INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

International Committee for October 17: Appointment of Tricia McConalogue

February 4, 2016, Pierrelaye, France — We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Tricia McConalogue to the International Committee for October 17. The Committee was established in 2008 to promote and support the observance of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty, observed on 17 October each year, which is recognised as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by the United Nations.

Donald Lee, President of the International Committee said “Tricia’s commitment to the spirit and objectives of October 17 is impressive. For the last 15 years, she has helped to organise the celebrations in Glasgow’s George Square to mark 17 October, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Her dedication and commitment to promoting social justice will strengthen the work of the Committee.”

Tricia McConalogue is the Director of Bridging-the-Gap, a charity in Scotland which seeks to build bridges for change in Glasgow. Bridging-the-Gap celebrate the good in their community, by providing the opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to discover their common ground, overcome racism, sectarianism, territorialism and isolation. Tricia is passionate about social justice and believes in an equal society where everyone is treated with dignity.

Tricia previously worked for many years with the Glasgow Braendam Link, an organisation that ensured that people living in poverty were respected and listened to. This is when she first became involved with ATD Fourth World, and has ever since been a long term friend and much valued supporter of their work. Tricia was a delegate at the 1994 ATD Fourth World Family Congress in the United States and read out a testimony at the first 17 October commemoration that was held at the United Nations.

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To know more

The International Committee for October 17 was established in 2008 with the following goals: to promote the 17 of October as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as recognised by the United Nations, uniting those who are striving together to end poverty; to promote the observance of the 17 of October in its original spirit; and, to promote opportunities where people from a variety of backgrounds, including those whose lives are most difficult, can work together in the fight against extreme poverty as a violation of Human Rights.

(http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/international-committee-for-october-17)

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was first celebrated as the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty at a major public rally held on the 17 of October 1987 in Paris, where one hundred thousand people from all backgrounds responded to a call from Father Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World, to gather at the Plaza of Liberties and Human Rights. On this day, a declaration was engraved on a Commemorative Stone proclaiming that extreme poverty is a violation of human rights and affirming the need for all people to unite to ensure that these rights are respected.

(http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/history-of-october-17)

In 1992, the United Nations proclaimed the 17th of October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Since then, governments, local authorities, members of civil society and the private sector have recognized the importance of this International Day, which has become a key rallying point for a growing number of citizens and organizations from all backgrounds, in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty.

(http://www.un-documents.net/a48r183.htm)