ATD Fourth World was founded by Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988) in an emergency housing camp in Noisy-le-Grand, France, in 1957. He had grown up in extreme poverty, and the deprivation and humiliation suffered by his family, as well as their courage in the face of their problems, left an indelible mark on him.

On arriving in Noisy-le-Grand, Joseph Wresinski undertook to establish the poorest as genuine partners in places of decision-making affecting the future of the whole world. This led him to unite with the families living in extreme poverty in Noisy-le-Grand, and later throughout the world, in their efforts to eradicate poverty. He called on people from different backgrounds to work in partnership with people living in extreme poverty to promote a world in which the equal dignity of every human being is respected.

For over 45 years, ATD Fourth World has been carrying out programmes aimed at enabling people living in extreme poverty to gain access to their fundamental rights, to a voice in society and to opportunities to contribute to the decision-making process on issues that directly affect them as well as on wider issues for society. ATD Fourth World works with other NGOs and professional and political partners (on a local, national and international level) to seek out and fulfil the conditions needed for the very poorest to become active partners in the development of modern society.

ATD Fourth World is a non-governmental organisation with no specific religious or political affiliation. It has a consultative status to the UN ECOSOC, UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO and the Council of Europe. It also has close links with the institutions of the European Union.

For information on the meeting in February 2004:

International Movement ATD Fourth World – European Team
107 avenue Général Leclerc – F-95480 Pierrelaye
Tel 33 (0)1 34 30 46 17 – Fax 33 (0)1 34 30 46 15
E-mail: region.europe@atd-quartmonde.org
or
ATD Czwarty Świat
ul. Ogrodowa 32a/29 – 00-896 Warszawa
Tel. (022) 436 31 15 – outside Poland: 00 48 22 436 31 15
Tel. Anna Śleźnik: 0606-686-792
E-mail: atd-warszawa@atd-quartmonde.org

6th – 7th February 2004
Warsaw University

“Acting Together for a Europe of Dignity for All”

A Europe-wide meeting looking at the perspectives for poverty eradication, aimed at adults and young people living in poverty and people committed to fighting poverty with them

Organised by
International Movement ATD Fourth World

With the support of
Professor Andrzej Zoll,
Commissioner for Human Rights in Poland
European Economic and Social Committee
Warsaw University

Under the auspices of
Mr Aleksander Kwaśniewski;
President of the Republic of Poland,
Mr Walter Schwimmer;
Secretary-General of the Council of Europe

and members of the Committee of Support, including
Mr Bronislaw Geremek, Mr José María Gil-Robles,
Cardinal Józef Glemp, Mr. Federico Mayor, Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki,
Mr Andrei Plesu, Mrs Mary Robinson, Mr Mario Soares,
Mr Petar Stoyanov, Cardinal Miloslav Vlk

And with the aid of financial support from the European Commission
As Europe continues to develop economically, socially and politically, large numbers of people are being left behind. These men, women and children are engaged in a daily struggle to keep going in spite of so many obstacles and to ensure that their dignity and that of those close to them is respected. Their experience and understanding of their situation are key elements in determining what still needs to be done in an expanding Europe so that each person and each family has access to their fundamental rights, the means to live in security and dignity and the conditions necessary to make an active contribution to society.

Following on from similar meetings organised regularly since 1989 by ATD Fourth World and the European Economic and Social Committee, the Warsaw meeting will create opportunities for a genuine dialogue between people from 16 European countries with very different horizons: people living in poverty, members of NGOs which support them, national and European politicians and civil servants and leading members of Europe’s cultural and religious life.

This meeting will provide those attending with an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to building an inclusive Europe and will make an original and necessary contribution to this process.

Discussion will focus on:
- the need to involve all members of society in contributing to the respect of everyone’s dignity;
- the extent to which it is necessary to gain the commitment of everyone to enable European citizens and peoples to live together in harmony;
- the ambitions people share for a Europe free from poverty and social exclusion;
- harnessing the experience and the participation of people living in poverty in order to enable the advancement of democracy in Europe and in the wider world.

The preparation by delegates for this meeting, which has been taking place for several months, includes the development of these and other themes. Working methods seek to allow the participation of all delegates, especially those who have the most difficulties, and include contact and exchanges between some of the delegates before the meeting takes place.

**Programme**

**Thursday 5th February**
Delegations arrive at Warsaw University
Accommodation in host families in Warsaw

**Friday 6th February**
9:00: Welcome at Warsaw University
9:30 – 12:00: Creative workshops
14:00: Official opening (plenary)
16:00 – 18:00: Discussion groups (12 groups of around 20-25 people)
18:30: Reception for participants, host families and guests
20:00 Party

**Saturday 7th February**
9:00-12:00: Continuation of discussion groups
14:00 – 16:00: Closing plenary session

**Sunday 8th February**
Tour of Warsaw, delegations leave.