17 October 2014

World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty

Leave No One Behind

Think, Decide and Act Together Against Extreme Poverty
Letter to Friends

Every day, people around you will make you feel that you are worthless. They will tell you, you don’t belong with them. And the most painful of all, they will fear you and treat you like an enemy.

I know what a person living in discrimination feels like. For four years, I had to endure the contempt of people at school. It was not easy to come to school every day and be made to feel that you are not one of them, and the world they live in just because you are poor.

(Extract from Anna’s testimony, Philippines – 17/10/2013)

Dear Friends,

We are happy to bring to you another Letter to Friends Around the World - this one specially devoted to 17 October. It contains a poster and extracts from a selection of testimonies and messages posted on the website overcomingpoverty.org. This website provides a way for us to publicly share our commitments and our experiences.

The international theme for this year, chosen with the United Nations, is: "Leave No One Behind: Think, Decide and Act Together Against Extreme Poverty" "Leave No One Behind": means putting an end to discrimination based on social disadvantage, and ensuring that no one is forgotten in our efforts to build a more equitable world.

"Think, Decide and Act Together Against Extreme Poverty": means deciding to do what it takes to ensure that people living in extreme poverty become the primary partners in programmes to overcome poverty and promote development. Only by working together will we be able to ensure that no one is left out.

Tell us about your projects for this 17 October. Thank you for everything that you share with us, whether through the website, or by post or electronic mail.

The Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty Team

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 Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty

A mother from Tandale told us: "When I gave birth in hospital I asked for the announcement paper for my child. It is free but the nurse said I had to pay Tzs 5,000. I didn’t have the money, so I left the hospital. When I went back two weeks later, I was told the same. However, when I was there, I saw some people getting their announcement paper without paying. The hospital staff were asking people to pay depending on their appearance.”

(Extract from a testimony from Tanzania – 17/10/2013)

This year’s observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty comes as the international community is pursuing twin objectives: intensifying efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, and formulating the next set of goals to guide our efforts after we reach the MDG target date of 2015. This post-2015 agenda must have poverty eradication as its highest priority and sustainable development at its core.

We have received many Syrian refugees in our neighbourhood, where the population density is already very high. This is causing many problems, for them of course, and also for the neighbourhood. So, welcoming these Syrian families to our neighbourhood association was something that caused us to ask ourselves questions. Or the one hand, we feel we have a duty to be close to them since we have been through was they are experiencing, we have experienced the same anguish, bereavements, displacements, loss of homes, etc. On the other hand, this is a challenge, because we are tempted to think: “Good, now it’s their turn!” Each one of us is either able to feel, suffer and have compassion for these refugees, or not. But it is within this context that we are trying to determine what kind of relationship we should have with each other.

(Extract from a testimony from Beltouma’s neighbourhood association in Lebanon - 17/10/2013)