



The International Committee for October 17 and Irish Community Groups Gather in Dublin to Promote the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Venue: Sheriff Youth Club, 1 Commons Street, North Wall, Dublin 1
Date: Wednesday, 14th May 2014. Time: 10.30am

at the occasion of the 5th Biennial Meeting
of the International Committee for October 17

Press Information Kit



We have the cause.
You have the effect.

May 12th - 18th 2014

**5th Biennial Meeting
of the International Committee for October 17
Dublin - 12th to 16th May 2014**

Press information kit

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Issuing organization: Irish 17 October Committee

International Gathering on Extreme Poverty to be Held in Dublin

The International Committee for October 17 and Irish Community Groups Gather in Dublin to Promote International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Venue: Sheriff Youth Club, 1 Commons Street, North Wall, Dublin 1

Date: Wednesday, 14th May 2014. Time: 10.30am

Members of the International Committee for October 17 and Irish community groups will be meeting in Dublin for the first time on 14th May.

The Committee oversees the annual UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and the meeting in Dublin is recognition of Ireland's past and on-going commitment to the fight against poverty.

"This meeting is going to be a great opportunity to share the progress made in Ireland towards addressing poverty as a human rights issue and to highlight the challenges that we have to face in the coming years", said Donald Lee, Chairperson of the International Committee, former Head of UN Division for Social Policy and Development. *"It is going to be a unique occasion to reaffirm our commitment and to discuss new ways to collaborate."*

The Committee and its plan of action were established in 2008 after a United Nations' report on the observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The composition of the International Committee includes people with first-hand experience of poverty.

"They chose Dublin for this event because in many ways Ireland has exhibited strong commitment to the central message of the UN Day", a long term activist on social issues in Dublin City, Sean Dunne explained. *"For example, for many years the Department for Social Protection has supported the promotion of UN Day through grants to organisations and community groups and that is something remarkable."*

Local organisations will also participate in the gathering to highlight the difficulties and achievements of people whose daily lives are affected by poverty and social exclusion.

The event will take place at the Sheriff Youth Club in Dublin north inner city,

and will also include a commemorative activity at the 17 October Human Rights and Poverty Stone in Custom House Quay, Dublin 1.

ENDS

For further information, contact: Martin Byrne (087 218 18 38) or Pierre Klein (089 440 15 23)

In 1992, the United Nations recognised the 17 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 from all backgrounds and organizations, in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty.

2. Details on the 14th May event in Sheriff Youth Club

Venue: Sheriff Youth Club, 1 Commons Street, North Wall, Dublin 1

Date: Wednesday, 14th May 2014. Time: from 10.30am to 1.30pm

a - Programme of the meeting

(attendance: around 100 people - 6 to 8 local community groups)

10.30 - 11.00 - Coffee-Tea - **time for interviews with media**

11.00 - 11.10 - Welcome - **Chair:** Sean Dunne, North West Inner City Training and Development Project

11.10 - 11.30 - International Committee members discuss with local groups

11.30 - 11.45 - 2 local groups present their contribution to 17 October observance

11.45 - 11.55 - Response of 2 International Committee members

11.55 - 12.10 - 2 local groups present their contribution to 17 October observance

12.10 -12.20 - Response of 2 International Committee members
and conclusive remarks

12.20 - 12.50 - Group picture - buffet - **time for interviews with media**

12.50 - 13.10 - Walk to the 17 October Poverty and Human Rights Stone
(close to the Famine Memorial)

13.10 - 13.30 - Gathering at the 17 October Stone - Symbolical gesture/picture -
time for interviews with media

b - Public can **support the event** and join to the conversation, following the hashtag #EndPoverty on Twitter and posting the following message on social accounts:

Alone you go faster, together we go further.

On October 17th, let's join the fight to #EndPoverty! @icoct17 #NVW14

c. The event at Sheriff Youth Club is included in the general programme of the **Irish National Volunteering Week 2014** (<http://www.volunteer.ie/events/national-volunteering-week/>).

