

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**Dignity
in practice**



**Think, act and advocate
with people in poverty**

Annual Report 2022

Think, act and advocate with people in poverty

*Who are you? I am a human.
Where do you live? I inhabit the earth.
What do you do? I am building the world.*

Joseph Wresinski

International Movement ATD Fourth World



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Message from Donald Lee, President of the International Movement ATD Fourth World

During the worst periods of the global COVID-19 pandemic, government policies and actions forced additional hardship and deprivations on people living in poverty. Very little, if any, of the economic assistance intended to relieve the hardships caused by the pandemic reached the most vulnerable. As a result, global poverty rose for the first time in a generation.

The pandemic showed us how our broken economic and social systems have created and perpetuated poverty, social division, and outrageous inequalities in a world of plenty. At the same time, these economic systems have incentivised the wanton exploitation of our fragile planet to the point of climate and environmental disaster, which has negatively impacted the livelihoods and health of people living in poverty.

The sad reality is that most people living in poverty earn very low pay, often less than the living wage. They frequently endure mental and physical abuse, difficult or dangerous conditions, as well as job insecurity and layoffs. Since many are not part of the traditional labour force, their work and expertise are unrecognised and unrepresented.



The upshot is adults and youth living in poverty are often excluded from accessing dignified work opportunities and the benefits and protections these offer.

No one is unemployable. Dignified work is possible everywhere if we acknowledge the inherent potential of people and that meaningful work opportunities can be created when the job is suited to people's abilities and skills and not the other way around.

The project [Zero Long-Term Unemployment Zones \(TZCLD\)](#), launched in France by ATD Fourth World, demonstrates how social businesses can successfully employ long-

term unemployed people on permanent contracts, at minimum wage and on time, to do work that is locally useful but not carried out elsewhere because traditionally it is considered unprofitable.

In Brooklyn, New York, [Working and Learning Together – Electronics Recycling \(WALTER\)](#) is an eco-social business that provides job opportunities for people, especially young people, who face persistent barriers to employment. The idea for WALTER originated with ATD Fourth World's Story Garden. The enterprise demonstrates that no one is unemployable and that the economy can serve people and the planet at the same time.

The strong actions we have undertaken together for advocacy and research are critical components of our fight to end social and environmental injustice and to ensure that we leave no one behind.

My sincere thanks to our partners, activists, and teams who have worked tirelessly alongside communities around the world to eradicate poverty, create lasting peace, and learn to live in harmony with our planet.

17 avril 2023, Donald Lee



Children, parents, and teachers draw inspiration and ideas from each other



Latin America and Caribbean Region Education

ATD Fourth World has been present in Latin America and the Caribbean since 1979 when Volunteer Corps members arrived in Guatemala and Haiti to work alongside and learn from people in extreme poverty. Since then, its presence has expanded to Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, and Peru.

Advocacy at the HLPF for an education that leaves no one behind

Education is another area in which ATD Fourth World is investing heavily in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the pandemic, children and young people's education was severely affected by school closures for up to two years in some countries. This had an effect not only on their educational attainment but also in their confidence and self-esteem as learners. ATD Fourth World members, therefore, met virtually to share how they are addressing these issues with children, parents, and teachers in order to inspire and reinforce mutual learning between and among countries and to share the outcomes of these projects.

One of the initiatives included the Laboratory of Hope, in which teachers experimented

with new ways of reaching pupils with the greatest learning difficulties, especially those from families experiencing poverty. They then shared the results with their peers in the Laboratory. From this, they acquired new ideas about how best to support the children who struggle the most in their schools.

The mobilisation around the theme of education culminated in 2022 with the presentation of the experiences and learning outcomes during the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Although ATD Fourth World's contribution to the Forum was presented by one person, Victoria Huallpa from Bolivia, it was the result of a collective process. Three virtual meetings were organised with more than twenty ATD Fourth World members from all over Latin America, with experience of poverty and who had participated in educational projects as parents. During the three meetings, they shared their

feelings about their children's schooling and what quality education means to them in order to come to a common understanding of what parents living in poverty attach to this term. The end product of these meetings formed the basis for the speech at the United Nations.

The preparation also led to a small group of participants meeting virtually with His Excellency Ambassador Collen Vixen Kelapile from Botswana, the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)--the responsible body for the HLPF. In addition, the group participated in a virtual side event at the HLPF entitled "Ending poverty through achieving inclusive quality education for all". ATD Fourth World activists from Bolivia, Guatemala, and Peru took the floor to highlight their achievements and lessons learned in addressing the effects of the pandemic on the educational outcomes of children living in poverty.

Diplomado EL CRUCE DE SABERES DESDE AMÉRICA LATINA



Participants in the Merging Knowledge training
receive their diplomas

Latin America Region Merging Knowledge

From 2020 to the end of 2022, one of ATD Fourth World's most important initiatives was a training programme for members and partners in the [Merging Knowledge](#) approach. Funded in part by the French Development Agency, the training programme culminated in a diploma awarded to the twenty-eight participants¹ from six countries by the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco in Mexico City, with which ATD Fourth World partnered. At the end of the programme, the participants met for a week-long residential session in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

This was the first time since the pandemic that it was possible to conduct the training in person; the second stage of the training project in 2021 had been planned to be held on-site, but it eventually took place online. Throughout the week in Mexico, participants increased their understanding of the Merging Knowledge approach and the tools used to implement it. They also experienced first-hand how to arrive at a common product—a product that is the result of bringing together the experiences of every participant in the process.

In the final stage of their training, the participants used Merging Knowledge in their local groups to solve a problem they had identified as particularly relevant to people living in poverty in their country. For example, participants from El Alto, Bolivia, worked on solutions to the problem of violence against women living in poverty. The participants from Mexico City designed a project to address the effects of the pandemic on the educational outcomes of children experiencing poverty. The results will be further developed for implementation in 2023.

¹ Volunteer Corps members, friends, activists, and people from other organisations.



Other services in the Philippines are free, like Social Security! Why don't we make the birth certificate free?

Grace Gacusa
Pace (Manila), Philippines



Forum participants speak out on the issues around legal identity



I am also a human being! There is no social justice if there is no birth certificate!



"Because children are cared for by their parents, it's only once they've grown up and need to go to work that they realise the importance of having a birth certificate."

Alvin Bularan
Manila North Cemetery,
Philippines

Asia Region • Philippines

ATD Fourth World is present in the Philippines and Thailand and collaborates with NGOs and partners in several other Asian countries.

Tao naman ako

In the Philippines, ATD organises forums that provide a space for people who have experienced long-term poverty to voice their concerns and struggles and to propose solutions to relevant topics.

A survey conducted by ATD in several communities revealed that the inability to attain a birth certificate is a primary concern for these families. Human rights conventions confirm that birth registration (the first step to obtaining a birth certificate) is a fundamental human right. However, the PSA (Philippine Statistics Authority) estimates that five million Filipinos do not have a birth certificate. In response to this issue, the coordinating committee for the forums agreed on the theme of birth certificate accessibility. Sixty-six activists participated from four communities where ATD Fourth World is active.

Two key issues were addressed: the importance of having a birth certificate and the barriers to obtaining one. The families proposed several solutions: eliminating fees for birth certificates, streamlining the process with a one-stop information centre, and regular community visits by government officials to assist the most vulnerable populations.

