

International Committee for October 17



INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

International Committee for October 17: Death of Mrs. Simone Veil

July 4, 2017, Pierrelaye, France - The President and the members of the International Committee for October 17 express their sincere condolences to the family of Mrs. Simone Veil and wish to express her infinite recognition for her contribution to the work of the Committee, which she joined as a member from its inception in 2008 until 2011.

Ms. Veil's ties with the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty (October 17) are deeply rooted and date from the first celebration of the Day. Indeed, on 17 October 1987, Mrs. Veil unveiled, together with Father Joseph Wresinski and 100,000 defenders of human rights, the Stone in honor of the victims of extreme poverty, at the Trocadero Square in Paris, on which the following message is engraved: " 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 message of this slab - which today has 51 replicas around the world - is at the origin of the recognition by the United Nations of 17 October as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, celebrated in all Continents such as the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty.

It was an honor and a security for the Committee to benefit from the invaluable contribution and support of Mrs. Veil in promoting the celebrations of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and to guarantee its meaning and spirit so that they are more and more meeting spaces where people from different backgrounds can come together, respect their diversity, learn from one another and build peace.

It is with gratitude and respect that the members of the International Committee for October 17 unite with the tributes paid to this great figure of humanity.

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