

All Together in Dignity (ATD) Full-Time Volunteers are men and women who have a long-term commitment with people living in extreme poverty. They support their efforts and projects towards gaining access to basic human rights and they encourage others to be involved with them.

ATD Volunteer Corps members play a crucial role in reaching communities and families facing persistent poverty. Within these communities they support and create projects and programs that reinforce people's daily efforts to have a better life.

ATD was founded in France in 1957 by Joseph Wresinski. From the very beginning, people of all ages have committed themselves to living alongside, learning from, and sharing the daily hopes and aspirations of those who are isolated and excluded.

In early 2015 there were 460 ATD full-time Volunteers (261 women, 199 men) from 41 different countries in the Global North and South.

Working out of small international teams in their native country or elsewhere in the world, Volunteer Corps members are currently present in 30 countries.



## Marjorie is Filipino

She learned about persistent poverty in her country through the Street Library project. Children at Street Library said to her, "You volunteers come one time and then you leave us." Challenged by these words, Marjorie decided to join the ATD Volunteer Corps and start a long-term commitment. She was first with the team in Bangkok and is currently in Geneva where she directs Tapori, a worldwide network of friendship and peace building between children of different backgrounds.



The International ATD Volunteer Corps challenges and seeks to distinguish itself from a society where money dominates. This choice and commitment by full-time Volunteers is in line with **working towards a people-centered society** through:

- **A long-term commitment** that requires an availability to go where most needed and set aside a more traditional career path. Most ATD full-time Volunteers live and work alongside people or communities who face the violence of poverty and exclusion and act together with them on a daily basis so they can access their basic human rights.
- **Team work** based on each person's knowledge, experience and passion.
- **Actions and projects built around those people not seen or heard** in society that create spaces and ways they and others recognize how they are activists, sources of knowledge and experience, and creators of peace in the work to overcome poverty.
- **Approaches that encourage others to become involved**, as individuals, communities or through institutional partnerships, to create a strong current of societal change based upon and of true benefit to the reality of people living in persistent poverty.
- **A modest stipend** that is decided upon together and the same for everyone within the same country, regardless of seniority or responsibility. In Ireland in 2015, €730/month + health insurance and rent allowances. This applies at the end of one year of internship with lower stipend.

**If you are interested by the 2016 introductory programme, contact Pierre at [volunteering@atdireland.ie](mailto:volunteering@atdireland.ie) – [www.atdireland.ie](http://www.atdireland.ie)**

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

Call by Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD, on 17 October 1987, 1<sup>st</sup> World #EndPoverty Day

## We hold a vision of a world where no one is left behind

ATD gathers people from all backgrounds in order to think, act, and live together differently. We hold a vision of a world without extreme poverty, a society where each person is respected. Severe and persistent poverty is an affront to human dignity, and people who have faced it have unique knowledge and experience that can lower the barriers separating people and communities.

The violence of extreme poverty, ignorance, deprivation, and contempt isolates people and locks them in silence to the point where they doubt that they are part of the human community. Recognising the efforts made by people in poverty to ensure that no one is left behind, and combining our strengths to reach out to those still unreached, are essential steps on the path toward overcoming poverty and building peace together.

## Building Knowledge and Accessing Education — Every Mind Counts

Wasting the intelligence of people living in poverty is a serious form of discrimination. Our grassroots community projects (street libraries, peer-support forum, human rights workshops, youth groups) bring recognition to the life skills and knowledge of those who resist extreme poverty in their daily lives.

## Speaking Out about Human Rights and Peace

Our advocacy and public campaigns aim to increase public awareness and civic engagement in ways that counteract prejudice against people in poverty, and that defend their human rights. We do this work on both national and international levels.

## Leaving No One Behind when Shaping a People-Centered and Earth-Friendly Future

Today's economic systems subject people in extreme poverty to punishing exploitation and often condemn them to uselessness. Around the world, there are many initiatives for the public good, fair-trade, and promoting self-sufficiency and community resilience. We work to ensure that people in extreme poverty be able to participate in these projects.

## Where We Are

[www.atdireland.ie](http://www.atdireland.ie) - [www.atd-fourthworld.org](http://www.atd-fourthworld.org)

EUROPE	NORTH AMERICA	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	AFRICA	INDIAN OCEAN	ASIA
BELGIUM	CANADA	BOLIVIA	BURKINA FASO	MADAGASCAR	PHILIPPINES
SPAIN	UNITED STATES	BRAZIL	CAMEROON	MAURITIUS	THAILAND
FRANCE		GUATEMALA	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	REUNION ISLAND	
GERMANY		HAITI	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO		
IRELAND		HONDURAS	IVORY COAST		
ITALY		MEXICO	SENEGAL		
LUXEMBOURG		PERU	TANZANIA		
NETHERLANDS					
POLAND					
SWITZERLAND					
UNITED KINGDOM					