During a session, activist Maria Lorena Santos explained:

It's important for me to have a birth certificate because that is how I get to know my real name, my birthday, and who my parents are.

Because a birth certificate is necessary for employment, Mariafe C. Tepulado, a participant in the forums, stated:

The birth certificate is the number one most important requirement when applying for jobs.

Education for these families is also a high priority. Rochelle M. Guinto said:

For my son, to go to kindergarten they won't accept him without a birth certificate.

The commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, on 17 October 2022, highlighted the theme “Dignity for all in practice: The commitments we make together for social justice, peace, and the planet” and focused on this topic of birth certificates. For the forum committee members, “There is no social justice [equal access to rights and opportunities for all] without a birth certificate.”

During the celebration, representatives from the National Anti-Poverty Commission, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Education and the PSA, as well as activists, supporters, and other participants were shown the video *Tao naman ako* (“I am a human being” in Tagalog), specially created for the event. [The video](#) illustrated the barriers to social justice associated with birth certificate accessibility and offers solutions to address this important human rights problem.

ATD Fourth World Philippines, alongside its partners, continues to advocate for access to birth certificates for all.



The regional meeting in Dakar
on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty

Africa Region • Senegal

In the African region, ATD Fourth World is present in ten countries: it has permanent teams in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal, and Tanzania, and supportive networks in Burundi, Cameroon, Kenya, and Togo.

Two meetings with activists were held in the African region: one in Dakar (Senegal) and the other in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

A workshop on the research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty

The first meeting in February focused on disseminating the research results on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty (a three-year research project organised by ATD Fourth World in partnership with Oxford University). This meeting was attended by over sixty members of ATD Fourth World from ten countries and speaking six different languages. ATD members who had not been directly involved in this research met with the delegation from Tanzania, which had participated in the international project. The seminar participants discussed the results and confirmed that they did not represent the viewpoint of just a few people. It was also an opportunity to

discuss other real-life experiences in order to enrich the study results, as well as to present and understand the Merging Knowledge methodology and the tools used to arrive at these results.

When discussing the nine dimensions of poverty (grouped into three types), the participants particularly referred to suffering in the body, heart, and mind. They recognised that these dimensions connect the other two relational dimensions, that is: institutional and social maltreatment. An activist from the Central African Republic remarked that “the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty have become an agenda for me and for others”.



Participants from the meeting in Ouagadougou.
A regional exchange on experiences with children
living in the streets

Lessons learned on working with children and young people living on the streets

In July, a second meeting discussed the research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty and its relevance to the children and young people living and working on the streets. Some thirty facilitators working with children living on the street from four countries (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Senegal), parents whose children are on the street, state authorities working in this field, as well as young people who have lived on the street took part. The meeting allowed participants to make the connection between the lives of children and young people living and work-

ing on the streets, and the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty. It demonstrated how the research results can change the way the rest of society looks at them. In addition, it provided an opportunity to better understand the questions these children and young people ask of the adults around them, and to learn how to support them in order to build a prosperous future for all children.

Furthermore, It was a moment to share experiences in order to learn from each other. An activist from Burkina Faso and former street child said:

We have to organise activities, conferences and other things, but we have to understand that children living and working on the street are not they themselves a danger. It is their life that is difficult and a danger for them, and we have to organise activities that allow them to get out of it.

Ms. Angèle learns how to use a four-thread machine for industrial sewing, with her instructor, Ms. Zoely



Indian Ocean Region • Madagascar

In the Indian Ocean region, ATD Fourth World is present in three countries: Madagascar, Mauritius, and Reunion. Below, two programmes from this region are presented.

MMM : training for jobs in industrial sewing

MMM stands for Miasa Mianatra Miarakà, which in Malagasy means Working and Learning Together, a vocational training and personal development programme. Until 2021, the craftswomen trained on both home sewing machines and industrial machines. However, this did not always allow them to reach the level expected in a professional workshop.

Some of the women, wanting to move out of a mostly informal activity (washing laundry, making carpets from recycled fabrics, working in seasonal jobs, etc.), expressed the desire to work in garment workshops and be trained accordingly.

The MMM project, therefore, acquired a four-thread machine and an overlocking machine and recruited a professional trainer with the specific mission of preparing the craftswomen for an internship or to be hired directly to work in a garment workshop. The women were very motivated to learn on the new machines, concentrating very hard on their mastery. Within a few weeks, three of them were ready for placement in a workshop. One said:

I always wanted to learn to sew on a machine like this, and it fascinated me. Now, at MMM, I have been trained to work on an overlocking machine; I really like doing it, and now I know a lot of different functions on this machine. I'm very happy about that.

This additional training allowed them to:

- acquire new skills in addition to those already gained through MMM,
- find a stable job in a company (for some),
- have a secure income and social security for their families.

However, moving from an informal activity, sometimes carried out since their youth, to a salaried job is not just a matter of technical learning; it involves much more! It is also about accepting a prescribed framework and totally new obligations, such as strict timetables, clothing regulations, and social behaviours that are different from those of everyday life in the neighbourhood or the family.

Entering the world of business can be a real challenge for some. The signing of a contract between MMM and each craftswoman upon her arrival, the drawing up of internal rules and regulations, and requiring their respect on a daily basis are some ways MMM tries to prepare the women for salaried employment.

The renewal of the Kamond
Moris People's University



Indian Ocean Region • Mauritius

In the ATD Fourth World People's University (UP), dialogue and mutual training take place between adults living in extreme poverty and others who are committed to working alongside them. Everyone comes to learn from each other, bringing their own experiences, perspectives, and understanding.

Martine Le Corre

New impetus for People's University

Launched in 2016, the Karmond Moris programme had been at a standstill since 2020. To support its re-launch, Martine Le Corre (an activist with extensive experience in UP) and Maggy Tournaille (a Volunteer Corps member involved in UP and Merging Knowledge in France) spent September to November in Mauritius. During this period, at the Centre of Learning, they trained the facilitators of the plenary session and the eleven preparatory groups in the different districts.

The Karmond University is now organised with several partners (Caritas Mauritius, *Mouvement Pour le Progrès de Roche-Bois* and the Joseph Lagesse Foundation, with the support of the Cardinal Jean Margeot Institute). All of them have committed themselves to four UP a year for the next two years.

Bringing together members of several organisations creates a space for dialogue where the people living in extreme poverty can speak with others. This gives hope for a greater impact, for changes in attitudes towards people experiencing poverty, and for concrete changes in everyone's lives.

To make it easier for everyone to take part, especially young parents, children are also accommodated on the day of the UP.

More than sixty people took part in the first plenary of 2023, whose theme was "The Family". An officer delegated by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare was the guest speaker.

Commemorating the 40th anniversary of ATD Fourth World Canada



North America • Canada

In the North American region, ATD Fourth World is present in two countries: Canada and the United States.

Commemorating the 40th anniversary of ATD's presence

The ATD Fourth World Movement in Canada has a history of forty years of presence. The year 2022 was thus an opportunity to celebrate, to meet again, to tell stories of its history. Everything we are has been forged by what we were.

ATD Canada team.