The 14th May gathering will be a opportunity to recruit volunteers to help prepare the next 17 October events in Ireland.

d. For further information: **Visit** www.17october.ie - www.overcomingpoverty.org
Like [Facebook.com/overcomingpoverty](https://www.facebook.com/overcomingpoverty)
Follow @icoct17

3. What is the International Committee?

In 2008, the International Committee for October 17 was established with the following goals:

- To promote the 17 October 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 October in its original spirit.
- 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.

From the 12th to 16th May 2014, this International Committee will gather in Dublin for its biennial working meeting.

4. Who are the members of the Committee?



The composition of the International Committee for October 17 is quite unique, with members coming from different backgrounds, including people with first-hand experience of extreme poverty.

Donald LEE (Australia)

Chair of the International Committee for 17 October since May 2012, he is an economist and a former Head of the United Nations' Social Perspective on Development Branch.

Gemma ADABA (Trinidad and Tobago)

As a demographer, Ms Adaba worked for years as Representative to the United Nations for the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). She is now an International Consultant on Global Labour, Gender, Migration & Development.

Djamila D. BOUGUessa (France)

ATD Fourth World Activist who was responsible for many years for the organisation of 17 October events in her area.

Boutros BOUTROS GHALI (Egypt)

Under his mandate as 6th Secretary-General of the United Nations, the UN General Assembly recognized 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Antoine CORGIER (France)

Retired from his work in industrial companies, he now volunteers in his community. He says: "17 October is the day when the invisible becomes visible, where the people who are usually silent can speak in front of people who are ready to listen to them. We must aim at making everyday a synonym of 17 October when the poorest are visible and listened to".

Jean Marc DE LA SABLIERE (France)

Former Ambassador of France in many countries including Egypt, Italy and the French Representative to the United Nations, he is internationally recognized as a peacemaker having been involved in many conflict resolution situations.

Nina LIM YUSON (Philippines)

President and CEO of the Museo Pambata (Children's Museum) in Manila and the President of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

Maître Titinga PACERE (Burkina Faso)

Lawyer, writer and poet, he has worked for many years with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania.

Jacques PETIDOR (Haïti)

He works as an educator for the Ministry of Education in his country.

Isabelle PYPART-PERRIN (Belgium)

She represents the ATD International Leadership Team in the Committee. A full-time volunteer of ATD Fourth World, she has worked in countries including Haïti, Guatemala, France, Mauritius and Switzerland. She has been Director General of the International Movement ATD Fourth World since 2012.

H.E. Mr José RAMOS HORTA (East Timor)

Previous President of his country, East Timor, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996. Since January 2013, he has acted as the UN Special Envoy to for the mediation of conflict situations in Guinea-Bissau.

Huguette REDEGELD (France)

One of the first full time volunteers of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, she worked closely with Joseph Wresinski, the initiator of the 17 October United Nations Day. She has contributed to building a representation of people living in poverty to the United Nations.

Jean STALLINGS (USA)

Long-time activist of ATD Fourth World in the United States, she is involved in human rights and anti-poverty advocacy work at national and international levels.

Professor Yozo YOKOTA (Japan)

Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Chuo University, Tokyo, he has acted as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar. From 2000 to 2006, he was a member of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

5. Who Will Attend the Biennial Meeting in Dublin?

Unfortunately, not all members of the International Committee can attend the meeting in Dublin in May. Committee members and special guests will be around 20 people in total.

Members of the International Committee in attendance will be:

Donald Lee, Nina Lim Yuson, Maître Titinga Pacere, Diana Skelton and Jacqueline Plaisir (*in name of Isabelle Pypaert-Perrin and representing the ATD International Leadership Team*), Huguette Redegeld and Jean Stallins.

