



ATD
FOURTH WORLD

Advocacy at the United Nations

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



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Donate Today!



Support the largest gathering of people refusing persistent poverty.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty



The importance of this day is traced back to **October 17th, 1987** when the International Movement ATD Fourth World gathered over a hundred thousand people in Paris to honor the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger. They proclaimed that poverty is a **violation of human rights** and affirmed the **need to come together** to ensure that these rights are respected.

In 1992, thanks to the efforts of ATD Fourth World and other organizations, the UN officially declared October 17th the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**. The UN organizes commemorations every year as an opportunity for people in poverty to address people in power as well as others engaged in the fight against poverty. This empowers people experiencing poverty and has changed UN officials' understanding of poverty.

One of the largest commemorations is at the **UN Headquarters in New York City (NYC)**, co-hosted by ATD Fourth World.

We need your help

for our pivotal role in the UN Commemoration!



See enclosed envelope or atdfourthworld-usa.org/donate

ATD Fourth World Activists and Volunteer Corps members help people prepare and practice speeches about their personal experience of poverty, their fight against poverty and their hope for their families.

The ATD Fourth World representative at the UN takes the lead in preparing the logistics for the commemoration, with support from other NYC team members.

ATD Fourth World NYC hosts a reception to bring together people from diverse backgrounds and continue conversations.

ATD Fourth World brings people, most with firsthand experience of poverty, from around the country and the world to NYC for the commemoration.

ATD FOURTH WORLD AT THE UNITED NATIONS



** The UN is an intergovernmental organization tasked with maintaining peace and cooperation among nations.

Our Focus

Recognizing **poverty is multidimensional**. It is more than a lack of money.

Calling attention to **the strengths and knowledge** of people in poverty.

Listening to and involving people in poverty because they have vital knowledge needed for the success of anti-poverty programs and policy.

Promoting a **human rights-based approach** to poverty eradication, which includes leaving no one behind, decent work, dignity, and social and environmental justice.

The International Movement ATD Fourth World is influential at the United Nations (UN), holding general consultative status with the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1991**.

ATD Fourth World has representatives at the UN in New York and in Geneva and is regularly solicited by UN agencies to **bring the ideas of people experiencing poverty to UN issues**.

ATD Fourth World Activists, (members with firsthand knowledge of poverty), from New York and around the world **are often invited to share their expertise at the UN**.

Our Impact

Creating and maintaining a space for participation of people with experience of poverty.

- Throughout the UN, ATD Fourth World is known and respected for bringing, as well as relied upon to bring, firsthand knowledge of poverty and to offer solutions based on this experience.
- Bringing firsthand experience of poverty to UN commissions, high level forums, white papers, and reports. As examples:
 - The Report on Extreme Poverty & Human Rights (1996) which resulted in the creation of a permanent UN post for a Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights
 - The Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights (2012)
- Organizing events such as a commemoration for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (see back).
- Orchestrating high-level meetings between people who never meet: officials and people with experience of poverty.

Investing in the UN's work on "social development."

- Bringing speakers with firsthand experience of poverty to share their knowledge and recommendations in relation to housing and homelessness, social protection, childcare, decent work, digital gap.
- Having a respected leadership role on the NGO Committee on Social Development because people trust us.

Advocating for language that promotes dignity.

- For instance, "people in situations of poverty" rather than "the poor."
- Helping develop new language between the Millenium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Leading a successful recent effort to add language about dignity to a UN Secretary General report about poverty.



Stacy White

I spoke at the UN on October 17th. I said, **“I’m going to get my word out there and someone is going to listen.”** It was a challenge for me. As nervous and scared as I was, I was determined to do that. I wanted them to know and to see, however well made up I was that day, this is what poverty looks like. People who didn’t hear me speak thought I was part of the UN audience. It’s a perception of what poverty looks like. One person said, “You look expensive.” The dress and shoes I had on were from the church. **Maybe I was shining.**

Had I not met ATD and spoken at the UN, I would not have the knowledge and voice I have now, would not do the work I do now.

It put me in the position to speak up for myself, speak for others, let them know their rights and what they are entitled to. A lot of people have changed because of that. When they go to public assistance, or the doctor, or some meeting with someone with power, **they know they have rights and should be heard**, not just given a piece of paper.

When I finally got to the Noisy-le-Grand camp, I said to myself: Those destitute families will never be able to pull through on their own, but if I join them **they will climb the steps of the Elysée Palace, the Vatican, the United Nations** and all the great international organizations. They must become full members of our society.

Joseph Wresinski



My job as the **Main Representative to the United Nations (UN)** for International Movement ATD Fourth World is to make sure the voices, insight and knowledge of people experiencing deep and extreme poverty are heard in places where policy is being made and discussed. I represent ATD’s priorities which always include *participation* and *poverty*.

I’m the first ATD Fourth World Activist (person with a personal experience of poverty) in this role and I don’t want to be the last one. There may be others with experience of poverty in similar positions at the UN, but it’s not spoken of freely.

The experience of poverty gives you a clearer vision of how things should work because policy shapes your life. Policymakers don’t implement policies, so they don’t know how it might actually affect people.

In its simplest form, my job is to ask: “Where are the impacted people in this discussion? How can their voices and knowledge improve the outcome?”



Maryann Broxton