Under the roof of the Fourth World House, the older members rediscovered the premises. For some, the colours of the walls had changed; for others, the colours of the photos had taken on a new hue. Memories were relived in discussions in the large room. Turning the pages of the many photo albums, those present were reminded of the first members of the Volunteer Corps. They

observed the renovations to the Fourth World House that had been made over the years, and discovered that programmes they had thought were new, had actually been initiatives from long before, such as the Theatre of the Oppressed.

One ally shared his journey in the fight against poverty, thanks to ATD and the other organisations in which he has been active. His daughter reminisced about her youth spent in these same places and the impact that her father's contribution had on her career today.

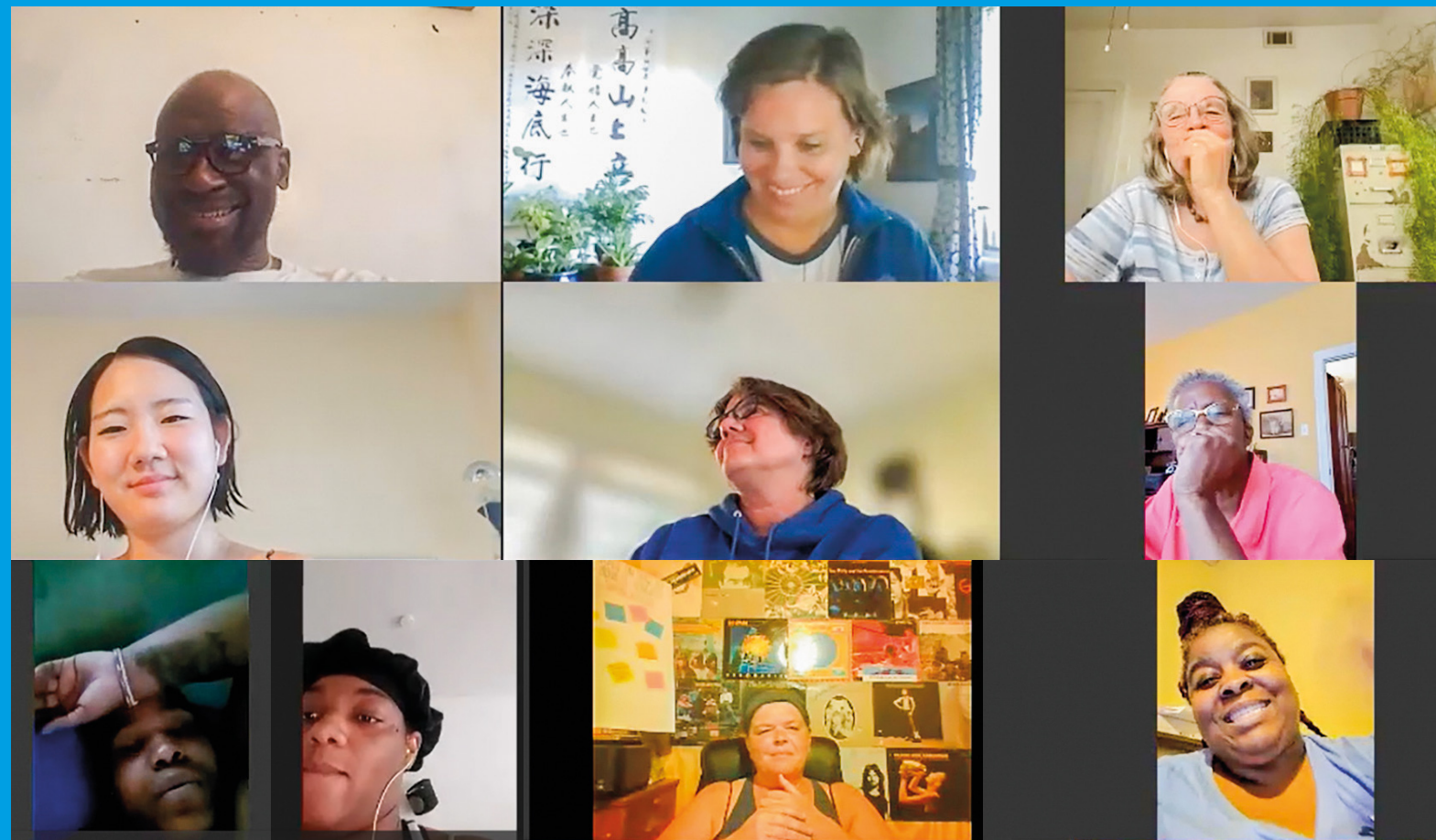
People sought to understand the beginnings of ATD in Montreal. They also talked about the effort to purchase the Fourth World House many years later. Among the stories told, some harsher truths emerged:

suffering, emotions that remain too hard to express, and compromises regretted. A mutual trust empowered people to open up and talk about their joys, nostalgia, and sorrows.

In this atmosphere where the past and the present met, the future showed its face through the 2022-2026 initiatives, recently defined, thanks to the participation of the current allies and activists. "We took responsibility for this meticulously accomplished work and raised our glasses in honour of our shared values, renewed on this fortieth anniversary," proudly stated Marianne Marineau, a Volunteer Corps member.

Under a starry Montreal night sky, the group moved outside onto the terrace. The leader of the Bird Theatre from forty years ago fascinated those present with her stories. She showed the audience the material with which the troupe had made a bird mask put on stilts. This towering bird travelled the streets and gathered people from the neighbourhood around a stage.

At the end of this summer evening, it was goodbye after goodbye, with friendly smiles, showing that there is a desire for this torch, handed over with confidence, to be carried on.



An online meeting for the Racism and Poverty project in the USA

North America • United States

Racism and poverty

ATD Fourth World USA continued and expanded its ongoing [projects](#) in New York City and New Mexico.

A new initiative that deserves to be highlighted is a project that gathered members across the country to discuss the relationship between racism and poverty. ATD Fourth World has always been extremely diverse, working in cities and rural areas with people of different racial, ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds. As racism has featured prominently in national conversations recently, members wanted to examine in greater depth the connection between racism and poverty.

The project involved a series of conversations with the goal of addressing racism in the US more effectively as an anti-poverty organisation. As one member put it, “We cannot bring all people in poverty in the United States together if we don’t first take down the barriers that keep people apart – and the number one barrier is racism”.

The Racism and Poverty project included ATD Fourth World members who are Asian, Black, Navajo, and White; US born and immigrants; from urban and rural communities; and with varied economic backgrounds. A Steering Committee was created to develop ideas, guidelines, and practices as well as to spur additional work in the future.

Initially, each person took part in a [“21-Day Racial Equity Challenge,”](#) a set of resources designed to help individuals reflect daily on issues of race, power, and privilege. The challenge allowed people first to connect with each other and then to identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination.

During the “Challenge”, participants met weekly to discuss what they were experiencing and learning. Next, a larger group met monthly to explore issues of racism selected by rotating co-facilitators. The project then established “Knowledge Building Groups” to explore two central

themes: ATD North American history through the lens of race, and systemic racism and intersectionality.

