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Press release

Will the European Pillar of Social Rights reach the most vulnerable in the EU?

ATD Fourth World welcomes the 23 October, 2017 decision of the European Union's Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) to support adoption, at the upcoming Gothenburg Summit, of the inter-institutional proclamation on the European Pillar of Social Rights.

ATD Fourth World hopes that the principles and rights defined under the European Pillar will help the EU engage with its citizens, and that the goal of leaving no one behind will remain at the heart of its implementation. The Social Rights Pillar consists of 20 principles concerning people of all ages who are either working or unemployed. The principles and rights address issues related to lack of income, health care, disability, and housing.

ATD Fourth World urges EU countries to devote resources to reaching people experiencing the greatest difficulties. The Social Rights Pillar must benefit everyone, including those who have no legal status, identity papers, or recognized residence; people who have no housing; young people who have grown up outside their birth families; and the long-term unemployed. The Social Rights Pillar can become a powerful new instrument in the struggle against poverty if its implementation truly reaches all citizens.

Throughout the process that led to the European Pillar of Social rights, the EU consulted with civil society organisations. Like other organisations, ATD Fourth World urges the EU to maintain and strengthen the role of these groups in implementing the European Pillar and monitoring progress. In addition to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable people, it is essential to dialogue with them in order to incorporate their understanding and perspective as the principles and rights of the European Pillar are put into practice.

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