Together let’s build a world of respect for everyone’s human rights and dignity!

17 October
World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty

www.overcomingpoverty.org
overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org

2018 :
70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
On 17 October 1987, more than 100,000 people gathered on the Trocadero Plaza in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948.

On the Commemorative Stone in Honor of The Victims of Extreme Poverty, inaugurated that day, were engraved the words: 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. Joseph Wresinski.

Today, there are numerous replicas of this commemorative stone throughout the world. There is one in Mauritius and here is what a person living in poverty says about it: This stone is a part of me. Before it was here, we had it in our mind and our dreams. Now that it is here, it is in everyone’s memory.

At the heart of this event, the voice of those facing persistent poverty!

Because people don’t know us, we are too often seen as lazy people and cheats. Many among us are familiar with this reality; it begins sometimes from childhood on, at school. Last year, I went to see a doctor close to where I live. When I told him where I was living, he replied that this is where families with social problems live. I didn’t dare answer back. By this remark, I felt that I had been pushed to the bottom of society.

When people who respect us are standing by us, we are able to better fight for ourselves, to better fight alongside others, and to better fight for others.

Switzerland

Comments from human rights defenders concerning the theme

If we don’t go looking for those who are the most excluded, we will not be able to unite with them and get things to change. France

This theme starts with the most important thing: coming together with those furthest behind. In the context of Guatemala, telling oneself that people in poverty are agents of change is not something easy… Guatemala

There are thousands of sub-Saharan communities of migrants in Northern Africa. They continue to be victims of contempt, discrimination, exclusion, racism, and sometimes even of attacks. Algeria