Racism affects everything, yet it is an uncomfortable issue that ATD Fourth World USA has had little practice addressing. The Racism and Poverty work helps members get past the discomfort, a critical first step. This work has made members more deeply committed to developing anti-racist practices as individuals and as an organisation, including increasing understanding of current, historic, and systemic racism. Participants in the project are firm in the knowledge that one cannot fight poverty without such an understanding. After sharing the takeaways more broadly, the project will focus on how members talk about racism and poverty within and outside ATD Fourth World, as well as how a lens of racism impacts its governance.

Young people from nine European countries come together to develop an advocacy strategy



European Region Advocacy

In Europe, ATD Fourth World is present in twelve countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

In this report, three events in the European region are featured: the youth meeting in Méry-sur-Oise, France; the collective appeals against the violations of human rights; and the continuation of the OSEE project in France.

Young people come together to develop an advocacy strategy

From 7 to 11 July, some 120 young people from nine European countries met at the ATD Fourth World International Centre in Méry-sur-Oise, France.

Although they spoke different languages and had different life stories, after five days, strong bonds had been forged due to their common motivation to overcome poverty. With renewed enthusiasm and energy, they left feeling stronger and more determined than ever to champion their cause. Young people from Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, and Switzerland explored during their stay at ATD's international centre, the difficulties they face at school and work

and issues around stigma and judgement from different perspectives.

The participants found themselves able to “cross national boundaries”. However, many of the young people also explored “internal borders—the prejudices we may have when we don’t understand the person next to us”. Yet at the end, they stated, “We have built a circle of solidarity, of ties”.

During the meeting, organised within the framework of the European Year of Youth, the young people met Paulína Jalakšová from the European Youth Forum. They also met with representatives from the French Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.


The July meeting was part of a larger project: the 2022-23 European Youth Campaign. ATD values the voices of all young people and considers that they should be able to talk face-to-face with European decision-makers. In April 2023, some thirty delegates will travel to Strasbourg, France, to meet with Council of Europe officials. The goal is for youth to be able to bring their concerns directly to their representatives at the European level.

For more information, see:

<https://www.atd-fourthworld.org/young-peoples-hopes-and-dreams/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zueiFaHHDdk>

"Electricity is not a luxury, it is a right"
- protesting in Spain



LA LUZ NO ES UN
LUJO, ES UN DERE-
CHO. SOLUCIÓN PARA CAÑADA

European Region Collective complaints

Collective complaints against two European Union states for human rights violations

On 2 March, ATD Fourth World and four other organisations submitted a collective complaint to the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR). The complaint is the first of its kind against the Spanish government's noncompliance with the European Social Charter agreed upon by the Council of Europe. It states that Spain violated a number of human rights by failing to provide heating and electricity to Cañada Real (a shantytown on the outskirts of Madrid), sectors five and six. The energy supply has been interrupted since October 2020, affecting approximately 4,500 people, of whom at least 1,800 are minors. In an unprecedented decision, adopted unanimously on 19 October 2022, the ECSR demanded that the Spanish government adopt "all possible measures" to avoid "serious and irreversible dangers to the integrity of the people" living in Cañada Real who "do not have adequate access to electricity, thus exposing them to mortal danger and risks to their physical and moral integrity". This procedure is ongoing.

ATD Fourth World in Belgium is also involved in a collective complaint filed by FEANTSA against the Belgium Government. The claim, which was declared admissible on 6 July 2022, alleges that housing legislation, policy, and practice in the Flemish Region of Belgium are in violation of many articles of the Social Charter.

For more information, see:

<https://www.atd-fourthworld.org/collective-complaint-against-spain-for-violation-of-the-european-social-charter/>

<https://www.atd-fourthworld.org/canada-real-advocacy-victory/>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-social-charter/-/no-203-2021-federation-of-national-organizations-working-with-the-homeless-feantsa-v-belgium>



**Preparing OSEE trainees for entry
into vocational programmes**

European Region OSEE project

Recognizing the knowledge and skills acquired by people living in poverty

After fifteen months, the second group of trainees will reach the end of the OSEE (*Osons les Savoirs d'Expérience de l'Exclusion*) pre-qualification course in April 2023. The programme targets people living in poverty with a low level of school qualifications, but with a real experience of community participation. They remain unemployed because they have not been able to pursue any form of vocational training.

Funding from the French Ministry of Labour has enabled two classes of trainees to benefit from the OSEE training with the aim of entering qualifying training programmes in the social field.

Evaluation and modifications

The first group was comprised of forty-nine trainees –Fourth World activists and young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods on the outskirts of Paris—whereas the second smaller group included twenty-eight people from a variety of organisations: social centres, the *Secours Catholique*, local

employment programmes, unemployment offices for young people, as well as Fourth World activists.

The Social Institute of Lille (ISL) evaluated the project, leading to some useful modifications. In addition to revising the recruitment strategy, a mediator was brought in to help facilitate interactions between trainees and to work on improving skills that could be useful for future job training. The educational aspect of the programme has also benefited from major changes: skills, such as French and computing, are now taught using a transversal learning approach. Additionally, knowledge and skills acquired through experience is reinforced with the introduction of nine days of specific training.

Replication

Key to the continuation of the project, interested partners met with ATD Fourth World on 15 September to examine the possibilities for the future creation of OSEE programmes on the regional level.

This led to the creation of working groups which will continue to examine the conditions for the successful replication of the OSEE course, based on the conclusions drawn from the first two classes. Subsequently, training organisations, project participants, solidarity non-profits and, above all, former trainees, will partake in a Merging Knowledge exercise.

Examining other ATD Fourth World experimental projects will be necessary to identify possibilities to explore and pitfalls to avoid if a replication is to be successful.

Finally, the drafting of an OSEE Guide is underway to transmit the underlying principles of the project and recommendations for the implementation of other OSEE programmes.

Some trainees from the second group have already begun other training programmes or are preparing to do so, while still others have found work in the social sector as peer counsellors and in other positions. Although there is still a long way to go, the future is promising.

DIGNITY FOR ALL IN PRACTICE

THE COMMITMENTS
WE MAKE TOGETHER
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
PEACE AND THE PLANET



OCTOBER 17, 2022

WORLD DAY
FOR OVERCOMING
EXTREME POVERTY

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Then year 2022 was the thirtieth anniversary of the recognition by the UN, in 1992, of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. [This day was recognised](#) following the gathering of thousands of people on the Plaza of Human Rights and Liberties (formerly Trocadero Plaza) in Paris on 17 October 1987. They paid tribute to the victims of hunger, ignorance, and violence. They rejected the inevitability of chronic poverty and proclaimed with Joseph Wresinski 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.

The theme chosen for 2022 was:

"DIGNITY FOR ALL IN PRACTICE: The commitments we make together for social justice, peace, and the planet".

The Day represents a safe space of meaningful participation for people whose voices are unheard and whose life stories, when told by others, are reduced to their hardships—without showing all the courage it takes to fight poverty. It is a space to share not only the struggles they face in their lives, but also their aspirations for the future.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty provides an opportunity for collective reflection on the commitment to end poverty by 2030, strengthening the continued partnerships and dialogue between civil society, Member States, communities, and other stakeholders. ... To achieve this, a dignity-focused lens can guide the international community away from purely monetary measures of poverty and toward multidimensional

ones. A dignity lens doesn't blame individuals for their poverty, but instead sheds light on unjust systems and deliberate laws, policies, and actions that fail to respect, protect, and fulfil our rights, denying the poorest of their dignity.

