



# The Roles We Play, Here and There

Making a commitment  
to implement the Global Goals



# 2015, the European Year for Development

By Michael D. Higgins – Irish Launch of EYD2015 (extracts) – Dublin Castle, 22nd January 2015

2015 is a seminal year for the future of human development, as the nations of the world have engaged in **two processes of negotiations of immense, and interrelated, importance**: one on the UN's post-2015 development agenda; and the other on climate change.

These connections between climate change and human rights have been emphasised by, among others, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the post-2015 development goals. Referring to the hellish violence that is devastating the lives of the people in her region of origin in Nigeria, Ms Mohammed explained how she saw a link between the destruction of agriculture, the resulting unemployment and young people's disenfranchisement and resort to violent action.

I am delighted to say that **Ireland is well-positioned to make a constructive contribution** to these critical negotiations underway on the future of international development. My view is that we must start by **revising our traditional definitions of development**, with their undertones of enduring divisions between the North and the South.

The new post-2015 goals are not about some of the world's nations only; they are about the crucial task of **building new forms of living together, here and there**.



On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 world leaders pledged to do 2 extraordinary things: **To End Extreme Poverty, Fight Inequalities and Injustice** and **Fix Climate Change**. They agreed 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development – to positively impact all people, in all countries of the world. The goals will come into effect from **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. The more people know about the Global Goals, the more successful they will be. If we all fight for them, our leaders will make them happen. That’s why we need to help each other share these goals – in conversation, at home, at work or at school – **whatever it takes to #TellEveryone and #LightTheWay!** [www.globalgoals.org](http://www.globalgoals.org)

# The Roles We Play

During several weeks, All Together in Dignity and partners including the SAOL project, NICTDP, European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland, the National Youth Council of Ireland, Trinity Global Development Society, Irish Development Education Association, Pathways to Paris, EYD team of Concord promoted the Global Goals in Dublin and on social media.



We invited people with different backgrounds to tell the roles they are playing or they want to play to achieve one of these 17 Goals.

We particularly tried to listen to people facing poverty here in Dublin because they are those who struggle the most against issues such as unhealthy environment, stress, insecurity and unemployment and have knowledge of the reality that many other citizens don't have.



This booklet gathers contributions of many different people. We chose to arrange these testimonies and suggestions according to the topic of the goal people selected.

In that way we broach **all aspects of sustainable development**, “a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. (*World Commission on Environment and Development's report Our Common Future, 1897*)

**Now relax, be inspired by all these contributions and in 2016 tell us what role YOU will play to reach the 17 Goals by 2030!**

*UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Dublin, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015*



# Ending Poverty in all its forms everywhere

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Everyone has the right to a home, to be secure and to have enough money to get by.

No one should be left to struggle so give a helping hand, like with the elderly and disabled people.

Treat each other with respect.

*Jimmy*

Everyone should be equal like as we come into this world, and treated all the same.

As an Irish person I don't know what it's like to live in other countries, but I wish I did and I'm lucky to live the life I have at the moment.

I don't discriminate against others.

**I try and encourage others to take the chances they get.** They will regret it otherwise later on.

*Danny*

Poverty is the worst form of violence.

*Mahatma Gandhi*



*Noel*



We are equal and should be treated the same.  
No one should be homeless.

Poverty is a horrible thing and the  
Government has left us like this.

**I feel it's important I have to help others but  
what it can boil down to is if everyone helps  
each other, I don't think there would be  
poverty.**

If I was not there to welcome my daughter  
and granddaughter would they be on the  
street?

The Republic guarantees [...] equal rights  
and equal opportunities to all its citizens  
and declares it resolves to pursue the  
happiness and prosperity of the whole  
nation and of all its parts, cherishing all of  
the children of the nation equally.

*Proclamation of Independence, 1916*

## Goal 1: No Poverty

Knock into neighbour,  
Help homeless.  
Daughter does home help.  
Being friends.

*Biddy*

*"Live simply so that others can simply live"*



We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality in a healthy environment.

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The number one barrier to progress is ignorance.

Education is the key to everything.

