

17 October, World Poverty Day

"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. "

(Joseph Wresinski, Founder of ATD Fourth World).

the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October) is a day for people across the world to raise their voices and demand action from governments and policy makers to end poverty. It is also a day to highlight the efforts of those living in poverty to fight the abuse of power and demand their human rights.

Amnesty International (AI) - in collaboration with NGOs such as ATD Fourth-World - is organising a series of global events to promote respect for the human rights of all people.

The aim is to expose how human rights abuses are both a cause and a consequence of poverty. From denial of the right to adequate housing to denial of freedom of expression, those living in poverty face extreme obstacles to realising their human rights every day.

AI actions going on around the globe on 17 October include:

AIUK will screen *Drowned Out*, a film about the construction of large dams on the River Narmada in central India and its impact on people living in the river valley. The film will be followed by a letter-writing action on human rights concerns around the construction of the hydroelectric dam in La Parota in Mexico's Guerrero State.

AI Canada will be involved in a public debate on exclusion, a silent night march, collective soup-eating and a fiesta.

AI France and other NGOs, including Caritas France, will take part in an ATD Quart Monde annual event at Le Trocadéro. Activities include a housing rights discussion and a photo exhibition on Haitian Workers in the Dominican Republic.
http://www.amnesty.fr/index.php/amnesty/agir/actions_en_cours/france/actualites/17_octobre_2007

AI Israel is organizing a debate on economic, social and cultural rights.

AI Ireland will gather at the Famine Memorial at 11.30am for testimonies from people experiencing poverty. There will be visual art displays and song, followed by a silent march through the city centre.

AI Luxembourg in partnership with Caritas Luxembourg, will take part in the Poverty Requiem initiative.

AI Paraguay, along with other NGOs, has joined the 'Plataforma Paraguay sin Excusas', which is organizing a week of actions on poverty and related issues.

AI Philippines is taking part in GCAP-Philippines' Anti-Poverty Fair, with discussion, workshops and exhibits on poverty-ending initiatives.

AI Switzerland is supporting the actions undertaken by ATD Quart Monde.

AI Uruguay is planning to take action on 'Hadidiya and Humsa', which concerns over 100 Palestinian farmers from the Jordan Valley area of the West Bank who face an imminent threat of house demolition and eviction.

About World Poverty Day

On October 17, 1987, in reply to an appeal from Father Joseph Wresinski, 100,000 people gathered on the Trocadero Plaza in Paris to honour victims of hunger, violence and ignorance. They expressed their refusal of extreme poverty and called on the international community to unite to ensure the respect of human rights. Since 1992, The United Nations has officially recognised this date as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Caption: Women and children waiting for fishing boats in the Makoko slum, Nigeria