



October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Since 1987: From the Plaza of Human Rights in Paris, to the United Nations, to hundreds of communities around our country and the world

Donate today and add your impact to overcoming poverty on October 17 and throughout the year!



On October 17, **we listen to people** who express what it means to struggle to raise children, deal with difficult housing conditions, feel isolated, have no voice in the community and the politics... Each time they get ready to speak up **thanks to the support of others who believe in them**. What they mainly want to say is: I am somebody. I am somebody!



~ Jean Stallings, USA, member of the International Committee for October 17



Community march on October 17, 2017 in New Orleans, LA.



Alex Begay from Gallup, NM speaking at the United Nations in New York City.

Each year on October 17, in cities, towns, and villages all over the world, people gauge how the world is doing in its effort to eradicate poverty. Officially recognized by the United Nations as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, **October 17 is a day that brings to light the knowledge and courage of families living in poverty throughout the world.** It emphasizes the importance of reaching out to the most vulnerable and building alliances with people from varied backgrounds to end poverty. People all over the world who work to overcome poverty all year round invite neighbors, policy makers, and community members to attend gatherings, to listen, learn, and think about where people experiencing poverty are leading us.

This year, on October 17 people from Tanzania and the Philippines who have direct experiences of poverty will be in the United States **to join American voices raised to say no to poverty, no to separating children from their parents, and yes to decent work and fair wages, access to quality education, and to truly affordable housing and health care.** These are our Human Rights.

"I want to say that during my many years at the UN, this [October 17] is one of the most unusual, one of the most inspiring meetings I've attended....You reminded us that very important processes of bringing together those who are privileged, those who have reached the positions of influence, and those who are affected - **those who really need to be brought in and actually take part** - in the processes that can change the world."

~ Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations (2012-2016)

"If you see our communities struggling with poverty, and you see the inequality and how our rights are taken away, then you should want better...I knew I wanted better for myself, and I wanted to help others too. I used knowledge, imagination, and determination to find a way out. I try to raise awareness about eradicating poverty, and how this environment can and will be better one day at a time **if we just all help any way we can.**"

~ Samantha Simpson, New York, USA



*The Commemorative Stone in Honor of the Victims of Extreme Poverty and its more than 50 replicas around the world respond to **our desire for unity, our thirst for peace and harmony, our quest for justice and solidarity.** Each one engraved with Joseph Wresinski's call to action, these monuments lift us higher. They awaken what is the best in us. They are truly part of the world's heritage, a powerful testament to our common humanity.*

Your support is needed to facilitate these meetings and affect change.

Learning to speak up for our rights and gain entry to places where people will listen, is part of ongoing programming for our ATD Fourth World teams. Your support of this invaluable work is truly meaningful. Here are some of the ways your contribution will directly impact October 17 gatherings for individuals in local communities, as we work together to overcome poverty and build inclusive communities:

\$500 Funds 10 writing sessions to prepare public statements to be delivered on October 17, by people living in extreme poverty, public representatives, and others

\$250 Funds communications technology costs so activities and messages can be documented and shared worldwide

\$100 Funds materials for one session of art and educational activities for 10 children during a community commemoration event

Thank you for joining us in this work by donating today!