I try to encourage people to empower themselves to achieve their own personal goals. Anything is possible for anybody, regardless of age, religion, colour and class. *Noleen*

There is not enough teachers out there to help people back to school to catch up with their reading and writing. There should be more local classes at night. I would need to get 3 buses to the nearest one and I'd like to go 3 nights a week.

Education takes you a long way, getting a good job, helping to fill in forms myself. It can give you confidence going back to school, meet other people, male friends. *Jerry*

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

*Nelson Mandela*

# People

It's important to stay in good health and try to give up the cigarettes. Make sure the family stays in good health. Having a medical card helps because I can't pay for the medications. I pay a contribution 25 euros each month for all my medications worth over 250 euros. There are too many dying, too young, from bad health. Half are dying from taking drugs. They cry out for help, and they're not getting the help they need.

*Marie*



There is enough food in the world to feed everyone. So why there are children still going hungry on a daily basis? What can we do to fix this problem?

*Mark*



↑ If you are male or female should not matter, the fact you are human being is what I think should be seen first.

*Anthony*

Speak up! If something is sexist, don't accept it. Speak up and fight for gender equality!

*A young girl at the YOUth Summit*

We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

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# Prosperity

Development, the possibility of flourishing in one's community and culture, and access to the means to do so, is not simply a gift to be meted out by a gracious benefactor; it is both a right and a moral obligation.

*Michael D. Higgins, Launch of the European Year for Development*



To adopt living wage rather than minimum wage.  
#NationalLivingWage

Teach Business students that they must help to achieve reduced income inequality.

Climate change is damaging the industries which the developing world heavily depends on such as farming, fishing, etc.

Fighting social injustice starts at home in the community. Nothing can be fixed, poverty, clean resources, etc. if we don't grab it by the root. Let's fight the problems at their source.



Education should be for everyone, not just for those who can afford it!





We are determined to foster **peaceful, just and inclusive societies, which are free from fear and violence**. As people facing difficulties here in Dublin especially emphasized it, there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

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Peace for the world.

**I want peace for my family and the world.**

I want justice for people in care of the house and homeless.

*Daniel*

**Peace of mind is hard to find** when you have no money and can't pay bills. It's hard to believe in Justice when people are dying from hunger.

*Anita*

Everybody deserves to have a voice because the forgotten people have none, that's why I will use mine hoping that they will get a chance to use theirs too.

*Anne-Marie*



Make peace and justice is very important.

*Mark*

I think an important role we could all play is **reporting crimes that we see being done openly**. A lot of people see things and choose to ignore it which leads to a lot of injustices.

*Gillian*



# Peace

When there is peace everyone can learn to live with each other.

No violence, no fighting.

It doesn't matter what colour you are, or what race you are. Everyone bleeds the same, everyone hurts the same.

Try to help people not hate each other, **don't judge** and try to understand their situation.

*Teresa*



An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind, open them up and take a stand.

Justice will only exist where those who are not affected by injustice are filled with the **same amount of indignation** as those offended.

*Plato, Greek philosopher*

There is not enough peace in this world because world leaders are not sitting around the tables enough, not being diplomate enough to sort out what's going on in their country and world.

When corruption stops – not in my life time- I hope others I leave behind will carry on with a smarter flag.

*Noel*

We are determined to protect the planet from all forms of degradation and to take urgent action on climate change so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

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70% - 80% of us are made up of water.

We need water to grow and cook our food, to survive. Not to take it for granted.

I don't use a lot of water and spare it because there is a lot of waste from burst pipes and so forth. *Brendan*



I make recycled arts with young people.

I do my own compost.

I buy what I can in the local market according to the season.

I eat meat once a week.

# Planet



I try not to overconsume.

The Earth is a finite resource.

I don't use plastic bags.

Turning off plugs and light switches when not in use.

Using more energy efficient solutions e.g. efficient light bulbs.

Using solar panels.

Raising awareness in my school & setting up UNICEF Groups.

No point in building and rebuilding infrastructure if floods, storms and rising water levels caused by climate change destroy it every few years.

On 28th November, one day before the People's Climate March and two days before the opening of the Paris Climate Summit, members of ATD gathered to write their **Climate Action Declaration**. We met to share our knowledges and experiences on climate change and to say what we like on planet Earth and what we are ready to do to stop climate change.

