

17 OCTOBER 2021

WORLD DAY FOR OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY



**Building Forward Together:
Ending Persistent Poverty,
Respecting all People and our Planet**



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SPECIAL 17 OCTOBER 2021

FORUM ON OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY



United Nations theme for October 17, 2021: "BUILDING FORWARD TOGETHER: ENDING PERSISTENT POVERTY, RESPECTING ALL PEOPLE AND OUR PLANET"

October 17 is the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty.

It has been commemorated since 1987, the year when, at the call of Joseph Wresinski, thousands of people from all walks of life gathered at the Plaza of Liberties and Human Rights in Paris, to affirm that:

***"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."***

In 1992, October 17 was recognized as an International Day by the United Nations. Since then, all over the world, people mobilize to recall publicly that we can put an end to extreme poverty. This day brings us together with people like those families in Bujumbura, Burundi, who say: *"We will continue to move from darkness to light and gain hope to move our families and country forward."*

In 2020 and 2021, our world has been shaken by the global health crisis of COVID-19, which has amplified inequalities and worsened the situation of people living in poverty. They are as much victims of environmental destruction as they are often forgotten by states and threatened to be left behind **from generation to generation**. Excluded from sustainable development, they are often criticized for taking actions for their survival which are seen as unsustainable.

However, their place in building the future is undeniable. As essential agents of change, they act every day to put an end to persistent poverty; they are constantly creating and passing on within the family and the community, actions and gestures that respect people and nature and make it possible to better cope with the consequences of poverty in everyday life.

We are at a crucial moment. It is a great opportunity to dare to think and act differently. Empowering the people concerned would prevent crises from aggravating their poverty, acting as a "double punishment". As Chrismaine from Haiti tells us: ***"By ending persistent poverty, the earth will turn more fairly"***.

SOME ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED BY OUR CORRESPONDENTS TO CELEBRATE OCTOBER 17, 2021

To continue the mobilization for the planet

- "We can organize some activities like : Experience sharing sessions with the climate-change affected poor people in the Brahmaputra

Char Basin. Children's drawing sessions and story writing about relationships between climate change and poverty. Organizing online webinars with academics and social workers." (Bangladesh)

- "During the week of October 17, organize small street theaters with the young people to sensitize especially children and young people, to these challenges that threaten us and to propose possible solutions in a way that is both playful and educational.." (Lebanon)

- "Do an awareness campaign that talks about nature conservation. And allow children, youth, families and the whole community to plant trees." (RDC)

To continue the mobilization against discrimination

- "As our association is focused on development projects in Madagascar, we could organize a video with our collaborators and supporters on the persistence of poverty in Madagascar with social and environmental sub-themes."

(Madagascar)

- "Bringing together some families, young people and children in extreme poverty, depending on the context, to share their experiences of how they have managed to survive the [Covid] health crisis." (RDC)



To propose a deep change of society

- "Organize a conference, the participants will be people really affected by poverty, and some prominent people of the city, in order to make them aware of the fight to eradicate the persistence of poverty. End with the creation of a follow-up committee to train people in entrepreneurship and climate protection to help each other in solidarity and conviviality, and to create income-generating activities." (Haiti)

- "Planting trees again at everyone's home, increasing community work." (RDC)

- "Create public forums [...] with testimonies of people living in degraded housing, so that we realize what it means for them." (France)



**Tell us about your projects. Write to us about what you are planning to do this year.
Enjoy the preparation!**