

**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:**

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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 Bronisław 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.

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### **Programme**

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#### *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.

