

Charter of the financial ethics of All Together in Dignity - ATD Fourth World

In order to contribute to the advent of a society where everyone may be included, ATD Fourth World provided itself with reference features that stem from its long term commitment to the poorest populations. Some of these characteristics specifically direct its financial ethics such as :

- The pre-eminence of the dignity of every person and the equal dignity of all human beings;
- The importance for all people to be entitled or enabled to interact with others, and participate and contribute, as well as being considered as possessor of knowledge;
- The rejection of a money-dominated society.

These reference features led ATD Fourth World to develop its own ethics especially with regards to the lifestyle of its members, in addition to that of its funding and its expenditure.

1 - Ethics of lifestyle

Out of solidarity with the very poor populations that they join, the permanent Volunteers¹ whatever their missions and their charge may be, have opted for a restrained lifestyle. This leads them to live with an equal indemnity for the whole of them in a given country. This indemnity will take into account the charge of the family, as well as the way of life of the country where the Volunteers are engaged.

The main people in charge of ATD Fourth World are either permanent Volunteers or voluntary workers.

Lastly, the activities of the Movement, wherever they may take place throughout the world, are met by an international financial solidarity system elaborated 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 of the economic sphere, such as business companies or corporate foundations.

ATD Fourth World pays special attention for these supports not to merely be financial contributions, but be related to a certain commitment against extreme poverty, as well as be an approach for getting to know better, and providing support to, the Movement societal project.

In accordance with its values, ATD Fourth World complies with a strict set of rules when it appeals to public generosity, among which:

- In order to fully respect people's dignity and refrain from their instrumentation, it does neither sell, buy, rent nor exchange any of its mailing lists;
- It forsakes any fund raising campaign whose underline message would be in contradiction with its values or activities, and could entail damage to the dignity of the poorest and most excluded people. For example, it forsakes any gloomy argumentation or illustration.
- When elaborating and undertaking fundraising or communication campaigns, it cautiously watches over the budgets as to keep them as low as possible.

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¹ The permanent Volunteers work for ATD Fourth World on a full-time basis, in concord with their personal and family life. They go for simple lifestyle, and seek no career projects. They commit themselves on a long-term basis, in solidarity with the poorest of the poor, learning from them, and sharing with them their know-how and experience.

Funding raised from various bodies from the economic sphere, whether from public or private domains, is undertaken in contracted partnerships. Prior to contracting partnership with an organization endowed with legal and moral entity, ATD Fourth World proceeds with checking:

- The politics of sponsorship of its potential partner;
- The nature of the expecting mutual contributions;
- The values and ethics of conduct to which the potential partner refers to, especially concerning all aspects of its sustainable development policy, keeping in mind the utter need to combine the threefold dimension of development, i.e. economic, social and environmental, so that it may be fair for all.

Concerning its financial management, ATD Fourth World mainly strives at:

- Maintaining its reserves to level in order to be able to sustain its activities on a long-term basis. The French state-approved *ATD Fourth World Foundation* is in charge of part of these fund reserves. Thus, it ensures and guarantees their long-lasting availability, which is vital to the irrevocable character in the use of the entrusted possessions and resources, devoted to its objective of general interest, i.e. overcoming extreme poverty;
- To comply with the whole financial and accounting regulations related to associations and foundations;
- To 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, be effectively used in the fight against extreme poverty. These resources get spent in utter accord to the will of donors or in agreement with contracted partnerships.

ATD Fourth World is most concerned with keeping transparent in the use of entrusted funds. As part of its transparency policy, especially with regards to supporters and donors, ATD Fourth World subscribe, when it is possible and according to the national contexts, in the bodies or the collectives to accredit this policy of transparency with the general public.

ATD Fourth World shows much concern to expenditure. It endeavours to first serve activities that enable commitment against extreme poverty and seeks to support people who are devoted to such an ambition.

ATD Fourth World gives priority to individual and family development, and favours relationships between people. Therefore, it does not show any reluctance in spending whatever is needed to:

- Carry out projects that enable each one to accede and contribute to knowledge, culture and art;
- Enable people to express themselves, to get to know one another, and to bring forth common consideration, from people engaged in overcoming extreme poverty as well as from people who suffer from it, so that the latter may exercise their citizens responsibilities;
- Support people who, in living beside the very poor in poverty-stricken neighbourhoods, support meeting and learning from one another.

*“Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty,
human rights are violated.
To come together to ensure that these rights are respected is our solemn duty.”*

Joseph Wresinski, 17th October 1987
Text engraved on the Square of the Human Rights
and of Liberty in Paris, France and near the Famine Memorial
on Custom House Quay in Dublin, Ireland

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