



# You can become a member of ATD Fourth World – Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee

'ATD Fourth World-Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee' is the formal and legal basis of the life and work of ATD in Ireland. In 2016, the Board of Directors of ATD Ireland decided to start a process in order to increase the number of Company members. The Board would like the membership to represent the diversity of the supporters of ATD. There are currently eleven members (six founding members and five Directors in the Board), and it is the Board's hope to reach a membership of 30 by the end of 2018.

## Why this process ?

- To create a stronger connection between ATD and some of its long-term friends and volunteers.
- To strengthen ATD Ireland by gathering a diversity of members with differing knowledge and expertise.
- to strengthen the monitoring and support of the Board's work by involving the members in the discussions of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

## What does it mean to become a member ?

### Company Members' role and commitment

New potential members can be suggested to the Board by anyone. If the Board decides to invite a named person to become a member she/he will be contacted by a Director and will be asked if she/he wishes to join the Company.

***Company Members have the right to vote at the AGM of the Company and at any Extraordinary General Meetings.***

**A new member is asked to sign a registration form** on which she/he confirms that :

- she/he has a knowledge and understanding of the attached **3 guiding documents about the philosophy and ethics** of ATD Ireland and ATD International ;
- she/he **agrees to receive a newsletter from the Board twice a year, as well as an invitation to attend the AGM** with a voting right ;
- along with the invitation to the AGM, she/he **agrees to receive an annual request to re-affirm her/his interest in remaining a member.** If a member does not respond to this request, the Board will contact them to discuss their membership.

Members can resign at any time from their membership to the Company by notifying the Board of Directors.

# Final Declaration of the 2004 General Assembly

of the International Movement **All Together in Dignity** - ATD Fourth World

***"Our priority is to reach out to the poorest and most ignored people.***

***A long-term commitment is needed to ensure that no one is left behind."***

**All human beings**, regardless of their place in society, are equal in dignity, which must be respected, not violated by anyone for any reason. **Equal dignity** is the basis for fundamental rights, especially the right to freedom of expression, to live as a family, to housing, to health care, and to work.

**Those who live in extreme poverty are the first victims of the violation of human rights.** Keenly aware of the world's long history of human suffering and hope, **Joseph Wresinski**, born in poverty himself, founded the International Movement ATD Fourth World in 1957 with families from the homeless camp of Noisy-le-Grand (France) and others who joined them.

His belief that **"Every person is a chance for humanity"** is a source of inspiration for many people all over the world. Injustice, powerlessness, shame, humiliation, and exclusion as experienced by those living in poverty must not be tolerated.

The 17<sup>th</sup> October, **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**, initiated by ATD in 1987 and recognised by the United Nations since 1992, annually presents this on-going challenge set by Wresinski: *"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."*

**Our priority is to reach out to the poorest and most ignored people, be alongside them, and create links with them and between them.** Ensuring that those with the hardest life are at the heart of all projects and listening to the dreams and aspirations they have for themselves and their children, we can reach a mutual understanding. When the most excluded people can contribute their knowledge and experience to society as equals, extreme poverty will be overcome.

**ATD welcomes everyone.** It unites people, whatever their origin, social status, culture or beliefs, to fight against poverty. In building trust, solidarity and friendship, all have a place to realize their full and best potential. Working together and learning from each other, everyone is free to express themselves without being judged.

**ATD develops partnerships at all levels of society.** ATD was founded with the conviction that people have created the conditions for extreme poverty and social exclusion. Therefore, a long-term commitment is needed to ensure that no one is left behind.

**Embracing such a responsibility is a source of pride for everyone.** As long as the power of money is the primary value, the world will be menaced by poverty and violence. If humanity is our primary value, the world will be transformed and we can all enjoy peace.

# Charter of financial ethics of ATD International – adopted in 2011

## *"Our Ethics of lifestyle, of fundraising and of expenditure."*

In order to contribute to the advent of a society where everyone may be included, ATD Fourth World has drawn up a set of guiding principles which stem from its long-term commitment to the poorest populations. These principles include some which specifically direct its financial ethics:

- recognition of the pre-eminence of the dignity of every person and the equal dignity of all human beings;
- belief in the need for all people to be entitled or enabled to interact with others, to participate in and contribute to society, and to be considered as possessors of knowledge;
- rejection of a money-dominated society.

These principles led ATD Fourth World to develop its own ethics, especially with regard to the lifestyle of its members and to its funding and expenditure.

### **1 - Ethics of lifestyle**

Out of solidarity with the very poor populations that they join, the permanent Volunteers<sup>1</sup> have opted for a restrained lifestyle, whatever their missions and their responsibilities may be. This leads them to live with an equal stipend for the whole of them in a given country. This stipend includes provisions for the charge of a family.

Individuals with leadership roles in ATD Fourth World are either members of the ATD permanent volunteer corps or part time volunteers.

The activities of the Movement, wherever they may take place throughout the world, are funded by an international financial solidarity system established by ATD Fourth World.

### **2 - Ethics of fundraising**

The funding of ATD Fourth World activities relies on private donations, on public subsidies and on partnership activities contracted with bodies from the economic sphere, such as business companies or corporate foundations.

ATD Fourth World seeks to ensure that these supports are not merely financial contributions, but are based on a desire to end extreme poverty, as well as a commitment to learn more about, and to support, ATD's efforts to change society.

