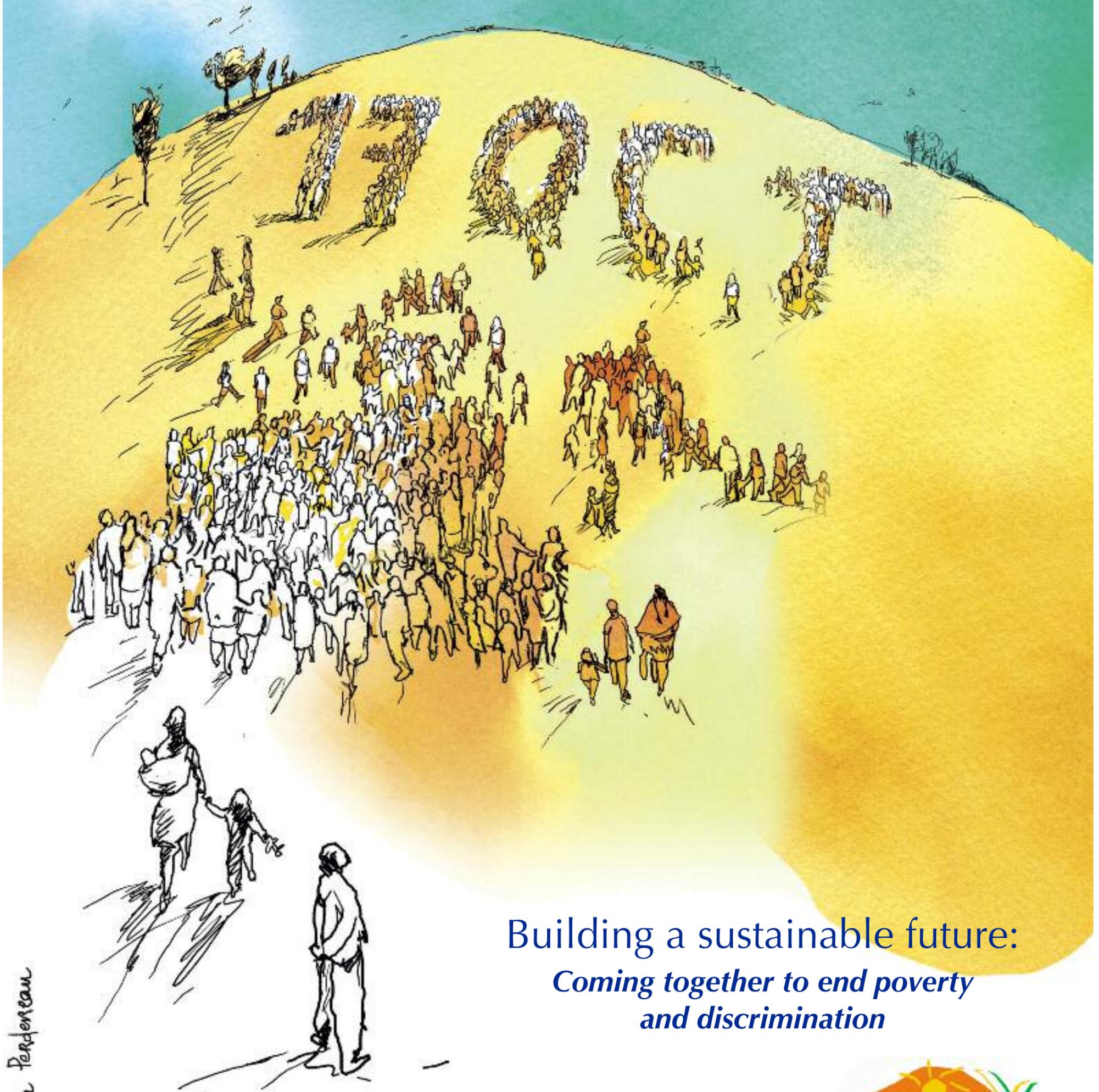


**17 OCTOBER 2015**

**World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty**



*Helene Perdereau*

**Building a sustainable future:  
Coming together to end poverty  
and discrimination**

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# International Charter for 17 October

**World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty**

Proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

## I- Respect the Spirit of the Day

1- The Day is a gathering for peace and human dignity in the spirit of the declaration engraved on the commemorative stone in honour of the victims of extreme poverty on Trocadero Square in Paris, France.



On 17 October, 1987, defenders of human rights and citizens of all countries gathered together on this square. They paid tribute to the victims of hunger, ignorance and violence. They expressed their conviction that extreme poverty is not inevitable. They proclaimed their solidarity with those struggling around the world to destroy it.

**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.**

Father Joseph Wresinski

2- The Day provides opportunities to promote meetings that would not normally happen in everyday life, between the poorest and other citizens, around a common desire and commitment to eradicate extreme poverty.

