



All Together in Dignity

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 17th 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 World¹ 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.

¹ International Common Ambitions 2013-2017 of All Together in Dignity can be found at www.atdireland.ie/wp/about/