

#CSocD60 Side Event

DIGNITY FOR ALL IN PRACTICE: OVERCOMING POVERTY-BASED DISCRIMINATION

Friday, February 11th, 2022 - 11:30am -12:45pm (EST)
on Zoom - Register by clicking [here](#) -

This side event will bring together activists with a lived experience of poverty from Burkina Faso and Ireland, academics working on poverty-based discrimination, and Member State representatives proposing good practices, including laws prohibiting discrimination based on social status. They will discuss the importance of addressing poverty-based discrimination, both at interpersonal and institutional levels, to ensure the rights, dignity, and well-being of all, especially that of individuals and families with a lived experience of poverty.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Andrew Kelly

Activist with ATD Fourth World in Dublin, Ireland

Prof. Olivier De Schutter

UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
and Professor of law at SciencesPo and UCLouvain

Prof. Diane Roman

Jurist and Professor of public law at the Sorbonne University,
Paris, France

Mr. Gouba Ousseini

Activist with ATD Fourth World in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

H.E Ambassador Mr. Frank Tressler

Permanent mission of Chile to the United Nations

MODERATOR

Prof. Sandra Liebenberg

Professor of Human Rights Law at the University of
Stellenbosch, South Africa

DIGNITY FOR ALL IN PRACTICE: OVERCOMING POVERTY-BASED DISCRIMINATION

Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Poverty is not about income alone. The international participatory research “Hidden Dimensions of Poverty” led by ATD Fourth World and the University of Oxford has shown that discrimination is part of the daily experience of people in poverty: as recognized by the UN Guiding Principles on extreme poverty and human rights, “persons living in poverty generally experience regular denials of their dignity and equality”. Discrimination is an unjustifiable difference in treatment, as in the case of racism, sexism, or homophobia. People living in poverty experience discrimination daily in a wide range of areas, including in access to health, education, housing, and employment. While the problem is widespread around the world, there is no accepted term to refer to it. Some speak of “povertyism”, “classism” or simply discrimination based on socio-economic disadvantage.

Both a cause and consequence of poverty, discrimination constitutes a persistent barrier for people to access their fundamental rights and to lead a life in dignity. Poverty is often a result of long-term discriminatory practices, leading people living in poverty to experience different levels of discrimination and exclusion in all spheres of society, whether at an inter-personal level or at a systemic level, in the form of social and institutional maltreatment. This dynamic leads to a vicious cycle of stereotyping, prejudice, and stigmatization due to socio-economic disadvantage, eventually leading to the persistence of poverty from one generation to the next.

Human rights law prohibits discrimination on socio-economic grounds. This prohibition can influence social perceptions and attitudes by serving as a basis for developing awareness-raising programs and educational initiatives. In some countries, such as France and South Africa, domestic legislation also addresses poverty-based discrimination as a distinct phenomenon. However, these tools remain underused.

In the context of the 60th Commission for Social Development, this side-event seeks to explore how, in practice, dignity and the fight against discrimination on grounds of social status can be placed at the heart of the Covid-19 recovery and measures to overcome poverty.

The questions this side-event will address:

- Why prohibit discrimination on grounds of socio-economic disadvantage/poverty?
- What are the implications of prohibiting discrimination on grounds of socio-economic disadvantage/poverty?
- What can we learn from country-level experiences?

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