Some members will be involved in meeting through skype video-conferences, namely:

Gemma Adaba, Djamila Bougessa, Antoine Cordier and Jacques Petidor

The International Committee invited French, UK and Irish friends of the UN Day to attend its fifth biennial debates and working sessions, as follows:

Seamus Neville (Irish man living in London)

Facing the hardship of poverty in his own life, he is involved in diverse ATD projects nationally and internationally such as: Our Social Worker Training programme, Giving Poverty A Voice. He also supports families struggling with poverty to stay together and participates in the preparation of events for 17 October every year.

Dann Kenningham (England)

ATD Full-time volunteer, he is currently part of the National Coordination team for ATD UK. He is responsible for the Policy, Participation and Training team, as well as the coordination for the London-based 17 October events and committee.

Bernadette Mac Mahon D.C. Ph D. (Ireland) - Director of the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice (VPSJ) , a community and voluntary organisation working for social and economic change - tackling poverty and exclusion. VPSJ facilitates an Active Citizenship/Voter Education Programme (non-party political) with communities in disadvantaged areas. It also undertakes research to provide facts and figures on the cost of a minimum essential standard of living.

Sean Dunne (Ireland) - Co-ordinator of a community drug rehabilitation project in the north west inner city, former outreach worker for the HSE Aids/Drugs service in the south west inner city and long time activist on social issues in Dublin city, Waterford and Derry. One of the founders of The Dublin Housing action Committee in the late sixties.

Martin Byrne (Ireland) - Involved in community education in Dublin's inner city, he lives as a Christian Brother in Cherry Orchard, Ballyfermot, Dublin. Annually, he publishes a book of stories by people living in the North Wall area in Dublin. The title of the 2014 issue is: It Takes a Village - Inner City Parables Unpacking a Backpack of Spiritual Capital.

Mark Hogan (Ireland) - Director of the Daughters of Charity Community Services, providing community education programmes in inner city Dublin; social anthropologist with 17 years experience in Africa with the overseas development NGO, Concern Worldwide. Active supporter and Chairperson of the Board of ATD Fourth World-Ireland.

Hugues de Courtivron (France)- Active supporter of ATD France since 17 October 2002. Retired brigadier general from the French Army, he was involved in peacekeeping operations and institution building in Balkans. He lives in Brittany where he coordinates a preparation group of the regional ATD People's University. He is member of the secretariat of the International Committee for October 17.

6. Why This Biennial Meeting?

The previous meeting of the International Committee was held in New York from 2 to 4 May 2012. Donald Lee was elected Chairperson of the International Committee. He announced that the Committee would promote a development strategy based on:

- developing exchanges of information and, in particular, strengthening ties with local and national 17 October Committees, as well as with the United Nations;
- holding discussions with the United Nations in order to facilitate the process of choosing the official annual theme of the UN Day and to ensure that it can be understood by everyone, starting with those people living in poverty.
- creating a group of “Friends of the International Day”, linked to the International Committee.
- Disseminating documents promoting the International Day and its spirit, and improving the website overcomingpoverty.org

The meeting in Dublin in May 2014 is an opportunity to recognize Ireland’s commitment to the UN Day.

- For a number of years, the Irish Government Department of Social Protection has supported the promotion of the UN Day through grants to organisation and community groups.
- In 2008, public officials and citizens from all walks of life inaugurated a 17 October Commemorative Stone close to the Famine Memorial, Custom House Quay. Dublin is one of the 50 cities around the world (inc. New York, Paris, Brussels, Glasgow, Berlin, Manila, Mexico City, Rome, Lisbon and others) where the UN Day message is engraved in stone: *“Wherever men and women are condemned to live in poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights are respected is our solemn duty.”* Joseph Wresinski, 17 October 1987
- An Irish National Committee is responsible for planning and staging the 17 October Commemoration in Dublin annually.

