



**ATD**  
**FOURTH WORLD**

# 2017: A Worldwide Campaign to Overcome Poverty and Build Peace

**P**overty is not inevitable. Like apartheid or slavery, we can put an end to it. It is high time to do so. The time has come to learn from people living in poverty how to escape the cycle of social exclusion and how to build communities that leave no one behind.



“Poverty was created by people; only people can put an end to it.”  
Joseph Wresinski

In **1917**, Joseph Wresinski was born in an internment camp. His life was shaped by the experience of intolerable poverty.

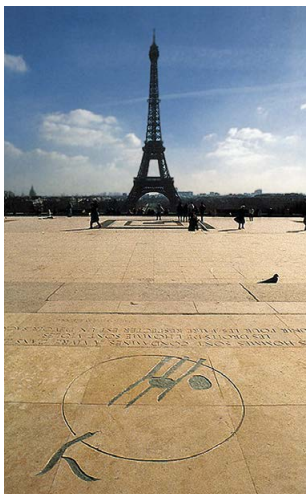
In **1957**, working alongside residents of an emergency housing camp outside Paris, Wresinski founded what would later become ATD Fourth World, a worldwide movement refusing to accept the tragic waste of human potential that poverty represents.

In **1987**, 100,000 people demonstrated in Paris in support of a call to action carved in stone at the Trocadero Human Rights Plaza there:

*OCTOBER 17, 1987 ON THIS DAY, DEFENDERS OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS FROM EVERY CONTINENT GATHERED HERE. THEY PAID HOMAGE TO THE VICTIMS OF HUNGER, IGNORANCE, AND VIOLENCE. THEY AFFIRMED THEIR CONVICTION THAT HUMAN MISERY IS NOT INEVITABLE. THEY PLEDGED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH ALL PEOPLE WHO, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, STRIVE TO ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY.*

*“WHEREVER MEN AND WOMEN ARE CONDEMNED TO LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY, HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED. TO COME TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THESE RIGHTS BE RESPECTED IS OUR SOLEMN DUTY.”*

— FR. JOSEPH WRESINSKI



Commemorative Stone in honour of victims of extreme poverty • Trocadero Human Rights Plaza in Paris

This call to action, now engraved in more than fifty places on four continents, gave birth to the World Day for Overcoming Poverty, recognized by the United Nations in 1992 and observed around the world each year. This call continues to inspire people from all backgrounds, from ordinary citizens to civic organizations to social movements to governments and politicians, to become part of a dynamic movement growing around the world.

Today, in our globalized society, this call to action is more needed than ever. The time has come for a new stage in our efforts to overcome poverty, to reach new communities, and involve new partners. Around the world, people who are united by this call to action are preparing a global campaign which will include:

- Telling a diversity of stories: Compiling and making known the many stories that show that when we work together **poverty and social exclusion can be overcome, which builds peace.**
- **Emerging from silence and joining our voices together:** To celebrate the courage and efforts of people living in poverty throughout history, we will feature their songs of resistance and hope in shows and concerts
- Spreading a call to action in the context of the newly adopted Agenda 2030 with the support of a wide range of people and organizations: **What can we do to leave no one behind?**
- Conferences and seminars: **Imagining, alongside those in poverty, a society without poverty.**
- From October 14 to 17, 2017, a simultaneous event around the world, including at the headquarters of the United Nations, broadcast on many radio stations, on television, and on the internet, **letting those who resist poverty in their daily lives be heard.**



*“I was surrounded by violence, I was mistreated. [...] As long as there’s poverty, you will never have peace. [...] We don’t get openly angry. Our anger is silent. It’s deep inside us. [...] You’ll have peace when you realize that the person opposite you is the same as you; a human being to be respected. Then you’ll have peace.” — Michel Brogniez, member of ATD Fourth World (Volume 3 of Artisans of Peace Overcoming Poverty: Understanding the Violence of Poverty, Fourth World Publications, 2016, page 162)*