



INTERNATIONAL  
DAY for the  
ERADICATION  
of **POVERTY**  
17 OCTOBER



## Theme: “Acting together to empower children, their families and communities to end poverty”

*International Day for the Eradication of Poverty -  
October 17, 2019 - UNHQ, NYC*

### Background information

The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October 1987. On that day, Joseph Wresinski, founder of the [International Movement ATD Fourth World](#), gathered over a hundred thousand people at the Human Rights Plaza in Paris, France, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour 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.**

These convictions are inscribed in a commemorative stone unveiled on this day. Since then, people of all backgrounds, beliefs and social origins have gathered every year on October 17th to renew their commitment and show their solidarity with people living in poverty. Replicas of the commemorative stone have been unveiled around the world and serve as a gathering place to celebrate the Day. **One such replica is located in the garden of United Nations Headquarters (North Lawn) and is the site of the annual commemoration organized by the United Nations Secretariat in New York. For pictures and videos of recent commemorations at the UN Stone, please visit [“October 17, 2017”](#) and [“October 17, 2018”](#)**

### Draft Program of the Day

1.15 – 2.30 pm      **Main Ceremony in Conference Room 2, UNHQ**

*Order of Messages during the commemoration:*

1.15-1.16              Welcome and introduction by the MCs – **Mr. Mark Fusco and Ms. Khamila Cabral**

1.17-1.20              Opening remarks by **Ms. Daniela Bas**, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

1.21-1.27              Message by children from the **Gregory Jackson School**, Brooklyn, New York City, USA

1.28-1.34              Message by **Ms. Elizabeth Madden**, mother and activist from the Cork Anti-Poverty Resource Network, Cork, Ireland

1.35-1.39              Where does the white dove go when it cries?  
Song written and arranged by the **Culture Warriors**

1.40-1.46              Message by **Mr. Hasan Azhary** and **Mr. Ricardo Hutahaean**, community leaders of the Wadah Foundation, Jakarta, Indonesia

- 1.47-1.53 Message by Tapori Children group from Madrid, Spain  
**Ms. Paula De La Villa Martin, Ms. Alma Martinez Arias, Ms. Raquel Cermeno Jimenez**
- 1.54-1.59 You've got a friend  
Song by James Taylor interpreted by **Ms. Julia Miranda**
- 2.00-2.03 Message by **H.E. Ms. Mariame Fofana**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the UN
- 2.04-2.07 Message by **Ms. Anne Gueguen**, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the UN
- 2.10-2.13 Message by **Ms. Aissata Camara** – Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Strategic Partnerships, Mayor’s Office for International Affairs, City of New York
- 2.14-2.17 Concluding remarks by **Mr. David Stewart**, Chief, Child Poverty and Social Protection at *UNICEF*
- 2.17-2.20 Conclusion by the MCs

**[ 2:20 to 2:45 - Transition from CR2 to UN Gardens]**

- 2.40 – 2.45 Dance: “We are Cumbia. We are family”  
By the Karla Florez School of Dance
- 2.45 – 3.30pm **Symbolic gesture at the Commemorative Stone – North Lawn, UN Garden**
- 2.45-2.48 Opening remarks by **Mr. Donald LEE**, President, International Committee for Oct. 17
- 2.49-2.54 Reading the text of the Stone by children
- 2.55-3.00 Message from **Najat Maalla M’jid**, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- 3.01-3.16 Performance of a symbolic gesture (Forget-me-not flowers)
- 3.17-3.20 Conclusion