

17 OCTOBER 2014

World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty



[www.overcomingpoverty.org](http://www.overcomingpoverty.org)

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**Leave No One Behind**

*Think, Decide and Act Together Against Extreme Poverty*



Poverty is not just about money and benefits, although they are important. Poverty is also about poverty of spirit, poverty of ambition, and poverty of imagination. That is poverty using its widest definition. For they are all linked, and feed off each other and can lead an individual to despair.

The impact of constant scrimping and the stress it places on families is something we all need to consider especially in these difficult times called austerity.

In conclusion, I trust we all have the humility, compassion and wisdom to shape policy, to make a difference to people living in poverty.

(Extract from Bailey's testimony - Scotland - 17/10/2013)



# LETTER TO FRIENDS

## AROUND THE WORLD

### FORUM ON OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY



International Movement ATD Fourth World  
12, rue Pasteur - 95480 Pierrelaye - France

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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](http://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*

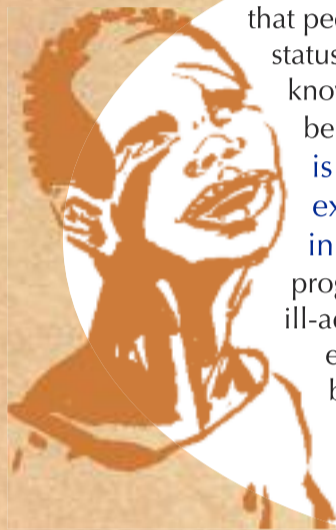
**WHEREVER MEN AND WOMEN ARE CONDEMNED TO LIVE  
IN EXTREME POVERTY, HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED.  
TO COME TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THESE RIGHTS BE RESPECTED  
IS OUR SOLEMN DUTY.**

*F. Joseph Wresinski*

If you would like to know more about 17 October, the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty, please click on the following link: <http://overcomingpoverty.org/rubrique/26>

It is arrogant and wrong to assume that people who lack material wealth, social status and political power also lack any knowledge or understanding of issues that could be useful to other people or to society. Therefore, it is important that we listen to the views and experiences of everyone, especially those living in extreme poverty, so that policies and programmes meant to eradicate poverty do not end up ill-adapted to the real needs, realities and expectations of the people they are supposed to be helping.

(Extract from the message of the International Committee for 17 October - 17/10/2013)



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)



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.

(Extract of the message from the Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon - 17/10/2013)

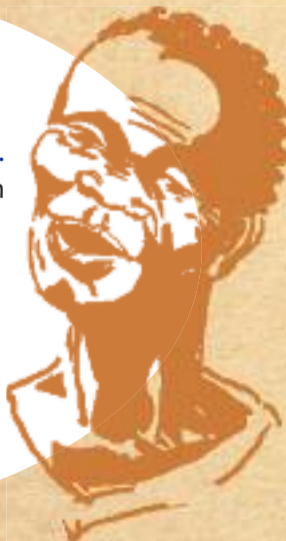
We have received many Syrian refugees in our neighbourhood, where the population density is already very high. This is causing many problems, for them of course, and also for the neighbourhood. So, welcoming these Syrian families to our neighbourhood association was something that caused us to ask ourselves questions. On the one hand, we feel we have a duty to be close to them since we have been through what 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 of a testimony from Beitouna's neighbourhood association in Lebanon - 17/10/2013)



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."

(Testimony from Tanzania - 17/10/2013)



The "Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty" is a network of committed people who want to develop friendship and exchange knowledge about what poor and very poor people teach us, i.e. people who suffer from multiple disadvantages in the areas of education, housing, employment, health and culture; those who are criticised and rejected the most. This forum invites people to join a worldwide movement to overcome extreme poverty, to rebuild communities with people living in extreme poverty, inspired by their lives. This movement expresses itself in the Letter to Friends Around the World, which publishes the texts written by its correspondents three times a year, in French, English, Spanish and Portuguese. The Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty is run by the International Movement ATD Fourth World, an international NGO whose headquarters are in Pierrelaye, France. Those who join the Forum do so in their own right, and do not have to become members of ATD Fourth World. Our e-mail address is: [overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org](mailto:overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org) Internet: [www.overcomingpoverty.org](http://www.overcomingpoverty.org) Subscription \$8/8€ per annum - Support subscription: \$10/10€ per annum. Illustrations from Helene Perdereau, a long time friend and supporter of the International Movement ATD Fourth World - © International Movement ATD Fourth World - Printed by ATD Fourth World - Méry-sur-Oise - No 87 - June 2014.

You too can share your comments, and experiences via the website:

[www.overcomingpoverty.org](http://www.overcomingpoverty.org) or by email: [overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org](mailto:overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org)

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