The international movement ATD Fourth World (All Together in Dignity) is a human-rights organisation comprising a network of around 350 community groups in 35 countries around the world. These groups are made up of individuals and families with a lived experience of poverty and social exclusion alongside others from every social class. With limited finances but a passionate commitment to human dignity, they run activities inspired by a set of shared ambitions which are agreed on and updated every 5 years.

ATD Fourth World initiated the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty which is marked every 17 October and was recognised by the United Nations in 1992. It contributed to securing the adoption by the United Nations of the 2013 ‘Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights’ and also in 2015 to ensuring that ‘Leave No One Behind’ would be a focus for ‘Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’.

www.atd-fourthworld.org

Our strategy has four major ambitions:

- Strategic ambitions 2019–2023
- International Movement ATD Fourth World

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ATD Fourth World believes in giving priority to people living in the worst conditions of persistent poverty in our world. One of our major goals for 2019–2023 is ‘Leave no one behind’, an ambitious aim that also forms part of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
MAKING THE MOST OF EVERYONE’S CAPACITY AND KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO MEET THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE

For over sixty years, ATD Fourth World has created opportunities for people to bring to light what they know and think about poverty, based on their own experience and convictions.

WE WILL:

- Continue to explore the conditions necessary for people living in poverty to take part in the seats of learning and the democratic decision-making process, notably in the academic world, and in local, national and international institutions and government.

- Continue to develop and disseminate the approach known as “Merging Knowledge and Practice”.

- Publicise the results of international research into the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and continue to deepen our understanding and set up further research and analysis.

- To continue to develop within the community of ATD Fourth World a way of sharing responsibility which makes room for everyone to contribute.

UNDERSTANDING POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS

In a joint Oxford University – ATD Fourth World international research project involving 6 countries world-wide.

Nine poverty indicators were presented at the OECD in Paris in May 2019 which questioned international research, countries worldwide. Poverty policies and projects involving 6 countries world-wide. Were presented at the international conference on the nature of poverty and how this can complement what is taught in schools.

Support families in developing their own understanding of their circumstances in order to see how this can help them understand the educational community and take a bigger role in it.

To continue to develop within the community of ATD Fourth World a way of sharing responsibility which makes room for everyone to contribute.

MERGING KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE

We propose a new way for people to help people living extreme poverty and social exclusion to speak with policy-makers, business leaders, social activists, and teachers.

STREET LIBRARIES

- bring books, art and other learning resources to disadvantaged children and their families. This activity is accessible to all and takes place where they live. It offers the chance to be creative, to respond to children’s interests for knowledge and learning, to be open to new perspectives, to be recognised.

WORKING FOR AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT RECOGNISES EVERYONE’S POTENTIAL

From the very beginning, ATD Fourth World has worked all over the world with families living in poverty in order to realise their hopes for a decent education for all.

WE WILL:

- Continue our informal education programmes for children and young people to stimulate their curiosity and sense of joy in learning and to release their creative capacity.

- Create spaces where families and parents can interact with the educational environment and be recognised as essential players and partners in the success of their children’s education.

- Support families in developing their own understanding of their circumstances in order to see how this can complement what is taught in schools.

- Promote a co-operative way of learning to create a competitive learning environment in order to prevent discrimination.

- Encourage the international spirit of friendship between children by expanding the network of Tapori Groups.

- Develop training tools for everyone including professionals who wishes to learn from the work of the ATD Fourth World.

- Open a dialogue with academics and professionals in the field of education.

- The International Children’s Network, Tapori, connects children around the world aged 7 to 11 years. There is a newsletter; children exchange stories and write about what they do to make sure that no child is alone and without friends. Their messages are in the form of games they play, puzzles they make or different stories they share with other groups.

PROMOTING A SOCIETY RESPECTFUL OF ALL PEOPLE AND OF THE EARTH AS A PRE-CONDITION FOR PEACE

Through pilot projects that give priority to people in the worst conditions of poverty, ATD Fourth World is looking at how to bring into being a model of economy producing social and economic capital and respectful of the earth’s resources.

WE WILL:

- Improve our understanding of the initiatives taken by people living in extreme poverty to support their families and communities, protect their environment and be artisans of peace.

- Challenge people who create innovative projects about how to do it all in the worst conditions of poverty. Understand how, and within what context, countries can effectively deploy the implementation of their anti-poverty strategies with those to combat climate change and environmental degradation.

- In order to protect the most vulnerable people, ensure that action on climate change includes an obligation to respect human rights and to continue to promote the UN’s United Nations Guiding Principles “Extreme Poverty and Human Rights”.

- Speak with those who seek to promote a social protection floor for all. Appraise the social protection floor developed in Haiti on the basis of giving priority to people in the worst conditions of poverty and to examine the conditions for its sustainability.

- Develop the international initiative “Working and Learning Together” and promote the changes between people from different backgrounds involved in income-generating activities that give access to people in poverty.

BUIDLING A MOVEMENT CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Putting an end to poverty requires an ambitious long-term commitment to policies and programmes of action which respect the dignity of all people. Breaking down social exclusion therefore requires people’s life-long commitment.

WE WILL:

- Continue to develop a culture of resistance around the world by all who refuse to accept the inevitability of poverty. Key to this is the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17.

- Offer long-term volunteering possibilities, particularly for young people.

- Organise international meetings and exchanges for members of ATD Fourth World across the world to strengthen solidarity and the capacity for direct action in moving from shame to pride.

- Continue to make known the vision and approach developed by Joseph Wresinski for a participatory, human rights based understanding of poverty. This is an important reference point for developing a new way of thinking about poverty and inspiring all those who come together to combat it.

The International Children’s Network, Tapori, connects children around the world aged 7 to 11 years. There is an electronic newsletter; children exchange stories and write about what they do to make sure that no child is alone and without friends. Their messages are in the form of games they play, puzzles they make or different stories they share with other groups.

JOSEPH WRESINSKI

Founded the International Movement ATD Fourth World in 1957 with families from a shanty town with nowhere to live at Noisy-le-Grand in the north of Paris.

Having spent his childhood in poverty, he drew on his experience and understanding to develop a programme of action rooted in the equal dignity of all people.