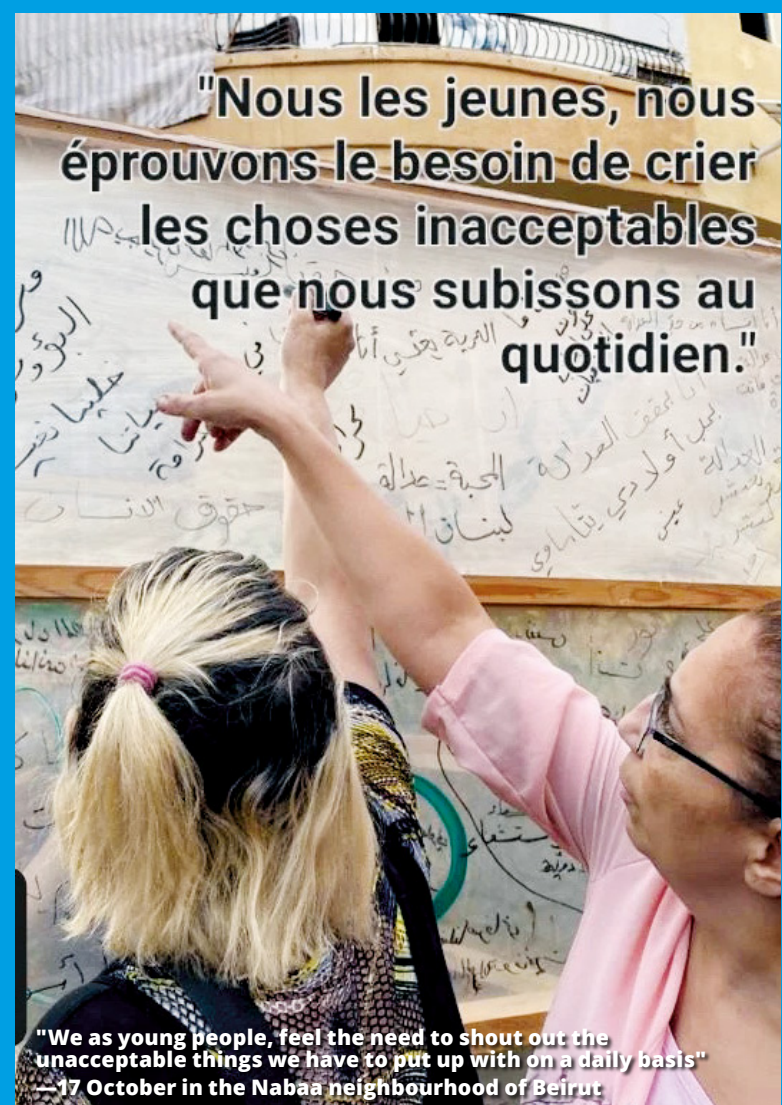
Excerpt from [the concept note for 17 October 2022](#), signed by Aye Aye Win, President of the International Committee for October 17th

Year after year, people, groups, organisations, and institutions worldwide find on 17 October the opportunity to come together and to see that they are not alone but rather that the fight to eradicate poverty is universal.

In 2022, more than a hundred events took place around the world.



The Tapor group from Abidjan plays a game celebrating friendship on 17 October



"We as young people, feel the need to shout out the unacceptable things we have to put up with on a daily basis"
— 17 October in the Nabaa neighbourhood of Beirut

Abidjan • Côte d'Ivoire

An exercise in friendship by the Tapori children's group

The Tapori children's group from the Jacques Prévert elementary school in Abidjan, commemorated the World Day for Overcoming Poverty in one of the Bibliobulle organisation's libraries.

The day aimed to bring together children from these very different worlds, to draw attention to 17 October, and to pay tribute to all the courageous children who support their families in the best way they know how.

They played games and participated in a Tapori workshop—the game of stickers², which encouraged the children to reflect on what it feels like to be alone and to commit to ensuring that no children are left without friends.

²Each child is given a coloured sticker and is asked to find the children who have the same colour. At the end, they realise that one child is alone because no other child has the same colour. The children then sit down to talk about how they feel.

Beirut • Lebanon

A street event organised by a youth group

On 17 October the Shabibet youth group from the Beitouna non-profit neighbourhood centre organised a street event. The day provided residents in the Nabaa neighbourhood an outlet to express their suffering and their aspirations in the face of injustice, be it in Lebanon, where life is difficult, or elsewhere.

For some time now, we, the Shabibet of Beitouna, have felt the need to shout out the unacceptable things that we suffer on a daily basis. And on this international day of 17 October, we had the opportunity to do something to show our refusal to accept poverty. Our idea was to speak out against the injustice that everyone experiences here and elsewhere.

Many people are suffering because of the problems afflicting our country, and it does not stop. So we designed this street event to listen and share all this suffering with others. As a result, people opened their hearts to us and confided the things that torment them the most, while children expressed themselves through colours and brush strokes.

You could see the smiles on their faces and the glimmers of hope in their eyes, a fact that today makes us want to move forward in the face of a situation that is getting worse and worse.



Eighty members of ATD Fourth World's Volunteer Corps come together to plan for the sustainable future of the Corps

International Centre

The International Centre welcomes ATD members from around the world for retreats, meetings, research, and training.

Located in France, it is spread over three sites in the Paris region: Méry-sur-Oise, Pierrelaye, and Baillet-en-France.

It hosts several teams whose mission is to support [members globally](#) in administration, finance, communication, and training.

It is also home to the international secretariat of the Taporì children's movement, the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty, and the Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre.

ATD Fourth World's International Leadership Team works in close collaboration with teams throughout the world in an effort to achieve a governance based on *Tèt ansanm* ("Heads together" in Haitian Creole), bringing together the ideas, knowledge, and dynamism of the different ATD members.

The International Centre is "a place for all Fourth World families, a place where people can escape from their everyday worries.

You can meet people from far away. Here we find the history of the Fourth World, and everyone is building this history." (Families of Saint-Quentin, 2001)

Here is an overview of two events that took place at the International Centre:

Sustainability and innovation—two significant challenges for the Volunteer Corps

During the summer, eighty members of ATD Fourth World's Volunteer Corps met to take up the challenge of developing a sustainable Corps that, while anchored in its history, would adapt to huge changes in our society and find new approaches in working to overcome poverty. Under the title "Initiatives 5-25: Between responsibility and innovation, daring to take the initiative", fifty-six workshops were organised during ten days of meetings, resulting in five action plans and a follow-up plan.

While all the plans will contribute to the development of the Volunteer Corps in the years to come, the first plan focuses more specifically on revising the Corps' operational principles in relation to the challenges facing societies today, and in particular, the environment. A second plan focuses on the dialogues to be developed within the Corps.

Addressing the sustainability of the Volunteer Corps, a third plan proposes an ambitious and internationally integrated recruitment and retention strategy. "Daring to do less in order to do better and go further", a fourth plan, aims to bring about essential changes that are necessary to address the experiences of being overwhelmed—felt especially by younger members, left with little time for creativity and innovation. Finally, along the same lines, an Innovation Lab was created as a flexible space for reassessing prior experiences and stimulating creativity in order to develop appropriate and effective anti-poverty strategies.



