



All Together in Dignity Ireland

1999-2019: 20 years of hope against poverty

Some key dates for ATD in Ireland – 1999 to 2019

Summer 1999 – Two members of the ATD International Volunteer Corps came to Ireland. Their ambition: to learn how people, communities and the country work to overcome poverty and to defend human rights.

17 October 2000 – Observance of the UN End Poverty Day - gathering at the Famine Statues on Custom House Quay with the Acorn Empowerment Group in Ballymun, the Irish Traveller Movement and members of projects in the North Inner City.

17 October 2001 – Michael D Higgins TD, attends the second End Poverty Day gathering at the Famine Statues. Annual gatherings are held at the Famine Statues until 2008.

2001-2005 – Establishment of the Committee for the UN End Poverty Day (see www.17october.ie) – Friends of ATD in Ireland start to join European meetings in Brussels, France & Poland. In **2003** and **2005**, Dublin hosts European meetings involving Irish groups & key stakeholders such as Proinsias de Rossa, MEP.

2004-2008 – **Cross-Community Meeting Programme**, offering an opportunity every month for people facing extreme poverty to share their experiences and efforts to overcome it. This programme is co-funded by the Combat Poverty Agency. A final report is published in 2009.

2005 – The Combat Poverty Agency begins funding initiatives to mark the UN End Poverty Day around Ireland. To support this initiative, the Irish 17 October Committee produces a **public information kit**.

April 2006 – In the presence of Lord Mayor Cllr. Vincent Jackson and with the support of Peter McVerry, the book **Stories of Courage and Solidarity** is launched in the Mansion House.

May 2006 – Delegation from Ireland including a representative from the Combat Poverty Agency take part in international evaluation seminar of the UN Day in Montreal, Canada.

2006-2008 - The members of the 17 October Committee along with friends of ATD gain support from Dublin City Council & the Dublin Docklands Development Authority for the creation of a **Human Rights and Poverty Stone, unveiled on 17 October 2008**, near the Famine Statues.

2007-2008 - The ATD **Outreach Metal Workshops** reaches 14 community groups in deprived areas of Dublin. The sculptures created during the project are presented on Custom House Quay on 17/10/2008.

April 2008 – In Dáil Éireann, an ATD delegation including people experiencing poverty present the hardships of Irish families in poverty to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social & Family Affairs.

2008-2009 – Groups of children from various projects in Dublin join the ATD **Tapori** campaign, preparing messages from children for the **20th anniversary of the Children Rights Convention**. (About Tapori:<http://en.tapori.org>)

28 September 2009 – **All Together in Dignity – ATD Fourth World Ireland** is registered as an Irish Company with the CRO and as a Charity with the Irish Charities Regulator and the Revenue.

2008 - 2010 – Following the regular mobilisation of the Irish 17 October Committee with the Combat Poverty Agency, the Social Inclusion Division of the DSP takes on the responsibility of managing an **End Poverty Day awareness initiative** to promote the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Every year, support continues to be offered for the organisation of projects to mark this UN Day.

2008 - 2010 – ATD Ireland is regularly invited to contribute to the **RTE Radio programme 'A Living Word'**.

2009 – 2012 – With the support of ATD Ireland, the 17 October Committee creates a **tradition of holding a national gathering on the 17th of October at the new Human Rights and Poverty Stone**, (involving key stakeholders that include Peter McVerry, John Lonergan, Emily Logan ...)

2011-2012 – Following her visit in Ireland, **Magdalena Sepulveda, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty & Human Rights** finalises the draft of the Guiding Principles which are adopted by the UN in 2012. This adoption is the result of 25 years of continuous work and dialogue of ATD International at the United Nations.

2013-2014 – Preparation of the biennial meeting of the **International Committee for October 17 which takes place in Dublin in May 2014** with the support of the Department of Social Protection & Minister Joan Burton. **Belinda Nugent**, a community activist from the North Inner City is appointed as the first Irish representative of the International Committee.

February 2014 – ATD Ireland and the other members of the **Irish Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Initiative** welcome the success of their advocacy work: with great support, the **Constitutional Convention** recommends to Government to strengthen the protection of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Irish Constitution.

17 October 2014 – For the first time, the Irish 17 October Committee compiles & publishes a **national programme** presenting all the events in Ireland connected to the observance of the End Poverty Day. Since 2014, this programme has been put together and spread widely every year.

2015 to 2017 – ATD Ireland joins Dóchas and the "Beyond 2015" working group. From August 2015 to March 2017, ATD alongside other organisations takes a **leading role in the creation of Coalition 2030 & in the promotion of Agenda 2030**, the 17 Global Goals & the Leave No One Behind Promise in Irish Society (from key stakeholders to the engagement of the general public).

Summer 2015 – Members of ATD Ireland adopt the identity & values text: **"Who We Are Together"**.

January 2016 – For the first time, Irish people join the **discovery programme of the ATD International Volunteer Corps** as well as the ATD Dublin Team on a full time basis. Between 2016 & 2019, 9 people joined this programme and contributed to the life of ATD for 3 to 18 months.

2016 – 2017 – ATD Ireland alongside friend

organisations SAOL Project and the NWICTP acts as an active stakeholder of the **European project "Our Voices"** which meets MEPs (including EP Vice-President Mairead McGuinness) in Strasbourg for its final event.

17 October 2016 – The **President of Ireland Michael D Higgins** attends the UN End Poverty Day Gathering at the Human Rights and Poverty Stone.

Summer 2017 – An Irish delegation of young adults join an ATD European Youth Meeting in the Netherlands and as a follow-up, they create the **'Unity in the Community'** youth group. Their first project www.ihaveadream.ie wins recognition from the Coca Cola Thank You Fund.

November 2017 – After 6 months of intensive work, ATD Ireland publishes a booklet of stories **"If Only You Knew"** and marks the end of the 2017 ATD International "Stop Poverty Campaign" run at the occasion of its 60th Anniversary.

2017-2018 – With the support of **Concern Worldwide**, ATD runs the first pilot of the **"Leave No One Behind Conversations"** in order to promote a genuine implementation of the LNOB promise of UN Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030. Ambassador David Donoghue, co-facilitator of the final stage of the Agenda 2030 negotiations is patron of the project (see www.leavenoonebehind.ie). A new pilot series of conversations will be run in 2019-2020.

17 October 2018 – The Irish 17 October Committee mark the **10th anniversary of the unveiling of the Human Rights and Poverty Stone** and publish a retrospective book **"Voices for Dignity"**.

2019 – After many other initiatives run by various stakeholders, ATD Ireland runs the project **"Does It Only Happen to Me?"** on the reality of socio-economic discrimination in Ireland. The project has the support of a grant from the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission** and aims to establish more evidence in support of the recognition of discrimination on the basis of Socio-Economic Status in the Irish Equal Status Act.

2019 – ATD Ireland marks 20 years of ATD activities and the ATD community of friends in Ireland.

This calendar of dates is **one very limited way** to look at the 20 years of ATD in Ireland. **Many other stories need to be told: a story of dedication** of members of the ATD volunteer corps remaining very close to the daily lives of families battling against all kinds of extreme hardships, **a story of friendship** with extremely committed people like Brendan Core, Peter McVerry, Sean Dunne, Sr Bernadette McMahon, Belinda Nugent, Gary Broderick and so many others including all Board and Company members of ATD Ireland who also faithfully give the best of themselves in this endeavour, **a story of partnerships** with networks and institutions which help us to dream big, **a story of the often-unseen efforts** of individuals and families in poverty to help one another and to support ATD projects. **All these stories will be told too!**