

**17 October**  
**World Day for**  
**Overcoming**  
**Extreme Poverty**



**Together**  
**let's build**  
**a world of respect**  
**for everyone's**  
**human rights and dignity !**



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**2018 :**  
**70th anniversary**  
**of the Universal Declaration**  
**of Human Rights**



# SPECIAL 17 OCTOBER 2018

FORUM ON OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY



**UN theme for 17 October 2018:**

**COMING TOGETHER WITH THOSE FURTHEST BEHIND  
TO BUILD AN INCLUSIVE WORLD OF UNIVERSAL RESPECT  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY.**

**ON 17 OCTOBER 1987**, more than 100,000 people gathered on the Trocadero Plaza in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948.



On the Commemorative Stone in Honor of The Victims of Extreme Poverty, inaugurated that day, were engraved the words: **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.** Joseph Wresinski.

Today, there are numerous replicas of this commemorative stone throughout the world.

There is one in Mauritius and here is what a person living in poverty says about it: *This stone is a part of me. Before it was here, we had it in our mind and our dreams. Now that it is here, it is in everyone's memory.*

**AT THE HEART OF THIS EVENT, THE VOICE OF THOSE FACING PERSISTENT POVERTY!**

*Because people don't know us, we are too often seen as lazy people and cheats. Many among us are familiar with this reality; it begins sometimes from childhood on, at school.*

*Last year, I went to see a doctor close to where I live. When I told him where I was living, he replied that this is where families with social problems live. I didn't dare answer back. By this remark, I felt that I had been pushed to the bottom of society.*

*When people who respect us are standing by us, we are able to better fight for ourselves, to better fight alongside others, and to better fight for others.* **Switzerland**



**COMMENTS FROM HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS CONCERNING THE THEME**

*If we don't go looking for those who are the most excluded, we will not be able to unite with them and get things to change.* **France**

*This theme starts with the most important thing: coming together with those furthest behind. In the context of Guatemala, telling oneself that people in poverty are agents of change is not something easy...* **Guatemala**

*There are thousands of sub-Saharan communities of migrants in Northern Africa. They continue to be victims of contempt, discrimination, exclusion, racism, and sometimes even of attacks.* **Algeria**



**YOU WHO ARE COMMITTED WITH PEOPLE FIGHTING AGAINST EXTREME POVERTY**, talk to them about this event, ask them what gives them the strength to go on day after day, write down what they tell you; ask them if you can send us their testimony so that others around the world can read it. Don't hesitate to change their names so that confidentiality will be respected.

**Making the voice of the most underprivileged heard on the international level is a great way to mark 17 October!**

**YOU WHO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT**, talk about it with people around you! Make it known through your social media: post this poster on your website, on Facebook, on Twitter or elsewhere...

<http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/poster-october-17-2018>

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR OCTOBER 17** is composed of 18 people from all backgrounds, some of whom live in poverty. Committed together in the struggle against exclusion, their goal is to promote an International Day rooted in the life of the poorest among the poor. An International Day that reaffirms that extreme poverty is not inevitable!

*On 17 October, we listen to people who express what it means to struggle to raise children, deal with difficult housing conditions, who feel isolated, have no voice in the community and in politics...*

*Each time, they get ready to speak up thanks to the support of others who believe in them. What they mainly want to say is: I am somebody. I am somebody!*

**Jean Stallings, USA, member of the International Committee for October 17**