Fifty-six people participate in an action seminar on the Haitian pilot project entitled *Knowledge/Health/Participation*

The action seminar on Haiti

Drawing lessons for social protection programmes

From 21 to 25 March, fifty-six people gathered in Méry-sur-Oise for an action seminar presented by Volunteer Corps members Régis and Roseline De Muylder entitled “Knowledge/Health/Participation Pilot Project in Haiti”. With twelve years of experience in Port-au-Prince and many years internationally, they shared the strengths of a pilot project developed with people living in extreme poverty. The seminar participants included members of the Volunteer Corps, allies, and activists (some in person, and others online) from Belgium, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Haiti, Madagascar, Spain, and the United States.

The programme included question-and-answer periods and small-group discussions. Participants shared ideas and specific points related to their own work that resulted from their analysis of the Haiti pilot project.

To provide context for the team’s in-depth work and careful approach to Haiti over the years, the presenters first reviewed the country’s history, which includes experiences of wars and slavery, but also of resistance and liberation from its oppressors. Attendees then learned about the lives of families in poverty through a portrait of a father and his daughter’s daily struggles. This depiction served as a reference point throughout the seminar.

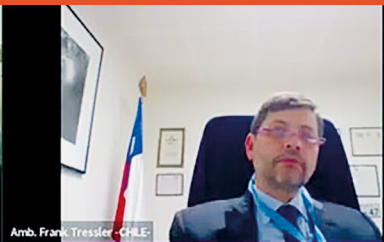
Régis and Roseline outlined five key elements of the project: proximity to families living in extreme poverty, partnerships, mutual understanding, awareness, and bringing people together.

This seminar provided a powerful opportunity for training, collaboration, and reconfirming ATD’s identity and connections to families. It was also an essential step towards developing advocacy strategies for universal social protection.

An action guide is in preparation. In addition, a report on the seminar has been produced for the participants.



and gavin (atd ireland)



Amb. Frank Tressler - CHILE



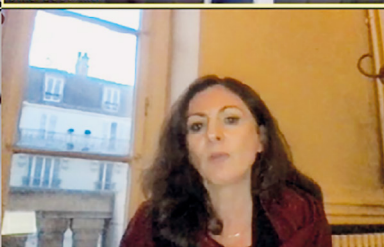
Gouba Ousseini



Olivier De Schutter



Sandra Liebenberg



Diane Roman

Marie Toussaint, during her speech before the European Parliament on 17 October, on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty



Participants from the side event at the UN Commission for Social Development: *Dignity for All in Practice: Overcoming Poverty-Based Discrimination*.

From top to bottom in the photo: Andrew Kelly and Gavin Uzell, ATD Ireland campaigners; Frank Tressler, Ambassador of Chile to the United Nations; Gouba Ousseini, activist ATD Burkina Faso; Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights; Sandra Liebenberg, Professor of Human Rights Law at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa; and Diane Roman, jurist, professor of public law at the Faculty of Law of the Sorbonne.

Alain Meylan and Marie-Rose Blunschli participating in the roundtable on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights in Geneva, Switzerland



International advocacy: taking up the challenge

Soon after he met the families in the shanty-town of Noisy-le-Grand in France, Joseph Wresinski, the founder of ATD Fourth World, [proclaimed](#) that *these families could go up to the Vatican, the Elysée Palace, and the UN. (...) Since then, I have been haunted by the idea that those people would never escape from their poverty as long as they were not welcomed as a whole, as a people, in those places where other people held debates or led struggles. They had to be there, on equal terms, in all places where people discuss and make decisions not only about the present, but also about people's destiny and the future of humanity.*

Through its consultative status as an NGO with the Council of Europe, the ILO, the UN Economic and Social Council, UNESCO, and UNICEF, ATD Fourth World has been able to take up this challenge over the decades thanks to the investment of its Volunteer Corps, activists, allies, and friends in advocacy at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, international institutions carried out their work virtually; this enabled ATD teams from around the world and people with an experience of extreme poverty to continue to be directly involved in regional and international advocacy.

The year 2022 saw the creation of new youthful delegations within ATD's International Policy and Advocacy Office and to several international bodies: the United Nations in New York and Geneva, the European Union, and the European Youth Forum in Europe.

Two additional projects reinforce this renewal: first, the creation of a team of a dozen young people from Africa and Europe who are involved in developing new advocacy approaches at local, national, regional, and international levels; second, an evaluation and programming project which will define the cross-cutting priorities for international advocacy in 2023.

Eradicating poverty in all its forms:

60th Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development

In February, in preparation for the United Nations Commission for Social Development on the theme “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”, ATD Fourth World’s [written contribution](#) explained that dignity is connected to legal existence, non-discrimination, participation, and social and environmental justice. These notions were largely integrated into [the report](#) of the UN Secretary-General, which summarises the main orientations of the commission:

34. Understanding poverty and finding solutions to eradicate it must rest on an approach based on the dignity and respect of the person and their rights. Dignity implies, inter alia, civil registration and access to legal identity and non-discrimination on any grounds. ...The meaningful participation of those living in poverty and their representatives in the design, implementation, and monitoring of COVID-19 recovery plans is crucial.

During this session, Fourth World activists from Burkina Faso, Ireland, and the United States introduced an [expert workshop](#) attended by government representatives and members of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Finally, [Maryann Broxton](#), an ATD Fourth World activist from the United States, spoke at the Commission’s most important roundtable.

Non-take-up of rights

In June, during the 50th session of the UN Human Rights Council, an online [side event](#) on [the “non-take-up” of rights](#) was jointly organised by ATD Fourth World, the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. An ATD Fourth World delegation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo explained how difficulties in accessing social protection prevent millions of people worldwide from benefiting from the support they need. As stressed in the latest report of the UN Special Rapporteur Olivier De Schutter, this issue should be made a priority for all States. The problems of non-entitlement or non-access to rights are also widespread and contribute to the persistence of poverty.

In our country, many people work in the informal sector. Thousands of people live from itinerant trades, often unregulated, working as porters; some are employed in quarries, in mines, without any protection.... These people suffer the most but benefit the least from social protection. "I can't rise up against a system that is already in place. I will be the loser", said an ATD Fourth World activist during our exchanges on institutional and social maltreatment. He used this illustration:

"It is unwise for a hunter to fight against a lion when the hunter does not have a weapon more powerful than the lion's."

This is the feeling of people who are eligible for social services but do not receive them. As a result, they feel powerless and humiliated.

To put an end to the phenomenon of non-take-up and its effects, a very serious mobilisation is required that will take into account the ideas and aspirations of all citizens.

Two principles that should inspire every person, each at his or her own level, are:

- *Treat all men and women equally and with equal dignity,*
- *Place those who live in persistent poverty, whose voices are rarely heard, at the centre of social policies and strategies to combat extreme poverty.*

The contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights

Matt Davies and Vivi Luis Orozco at the Latin American roundtable in Costa Rica



In 2022, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights organised a series of five regional seminars to identify challenges and gaps and share good practices and experiences on how to ensure that development contributes to the enjoyment of human rights. ATD Fourth World was invited to contribute to the seminars. First, in September in Geneva, two members of ATD Fourth World Switzerland who had taken part in the research project Poverty-Identity-Society, participated in

the roundtable discussion for the European region. Then in December, in Costa Rica, two ATD members from Guatemala and Mexico spoke at the Latin American roundtable. Some countries maintain that they must reach a certain level of development before having the resources to ensure that their residents can enjoy all rights. In response, the speakers emphasised the importance of respecting human rights from the outset when implementing development strategies.