3- The Day must recognize and respect the equal dignity of everyone. Recognizing that the poorest are often the victims of all forms of violence everywhere in the world.



5- The Day is meant to promote and demonstrate mutual understanding, solidarity and the shared responsibility of all individuals and groups from different backgrounds, working in close collaboration with people living in poverty. Therefore, the preparations leading up to the celebration of the Day should be a process that continues throughout the year.

4- The Day should include or reflect the commitments and contributions of people fighting extreme poverty on a daily basis. Contributions from the poorest are integral parts of any gathering or initiative.

6- The Day symbolizes the daily struggle of those who live in extreme poverty.



7- The Day reminds us that the poorest are often forced to live in shame. Therefore, organizers must ensure that all activities undertaken on this occasion as well as all messages, press releases and recorded media (texts, photographs, films, videos, etc...) respect the dignity of people living in poverty who are at the heart of this gathering.

## II- Objectives of the Day

To gather together citizens and institutions, public and private, to express their rejection of extreme poverty through, but not limited to, the following means:



Demonstrating solidarity with people in poverty, including those who are absent or fear to participate;

Meeting, talking and interacting with people in poverty;

Educating and mobilizing all stakeholders — men, women, children, young and old. In this regard, it is important to educate children and youth in human rights and the fight against poverty;



Enabling every citizen participating either individually or through an organization, to express its solidarity and to renew its commitment to unite in a common struggle, by doing a significant gesture in the culture of his country and respecting the spirit of Day;

Giving an international dimension to the celebration of the Day;



Raising public visibility of the Day.



The "Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty" is a network of committed people who want to develop friendship and exchange knowledge about what poor and very poor people teach us, i.e. people who suffer from multiple disadvantages in the areas of education, housing, employment, health and culture; those who are criticised and rejected the most. This forum invites people to join a worldwide movement to overcome extreme poverty, to rebuild communities with people living in extreme poverty, inspired by their lives. This movement expresses itself in the **Letter to Friends Around the World**, which publishes the texts written by its correspondents three times a year, in French, English, Spanish and Portuguese. The Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty is run by the International Movement ATD Fourth World, an international NGO whose headquarters are in Pierrelaye, France. Those who join the Forum do so in their own right, and do not have to become members of ATD Fourth World. Our e-mail address is: [overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org](mailto:overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org) Internet: [www.overcomingpoverty.org](http://www.overcomingpoverty.org) Subscription \$8/8€ per annum - Support subscription: \$10/10€ per annum. Illustrations from Helene Perdereau, a long time friend and supporter of the International Movement ATD Fourth World - © International Movement ATD Fourth World - Printed by ATD Fourth World - Méry-sur-Oise - N° 91 - June 2015.

# LETTER TO FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD FORUM ON OVERCOMING EXTREME POVERTY



International Movement ATD Fourth World  
12, rue Pasteur - 95480 Pierrelaye - France

June 2015 – N° 91

## SPECIAL EDITION-17 OCTOBER

Dear Friends,

We are very happy to bring you a special 17 October edition of our *Letter to Friends Around the World*. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty this year is significant because it will be the first observance following the formal adoption of the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) by the General Assembly of the United Nations to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Within this new development framework of the United Nations, all countries resolve to "End poverty in all its forms everywhere".

**The theme** for 17 October 2015 which we have helped contribute to is:

### Building a sustainable future: Coming together to end poverty and discrimination

In bringing people together to end poverty and discrimination we build a sustainable future where the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

We hope that **this poster** from the *Letter to Friends Around the World* will help you talk about and celebrate the day with those around you. The **extracts of the International Charter for 17 October** can give pointers in understanding and respecting the meaning of the day.

**Please tell us about your own projects** and what you are hoping to do for 17 October. You can write to us by letter, email or via the website.

Good luck in your preparations!

Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty Team

You can download the complete version of the Charter at:

<http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/international-charter-for-october-17-world-day-for-overcoming-extreme-poverty> or contact us and we can send you a copy by post.



## III- Proposed guidelines to achieve these objectives

Celebrate the Day in places that recall and highlight the often ignored history of the poorest or that honour and respect the victims of poverty.

Honour the victims of extreme poverty by reaffirming the link between poverty and human rights.



## IV- Misuse of the Day



The Day shouldn't be used as a:



A place where people living in poverty come to display their situation of distress in front of others;

A forum for people with political, administrative or associative responsibilities;

A platform or venue to claims or personal publicity.

You can also share your own 17 October events

via the website: [www.overcomingpoverty.org/oct17/2015/all-countries](http://www.overcomingpoverty.org/oct17/2015/all-countries)

or by email: [overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org](mailto:overcomingpoverty@atd-fourthworld.org)

1- Add an event

2- Add a report

> Upload a testimony