In accordance with its values, ATD Fourth World complies with a strict set of rules when it appeals to public generosity. These include the following.

- In order to fully respect people's dignity and prevent their exploitation, ATD does not sell, buy, rent or exchange any of its mailing lists.
- ATD avoids any fund-raising campaign whose underlying message would be at odds with its values or activities, and which could harm the dignity of the poorest and most excluded people. For example, it does not make use of any gloomy argumentation or illustration.
- When planning and undertaking fund-raising or communication campaigns, ATD manages budgets prudently, in order to keep them as low as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> The members of ATD permanent volunteer corps work for ATD Fourth World on a full-time basis. They adopt a simple lifestyle with equal stipend regardless of seniority or responsibilities. They commit themselves on a long-term basis, in solidarity with members of very deprived communities, learning from them, and sharing with them their know-how and experience.

Funding received from various bodies from the economic sphere, whether from public or private sources, is obtained through contracted partnerships. Prior to contracting a partnership with an organization, ATD Fourth World checks:

- the values of sponsorship of its potential partner;
- the nature of the mutually expected contributions;
- the values and ethics of conduct to which the potential partner adheres, especially those relating to all aspects of its sustainable development policy; ATD is always mindful of the absolute need to address the three elements of development, i.e. economic, social and environmental, so that it may be fair for all.

With regard to its financial management, ATD Fourth World primarily strives to:

- maintain reserves which are adequate to sustain its activities on a long-term basis. The French state-approved *ATD Fourth World Foundation* is in charge of most of these reserve funds; it ensures and guarantees their long-lasting availability for the purpose of overcoming extreme poverty;
- comply with all financial and accounting regulations related to associations and foundations;
- follow recommendations - especially in presenting its financial policy and concerning information to its donors – which might come from competent national institutions.

### **3 - Ethics of expenditure**

ATD Fourth World commits itself to ensuring that donations, legacies, subsidies and products from partnerships are used effectively in the fight against extreme poverty. All such resources are spent in accord with the will of donors or the agreed terms of contracted partnerships.

ATD Fourth World is committed at all times to display full transparency and full public accountability in how it fundraises and in how fundraised money is allocated.

The overall aims of ATD Fourth World's expenditure are to fund activities that enable commitment towards the eradication of extreme poverty and to support people who are devoted to such an ambition.

ATD Fourth World prioritises individual and family development, and emphasises the central importance of relationships between people. Therefore, it does not show any reluctance in spending whatever is needed to:

- carry out projects that enable people to have greater access, and to contribute, to knowledge, culture and art;
- enable people – both those who suffer from extreme poverty and those who are engaged in overcoming it - to express themselves, to get to know one another, and to deliberate together, so that those currently in extreme poverty may exercise their responsibilities and rights as citizen;
- support people who, in living beside the very poor in poverty-stricken neighbourhoods, promote learning from one another.

# Who we are together

This is a text prepared collectively during ATD Ireland's 2015 Planning Process

## Our Story To Date...

For the past 15 years, some of us from Dublin have been meeting, volunteering and joining meetings of the International Movement **All Together in Dignity (ATD) Fourth World**. For some of us the life and legacy of Joseph Wresinski, the founder of ATD, is also a strong reference. In 2008, the **17 October Human Rights and Poverty Stone** marking the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty was unveiled in Dublin, with the support of many friends and community groups. In 2009, the Irish Charity ATD Ireland was established. Today, in 2015, we do not all have the same history of volunteering with ATD. Some of us are just getting to know ATD and its projects. But together, we feel proud of each person's commitment.

Today, we come together and feel connected because there are issues that are important for us:

1. We find it important to have relationships based on the dignity, respect, equality and the hopes of each individual.
2. We want to remove barriers and make connections with the most isolated individuals and families, leaving no one behind.
3. Within ATD Ireland, we try to give an opportunity to everyone, of all backgrounds, to contribute personally and to have their voice heard. Looking out for each other, giving a voice to the voiceless are our ways to make possible genuine conversations about persistent poverty. By doing so we create a community where we find courage for our daily life as well as courage to stand up and speak. This creates our solidarity and builds up our confidence to use our rights as human beings.
4. Each year on 17<sup>th</sup> October we meet with other groups on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty at the Human Rights and Poverty Stone in Dublin. This is our way to raise awareness of our strength as citizens, to come together and create change: people facing poverty need to be recognised and that their courage and experience valued in our communities and in our society.
5. With ATD Ireland, we feel we can become better bridge builders – we share a willingness to engage with decision makers and connect them with those who have been struggling all their lives - listening and searching together for solutions.
6. We value the choice that ATD Ireland is independent, non-judgemental, non-religious and not party political. We are prepared to be critical about the structures and the human relationships that cause the persistence and the shame of poverty.
7. We appreciate that we are part of the International Movement ATD Fourth World<sup>2</sup> which works at European and International level. We value this global dimension which we also contribute to, in order to make change for us all and for our planet.
8. We believe we can and indeed must be part of the worldwide movement towards the ending of poverty and a life in dignity for all.

<sup>2</sup> International Common Ambitions 2013-2017 of All Together in Dignity can be found at [www.atdireland.ie/wp/about/](http://www.atdireland.ie/wp/about/)