Alain Meylan, an activist with ATD Fourth World Switzerland, emphasised that:

Human rights are not realised for everyone in Switzerland because people who live in poverty have had their voices taken away from them; they are not listened to, they are not seen, and their demands are not taken into consideration.

Because we don't listen to people who know poverty from experience, there is ignorance, misunderstanding, and stigmatisation that result in:

- *the dysfunction of institutions: the way institutions work does not correspond to the needs and aspirations of people living in extreme poverty*
- *isolation and the persistence of intergenerational poverty.*

Conclusion: Economic development does not automatically lead to the enjoyment of human rights for everyone.

Poverty debate in the European Parliament

Some key members of the Fighting Against Poverty Intergroup in the European Parliament took the initiative to schedule a debate on poverty at the European Parliament's plenary session on 17 October 2022 in Strasbourg.

One Member of Parliament in particular, Marie Toussaint, consulted ATD Fourth World on key points for a short statement during the debate. Nicolas Schmit, the European Commissioner for Employment and Social Rights, opened the debate. He identified poverty as "the root cause of many human rights and labour rights violations. For example, child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking are each deeply connected to poverty."

He called for "a holistic approach to tackle poverty and inequalities. We must ensure social policies are considered on an equal footing with other policies, be it economic, fiscal, or taxation policies. Equity is one

of the four pillars of this Commission's economic strategy." This alludes to the structural weakness of EU social policy compared to other policy areas, especially regarding the economy.

Almost all discussions about poverty today focus on the lack of income in the face of rapidly rising food, energy and service prices.

In her statement, Marie Toussaint was the only one to stress the multidimensional nature of poverty.

Extreme poverty is the result of a collective failure, not a personal failure. Yet we persist in seeing the poorest as potential fraudsters who need to be controlled and constrained. In doing so, we overlook the fact that poverty is, first and foremost, the result of social maltreatment. It is a type of violence that destroys the body and breaks the spirit, a violence that ultimately exists only because it is tolerated.

Marie Toussaint called for action against discrimination based on socio-economic level and for the systematic assessment of the impact of all new policy initiatives on the living conditions of the poorest 10%.

ATD Fourth World shares Marie Toussaint's position. Nevertheless, a key point was missing from the debate: people with an experience of poverty are absent from policy-making. There is still no call for including people living in poverty in the stakeholder consultation processes for every anti-poverty initiative.

For more information, see: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-9-2022-10-17-ITM-011_EN.html

Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre (JWC)

The JWC online documentation portal

The documentation department of the Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre (JWC) contains approximately 15,000 descriptive records of public documents, of which 2,300 are digitised and available online, free of charge. One thousand records were created in 2022, and a physical inventory of the library was established.

The JWC online documentation portal officially opened to the public on 1 April and is available in French, English, and Spanish. More than 120 ATD members attended the seven orientation workshops offered during April and May.

Integration into the SUDOC national catalogue³

As of 1 April, after training on the system and processing the archives, the documentation centre integrated its works into the SUDOC catalogue. At the end of December, the catalogue contained approximately 250 works from the JWC.

For more information, see:
<https://www.atd-fourthworld.org/knowledge-of-people-in-poverty/>

Fourth World Review

Launched in 1986, the *Revue Quart Monde* ("Fourth World Review") replaced the Igloos magazine which published 120 issues since its start in 1960. The quarterly *Revue* aims to promote a current of thought grounded in the lives of people living in chronic poverty and reports on projects and studies that look to the future. It addresses questions about society as experienced by people who are silenced by their poverty, people who rally to their side, and people who deal with these questions in their research and within their own professions.

For more information, see:
<https://www.revue-quartmonde.org/32>

³ The University Documentation System Catalogue (SUDOC) is the French collective catalogue produced by libraries and documentation centres of institutes of higher education and research. It includes more than 13 million bibliographic records describing a wide range of documents. The SUDOC catalogue also describes the collections of approximately 1,500 sources of documents outside higher education institutes (municipal libraries, documentation centres, etc.). Its mission is also to list all theses produced in France.

Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre (JWC) (cont.)

Social Philosophy Conference

Shouldn't we merge our different forms of knowledge in order to push back against the threats to our lives in society?

David Jousset

On 9 and 10 December, more than 180 people from several continents—academics, social activists, and people living in extreme poverty—attended the Social Philosophy Conference entitled “Poverty, Social Criticism and the Merging of Knowledge” at Paris Cité Université.

This conference represented the culmination of the three-year participatory research project initiated by David Jousset, a philosophy professor and researcher. The research involved some thirty co-researchers: academic philosophers, practitioners working to overcome forms of exclusion, and people with a lived experience of poverty.

During the conference the co-researchers presented their work, focusing on three key aspects: rights, epistemic injustice, and resistance.



The plenary session of the Social Philosophy Conference

Their collaboration and its results were reviewed by practitioners and researchers in the fields of philosophy and social sciences.

During the conference, different personalities from the scientific world (philosophers, jurists, historians), the institutional world, as well as activists engaged in social action⁴ commented on the texts and drew lessons and new directions for the future.

Feedback from many participants was that they felt inspired by this long-term work led by people who drew on their personal struggles living in poverty to explore pathways towards a world with social justice for all.

For more information, see:

<https://www.atd-fourthworld.org/social-philosophy-seminar/>

⁴. Such as Isabelle Stengers (philosopher of science) and Frank Fischbach (philosopher), both members of the scientific committee, or Claire Hédon (Defender of Human Rights in France), Soazick Kerneis (Professor of the history of law), Sophie Djigo (high school philosophy teacher), Magali Bessone (philosopher), Régis Brillat (Executive Secretary of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture), Carlos Cortez Ruiz (Doctor in Social Anthropology), Amadé Badini (Professor Emeritus of Philosophy) and others.

International Administration, Ethics, and Finance (PAEFI)

Introduction

Between 2021 and 2022, **there was an increase in the International Movement's budget, with a rise in costs (from €4.148 million to €4.807 million, an increase of 15.9%)**, as a result of increased activity throughout the world in 2022. The total net result for the year amounts to **€10,862.66**.

The costs of the International Movement cover the following areas:

- the structural costs of the International Centre's three sites: Pierrelaye, Méry sur Oise, and Baillet-en-France;
- public representation, international advocacy and international projects;
- the work of the International Leadership Team and the support they provide to the members of ATD Fourth World;
- the four regional coordination teams (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean) and the follow-up of work in the Maghreb/Middle East and Indian Ocean regions;
- the implementation of ATD Fourth World's Common Commitments, including the evaluation of its work;
- the exchange of information within the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty;
- certain projects undertaken at the European level;
- the reception and training of members of ATD Fourth World on an international level;
- the preservation and dissemination of the history of people living in extreme poverty by the Joseph Wresinski Archives and Research Centre;
- cross-cutting functions in communication, international volunteering, administration and finance, etc.;
- the work of teams in eighteen countries: Asia (two), Africa (seven), the Indian Ocean (two), Latin America (five), the Caribbean (one) and the Middle East (one), for whom the International Movement ATD Fourth World maintains the accounts;
- working groups created to exchange experiences and practices on certain projects.

