



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty “Ensuring Respect and Effective Support for Families”

Friday, October 17th, 2025 United Nations Headquarters, New York

1:15-2:30pm UNHQ, 3:00-3:30pm UN garden, North lawn

Draft program

Background

On October 17, 1987, Joseph Wresinski, founder of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, gathered 100,000 people on the Human Rights Plaza in Paris to pay tribute to the victims of extreme poverty. This date has subsequently been commemorated each year around the world. In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly declared October 17th the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty with resolution 47/196. On this day, people with a direct experience of poverty share their knowledge, insight, and experiences with Member States, dignitaries, and allies to promote dialogue and understanding, as we continue the pursuit of SDG 1, to end poverty everywhere in all its forms. Of the Day, the Secretary General has stated, “It represents an opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and struggles of people living in poverty, a chance for them to make their concerns heard, and a moment to recognize that poor people are in the forefront in the fight against poverty” (Report of the Secretary General, A/61/308, para. 58).

2025 theme

People experiencing poverty are at the heart of every October 17th commemoration, and are the drivers in choosing the global theme. The title of the commemoration at UNHQ on October 17th, 2025, and subtheme is “Ensuring Respect and Effective Support for Families.” Family policies must be an integral part of overall development efforts and leveraged in achieving many of the interrelated Sustainable Development Goals (poverty eradication, food security, quality healthcare and education, gender equality, social inclusion, decent work/social protection, just and peaceful institutions.) Families are active agents in development. Therefore, their experiential knowledge and insight must be sought out and included to ensure effective support to lift people out of poverty and create a more just and equitable society.

ECOSOC Chamber UNHQ 1:15-2:30pm

1:15 - Welcome and introduction of Co-MC’s, Rosetta Savana, ATD Fourth World Activist, New York, Cecilia Schirmeister, Representative of the Baha’i International Community’s UN Office,

New York

1:20 - Secretary General, Antonio Guterres (in person or read statement TBC)

1:27 - Short video of Activists from around the world

1:29 – Micheline Ciarlo, ATD Fourth World Activist, Canada

1:35 –Flore Adelaïde Prudence Nodjikomo, ATD Fourth World Activist, Central Republic of Africa (video)

1:41 - Maharajul Jannat, Community Activist, Boston, Massachusetts

1:47 - Musical performance, “Fast Car” by Tracy Chapman, sung by Laura Iniesta Mingot, Alvaro Iniesta on guitar.

1:52 - Copliana Robinson, Recreational Activities Coordinator, Flagstone Family Shelter, Brownsville, New York

1:57 – Dr. Najat Maalla M’Jid, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence Against Children

2:03 – Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (TBC)

2:08 - Ambassador Jérôme Bonnafont, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

2:13 - 2:16 - MC’s thank speakers and invite attendees to the North Garden

UN Garden, North lawn, Poverty Stone 3:00-3:30pm

3:00 - MC’s welcome guests

3:02 - Donld Lee, ATD Fourth World President

3:07 – Ambassador Rui Vinhas, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations

3:12 - Reading of inscription on Stone in six UN languages by school children

3:17 - Moment of silence

3:18 - Musical performance, “Lean on Me” by Bill Withers sung by Todd McNeel Jr.

3:23 - Gesture

3: 29 – Closing: MC’s thank speakers and guests, invitation to reception at ATD Fourth World House, group photo.