



Here are some reminders of past 17 October events from around the world.

LETTER TO FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD FORUM ON OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY



www.overcomingpoverty.org

International Movement ATD Fourth World
12, rue Pasteur - 95480 Pierrelaye - France

June 2017 – N° 97



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 17 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

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:

"Answering the Call of 17 October to end poverty:

A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies" ⁽¹⁾

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."** ⁽²⁾

Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty Team

1) Concept Note: International theme for 17 October 2017: www.overcomingpoverty.org/node/6366

2) 2017 Call to Action: www.poverty-stop.org

1992

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

"I'm a teacher and to observe 17 October, I let my students know about its meaning. My heart and spirit were constantly with you on that day." **New Zealand**



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

1997

At the Purnodaya centre, the celebration began with each person lighting the oil lamps and wishing light to the poverty ridden world. One youth said: "I would like to know more about Father Joseph. Looking at his life in poverty, I understand my own life better. I am not ashamed any more." **Sri Lanka**

A local radio station broadcasted messages from Taporí children. Other children expressed themselves through painting, singing and acting. They also marched in the streets of **San Jerónimo, Peru**



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?

Two websites worth visiting:
<http://www.joseph-wresinski.org>
<http://en.tapori.org/>

2002

Eleven people participated. Some were coming for the first time. After the 17 October, we asked the following question: What gives you the strength to carry on fighting poverty? Mr L. answered: "We must treat others as we would wish them to treat us." **Taiwan**

"We issued a press release announcing the World Day for radio and television interviews. We visited various sites of the disastrous floods in 2000. We told the victims about the Day's significance and asked them to unite their efforts for the recognition of their rights." **Democratic Republic of Congo**



And for us this year? Will we find the means to fight extreme poverty whilst defending human rights for everyone?

2007

The text "I bear witness to you"* was read by representatives of different religious communities. It was a strong sign of unity. **Germany**

*Text originally presented on 17 October 1987, 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 organised jointly." **Madagascar**



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

All over Porto, young people distributed messages written by handicapped people living in poverty. These messages shared their need for friendship, welcoming places, autonomy and recognition. **Portugal**

In Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, people marched towards the replica of the commemorative stone. They listened to testimonies and messages highlighting the dignity of those living in persistent poverty on a daily basis. **Canada**

2012



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

2017

The Moroccan League for citizenship and human rights has already told us that they have decided to organise several events this year. Amongst them is a national march against poverty in October. **Morocco**



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 upcoming 17 October events. We will share them on our website: 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, i.e. people who suffer from multiple disadvantages in the areas of education, housing, employment, health and culture; those who are criticised and rejected the most. This forum invites people to join a worldwide movement to overcome extreme poverty, to rebuild communities with people living in extreme poverty, inspired by their lives. This movement expresses itself in the Letter to Friends Around the World, which publishes the texts written by its correspondents 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 whose headquarters are in Pierrelaye, France. Those who join the Forum do so in their own right, and do not have to become members of ATD Fourth World. Our e-mail address is: overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org Internet: www.overcomingpoverty.org Subscription \$8/8€ per annum - Support subscription: \$10/10€ per annum. Illustrations from Helene Perdereau, a long time friend and supporter of the International Movement ATD Fourth World - © International Movement ATD Fourth World - Printed by ATD Fourth World - Méry-sur-Oise - N° 97 - June 2017.

1- Add an event

2- Add a report

Upload a testimony

You can also share your own 17 October events via the website: www.overcomingpoverty.org/oct17/2017/all-countries or by email: overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org