Significant events in 2022

In 2022, there was a significant increase in some areas of the cost base that had seen a decrease since the onset of the pandemic: travel and meetings. For example, with the conclusion of the three-year, "Think, Act, and Advocate with People in Poverty" project, co-financed by the French Development Agency, a significant number of international meetings took place that had been postponed during the pandemic. This increase in activity was necessary in order to respect the schedule and number of sessions that had been foreseen. The project's evaluation ended with a very positive conclusion on ATD Fourth World's work.

Inflation also accounts for a significant portion of the increased costs: notably airfare and energy costs, which soared in 2022. ATD also increased salaries and allowances to respond to the high rate of inflation in certain regions of the world.

A special effort has been made to diversify ATD's sources of financing. Beginning in 2022, the new three-year project in Haiti, "Strengthening community dynamics to reach the most vulnerable through education and social protection", is being

financed by the French Development Agency. In addition, a new grant from Caritas for a project in the Central African Republic and one in Burkina Faso consolidated ATD's resources. Efforts to obtain new grants will continue in the years to come.

The International Movement ATD Fourth World's abbreviated statement of income and costs (in K€)

Year	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total costs	4 807	4 148	4 042	4 320	4 564
Contributions to the ATD Fourth World Foundation +International Volunteer Corps*	3 848	3 421	2 972	3 145	3 228
Other income	971	758	1 105	1 219	1 343
Total income	4 818	4 179	4 077	4 365	4 572
Total net result (rounded to the nearest K)	11	30	35	45	8

*includes the balancing subsidy + the reimbursement of dedicated donations and funds collected by the Foundation

ATD Fourth World's 2022 Financial Report is available on our website:
<https://www.atd-quartmonde.org/qui-sommes-nous/ethique-et-finances/>

In France, ATD Fourth World comprises nine autonomous legal structures under French law, including the International Movement. Additional information on the 2022 Financial Report is available on our website:
<https://www.atd-quartmonde.org/qui-sommes-nous/ethique-et-finances/comptes-combines/>

Outlook for 2023

The projected expenditure budget of ATD Fourth World for the year 2023 foresees a decrease to **€4.724 million**. This slight decrease follows an intense year of activity in 2022, which saw many international meetings. However, this forecast remains to be confirmed since inflation continues to be rampant.

The main assumptions on which this forecast is based are:

- an increase in salaries and allowances to cover inflation and an increase in the number of [International Solidarity Volunteers](#);
- a decrease in the number of international meetings after an increase in 2022;
- a significant rise in energy costs.

Perspectives from the International Leadership Team



- **We will explore ways to develop a compendium of ideas and actions for social and environmental justice:** oral and written narratives of resistance against extreme environmental situations in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America; and descriptions of actions that simultaneously promote relationships, a respect for nature and a renewed relationship to the earth, as well as improving the environment. Dialogues will be encouraged between groups based on the exchange of these narratives.

In 2023-2024, we will continue to move forward in our advocacy work on social and environmental justice, ensuring dignified work, access to social protection and dignity in action.

We want to support, more than ever, processes that involve people living in extreme poverty in the struggle for social and environmental justice.

- **We will develop our proposals** for young adults to spend a period of immersion in an ATD Fourth World team for one or two years.
- **We will organise an international Tabori meeting** for some sixty people from around twenty countries. The aim is for the participants to become trainers in their own countries so that Tabori not only enables children to create new friendships—which is important—but also to express themselves on what is just and unjust in their worlds and in turn to take action.
- **We will also launch a number of evaluations,** in order to draw lessons on how best to improve our work. One of these initiatives will be to evaluate the life course of activists with an experience of poverty, in order to highlight the effectiveness of recent initiatives and to work towards their dissemination.

Perspectives from the International Leadership Team (cont.)

In addition, in the thirty-three countries where ATD Fourth World is present, we will put in place an ongoing process of evaluation in order to improve the foundation of our work, and give a new impetus to ATD's sustainable development.

In 2023, we hope to significantly transform ATD Fourth World's presence in several countries. Here are some examples:

- **In Tanzania**, we expect the creation of an ATD Fourth World Tanzania association as a member of the international ATD Fourth World Movement to be confirmed.
- **In Great Britain and the Netherlands**, we want to review the coherence between benchmark programmes, the demands on the members of the Volunteer Corps, the needs and resources related to ATD's local premises, the security of funding and people's long-term commitments to the Corps.
- **In the United States**, the objective is to develop a project to combat poverty in a New York City borough. This project must combine several components: a presence among people living in the most difficult situations, the development of an environmental and social business, a pre-school, a street library, and a Fourth World People's University. This will require finding the necessary resources in terms of people and funding.
- **In Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, we want to work on the coherence and impact of our projects, and to obtain funding that allows us to develop activities with people who are committed to leaving no one behind.

The challenge is to jointly carry out:

- Actions that enable us to reach people living in poverty and build relationships of trust and reciprocity;
- Pilot projects showing that extreme poverty is not inevitable in any particular field, while ensuring they are of sufficient relevance at the international level to have an impact;
- Outreach with the objective of obtaining funding for our activities while attracting new generations of people to the struggle against poverty and social exclusion.

We also want to continue our efforts to document our work, and to make our philosophy and approaches more understandable so that they are an inspiration to others.

More than ever, we want to succeed in changing the way in which people living in poverty are viewed—we want them to be considered as partners. We do them a great injustice when we don't believe in them. We must put an end to the way in which their suffering is analysed without ever listening to their thoughts, their insights, and their expertise. We want to think with people with a lived experience of poverty, and not for or against them. This is the path to dignity in action, and we want to continue along this path together.

Bruno Dabout, Chantal Consolini, and Martin Kalisa

The International Movement ATD Fourth World

The International Movement ATD Fourth World (All Together in Dignity), is an international non-governmental organisation with no religious or political affiliation. It is a movement of solidarity among and in collaboration with the most disadvantaged and excluded families around the world. ATD holds a vision of a world without poverty, a society where each person is respected. Poverty is an affront to human dignity, and people in poverty have unique knowledge and experience that can lower the barriers separating people and communities.

Founded in 1957 by Joseph Wresinski, ATD Fourth World brings together people from all cultures and social classes and works in thirty-three countries throughout Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia. It partners with organisations in ninety other countries with a total of over 100,000 members worldwide.

ATD Fourth World also advocates with institutions and public authorities to encourage them, in all their political decisions, to take into account all the dimensions of poverty. It works to have people living in extreme poverty recognised as partners with the right to participate in national and international institutions.

In extreme poverty, people always believe that tomorrow will be better. With them, I believe this too.

Joseph Wresinski

**This report was produced by ATD Fourth World members
under the responsibility of Jan Świątek**

English edition: Janet Nelson and Robyn Vogel

Front cover: Hélène Perdereau's drawing, ©ATD Fourth World

Back cover: photo of the drawing by ©Yaëll Fornasari

Layout: Cécile Wintrebert

Printing: Exaprint, France

ISSN: 1626-3839 • ISBN: 978-2-493176-11-0

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