Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty Team

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