**We think about our children and we want to ensure them a future on a healthy planet.** We also particularly want to support the struggles of vulnerable people and communities who are faced the most.

*Read our full declaration at [atdireland.ie/wp/cop21/](http://atdireland.ie/wp/cop21/)*

**On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015, world leaders achieved an historical agreement to tackle together climate change.**

"The Paris Agreement provides the opportunity to transform our way of life to one that is fairer and more sustainable. It builds on our growing understanding of climate change as a **social, economic and environmental issue**, and it recognises the **need to respect and promote human rights**, the rights of indigenous peoples, gender equality, women's empowerment and intergenerational equity to achieve a just transition."

*Mary Robinson*

**“The Paris climate agreement is not the end but the beginning of the road.”**



*ATD members walking along with citizens from all backgrounds to stop climate change*

**“It is a responsibility that rests on all our shoulders.”**

*Kofi Annan, Former United Nations Secretary-General*

# Participation and Partnership

Participation and partnership were core values during 2015, for the Sustainable Development in September, for the Climate Action agreement in December and for the European Year for Development.

We all have a role to play to end poverty, fight inequalities and injustice and fix climate change. But we cannot act alone. We need to work together with family, friends, colleagues, and neighbours. We politicians, businesses and civil society need to unite our strengths.

Last but not least we must listen to those who are struggling for a fairer world the most and empower them.

**Leave  
no one  
behind**





## Acknowledgments

All Together in Dignity Ireland, in association with the Irish 17 October Committee, would like to thank all partners who contributed to the project "The Roles We Play". We particularly thank people and organisations who accepted to host or even to lead the workshop with us. It allowed to have a wider impact and to involve more citizens for the implementation of the Global Goals.

Finally we would like to thank all citizens who committed themselves for the Global Goals. Your enthusiasm and dynamism have always been a driving force during this 2-month campaign.

More information on [www.globalgoals.org](http://www.globalgoals.org)

Find material of the campaign on

[www.17october.ie](http://www.17october.ie)

# Legacy of the European Year for Development 2015

*Joint declaration of the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission (extracts)*

**2015 has been a crucial year for the future of sustainable development**, with the European Union playing a fundamental role in this process. The EYD 2015, addressing European citizens with a special focus on young people, has been innovative and successful in informing them about development and its results, raising awareness about the key challenges and global responsibilities in our changing world, and fostering direct involvement, critical thinking and active interest of citizens and stakeholders in development cooperation.





At this crucial juncture, the EU and its Member States are embarking on the implementation of the new and ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are determined to make the most of the lessons learnt from the EYD 2015 as well as to continue to expand development education and awareness-raising in support of sustainable development.



**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is of unprecedented scope and significance.** Its goals and targets are universal and involve the entire world recognising that all countries have common challenges and opportunities and a shared future. Its implementation crucially depends on all citizens being fully informed, aware of its various dimensions and actively engaged. Moreover, the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends on a global partnership with stakeholders including beyond the development community.



# All Together in Dignity – ATD Fourth World

*Friends, I leave each of you with this question: Am I really working for a Europe to which everyone can belong? **Will whatever I do, whatever I say, whatever I suggest lead to a Europe where the poorest are at last set free? Will it bring about a Europe of Human Rights?***

Joseph Wresinski, Founder of ATD, June 1987

Based in 34 countries all around the world and in Ireland since 1999, All Together in Dignity is **a human-rights based organisation working in partnership with people facing poverty issues.** ATD remains focused on constantly reaching out to the most vulnerable families, those who have a long history of poverty and educational disadvantage even in the so-called developed countries. For the past 15 years, ATD in Ireland has been close to family members facing persistent poverty and struggling daily to live in dignity. [www.atdireland.ie](http://www.atdireland.ie)

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October every year, UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty, we come together in friendship and solidarity, renewing our determination to work **for a world where everyone's human rights and human dignity are respected.** [www.17october.ie](http://www.17october.ie)

#TellEveryone

IT'S ONLY



ACHIEVABLE

IF WE

WORK TOGETHER

#RolesWePlay

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