This meeting of the International Committee in Dublin will include discussions on:

- Taking stock of the work undertaken since the last meeting (committee members report on their activities and actions in support of 17 October; including news from National Committees);
- Identifying a strategy to improve public recognition of the 17 October UN Day and of the role of the International Committee;
- Future official annual themes of the International Day (2015 and beyond);
- Responsibilities of the International Committee in relation to the 50 Commemorative Stones around the world;
- Role of committee members and the Presidency (mandate, term, and possible new members);

7. Programme of the Biennial Meeting

Monday 12th May

5.00pm - Introductory session of the International and Irish 17 October Committees followed by a meeting (7.30pm) with Irish friends of the 17 October (among them: former Masters of Ceremonies of the Commemoration in Dublin).
Venue: Manresa, Jesuit Centre of Spirituality.

Tuesday, 13th May

Working meetings of the International Committee.
Venue: Manresa, Jesuit Centre of Spirituality.

6.00pm - Minister of Social Protection, Joan Burton TD, welcomes the International 17 October Committee and representative members of the Irish Committee.
Venue: The Dail, Leinster House.

Wednesday, 14th May

10.30am - International Committee meets Dublin Friends of 17 October in Sheriff Youth Club and together later gather around the 17 October Commemorative Stone.
Venue: Sheriff Youth Club and the Famine Memorial on Custom House Quay.

2.30pm - Closing session of Biennial International Committee .
Venue: Manresa, Jesuit Centre of Spirituality.

Friday, 16th May

Certain members of the International Committee will be guest speakers at the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Designate and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission conference **A Human Rights Approach to Tackling Poverty and Social Inequality - An All Island Perspective**.
Venue: Canal Court Hotel, Newry, Northern Ireland - 9.30am to 4pm

8. Background to UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was first marked at a major public rally held on 17 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.

In 1992, the United Nations recognised the 17 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 from all backgrounds and organizations, in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty.

In 2006, the General Assembly welcomed the UN Secretary-General's Report on the Observance of the International Day. The report identifies lessons learned and ways to promote the mobilization of all stakeholders in the fight against poverty. The report emphasizes the importance of a human rights-based approach and the true participation of people living in extreme poverty.

In September 2012, the UN Human Rights Council adopted Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty, which provided for the first time global policy guidelines focusing specifically on the human rights of people living in poverty.

The Department of Social Protection has a limited amount of funding to support anti-poverty groups to organise local, regional or national activities to promote awareness of the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The total amount of funding available is €35,000. Approximately 12 - 15 projects across the country will be funded. Deadline for applications: 12.00pm, Wednesday 28th May 2014. Details available at www.socialinclusion.ie/UNDAY2014.html

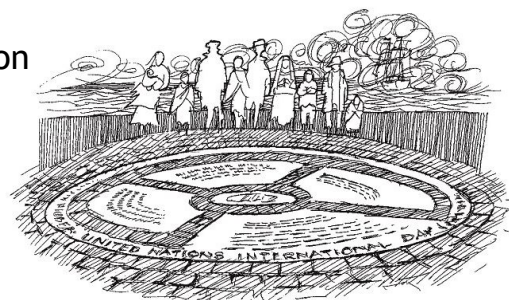
For more information on 17 October in the world see:
www.overcomingpoverty.org

Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights:
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/OHCHR_ExtremePovertyandHumanRights_EN.pdf

9. The Irish 17 October Committee

This meeting is organised by the secretariat of the International Committee and also the Irish 17 October Committee which is made up of activists and groups in local communities, teachers, home school liaison officers and members of organisations which include:

- All Together in Dignity - ATD Fourth World Ireland
- Coláiste Eoin
- Daughters of Charity Community Services
- Dochas
- European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland
- Focus Ireland
- Inner City Renewal Group
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
- Irish Refugee Council
- Larkin Community College
- Life Centre, Ballyfermot
- Matt Talbot Community Trust
- Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
- Neighbourhood Youth Project 2 - NYP2
- North West Inner City Training and Development Project
- O'Connell School
- Pavee Point
- Saint Laurence O'Toole's Junior Boys School
- Saol Project
- Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice



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www.17october.ie

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France



Department of Social Protection



Irish National Committee for 17 October



Irish Province of the Jesuit



Manresa Centre of Spirituality