
International Newsletter 4 - September 2007

Worldwide Campaign “Ending Extreme Poverty, a Road to Peace”

*International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
17 October 2007*

Since the moment when you signed the Call to Action, many others have done so, and the campaign “Ending Extreme Poverty, a Road to Peace” has been making progress. People from small villages to large city – in schools, community centers and workplaces, in countries around the world – have gotten involved. Today, we are writing to give you some news about how a few of these individuals and groups have been contributing in their own unique way to this campaign (see verso).

The multi-colored ribbon is now available, and we have enclosed two ribbons for you. This ribbon symbolizes the ties between people who have showed their commitment to ending extreme poverty by signing the Call to Action. A part of the message that was at the origin of October 17th, World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty, is engraved on this ribbon. We propose that each person wear or display this ribbon in whatever way they would like to. In the coming months, many thousands of people will be displaying this ribbon in over 100 countries around the world. We hope to count you among them!

For people with internet access, you can listen to a bi-monthly News Flash on the progress of the campaign. Just go to www.atd-fourthworld.org and click on “flash.” You can also see a video presenting the campaign. Go to www.atd-fourthworld.org and click on “video presentation of the October 17th 2007 campaign.”

It's not too late to invite family, friends and colleagues to sign the Call to Action on the website of the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty: www.oct17.org
The more signatures we get, the stronger our message will be!

Thank you again for your participation. We are eager to hear about what you may be planning, however modest and tentative, for the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty.

We leave you with these words from children from the Tapori group in the Democratic Republic of Congo: ***“A lot of little things done by a lot of little people from different places can change the face of the world.”***

For the campaign team "Ending Extreme Poverty, a Road to Peace,"
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CHILDREN ARE DOING THEIR PART!

For this 2007 campaign, children have thrown themselves into the creation of thousands of silhouettes – their own silhouettes, accompanied by messages of friendship and peace. This initiative was launched by Tapori, the children’s branch of ATD Fourth World.

In Madagascar, children working on a rubbish dump used their silhouettes to make a frieze. They were very proud of their work. Local dignitaries were able to admire the result and to read the testimonials of the children, and were shocked by their living and working conditions. One child’s response to them was, *“In order to avoid seeing another generation in this situation, parents must be given the help they need to send their children to school.”*

If you’d like to involve children you know in this campaign, go to **www.tapori.org**.

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION!

- **In Belgium**, different organizations have been making cloth banners with messages for weeks now. These messages express resistance and varied initiatives in the fight against poverty and exclusion. On October 17th, they will be sewn together to create a bigger banner – as long as possible – which will serve as a memoir, documenting the meaning of this day and the activities around it. The theme of the rally is ‘links’ – the links between human beings, rich and poor. Local associations are already involved in the production of a play, a band and stories on this subject.

THE CALL TO ACTION !

The collection of signatures continues worldwide. To date, there are about 60,000 signatures from over 100 countries. Here are a few examples:

- **In India**, the association Nanban collected 1011 signatures.
- **In Burundi**, 301 signatures were gathered by the “Centre Jeunes Kamege” youth center.
- **In Hungary**, 90 signatures were collected.
- **In the Democratic Republic of Congo**, 264 people signed the Call to Action, including the local Tapori group leaders, many students, and others.
- **In the United States**, 1,200 signatures were collected in a very poor rural community there.
- **In Thailand**, Mr. Sheldon Shaeffer, Director of UNESCO Bangkok signed.
- **In Europe**, there has been a concerted effort to get politicians, academics, and sports and cultural figures to sign the Call to Action, with many examples of success.

Here are a few of the many inspiring comments made by signatories:

“I find it insulting to our intelligence, capabilities and humanity, that with all the resources in the world, people are still dying from hunger and poverty. All humanity is inter-related, and I can help myself only to the extent that I am helping and sharing with others.” Lebanon

“I am signing because I have experienced poverty and I see people in extreme poverty around me. So I am committed to do all I can to help in fighting it...” Nigeria

“Thousand of people have united with those living in extreme poverty, and together they struggle silently to end it. It’s time for the world to know that we need the poorest people too.” Bolivia

“[I believe] that the advancement of a human being should be seen as the fulfillment of his or her potential. Let’s bury the gap between the rich and the poor.” Democratic Republic of Congo

“[We must] consider the poorest people as the first to take action, as human beings and not as objects of charity.” Singapore

“If I don’t start to fight against poverty myself, why will my neighbor do it? I can’t demand that the state work with the poorest people if I don’t start to do it at my own level.” France

“As ending extreme poverty is a globally important cause, this is the least I can do.” Israel