

"Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure these rights be respected is our solemn duty." Joseph Wresinski

March 2011

Why the relaunch of the Fourth World Newsletter?

Following the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, which was particularly notable for the European Council's adoption in December 2010 of the European platform against poverty and social exclusion, we have decided to relaunch the "Fourth World Newsletter", which will keep you informed of its outcomes in the different member States, and of initiatives and policy positions taken by ATD Fourth World as regards current events and the fight against poverty. We think that it is important to share with you our activities, the events marking our fight for Human rights to be upheld and applicable to all, and the facts regarding their violation.

Our team has two new members and today is made up of: Marc Bringer, Marie-Laure Modave, Marie-Cécile Renoux, Maria Angela Travella, Thierry and Mireille Viard. Alongside the team, we have a board of five members: Paul Collowald, Ingeborg Cukier, Robert Pendville, Jacques Rabier and Régis Verley.

This extra support should enable us to provide a twice-monthly edition of this newsletter.

News:

"We are ready for the challenge of participation for the poorest people in Europe"

At the European Fourth World Popular University, "Constructing a Europe without poverty or exclusion with young people", which was held on November 8 2010 at the EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) in Brussels, Isabelle Perrin, deputy director general of ATD Fourth World stated:

"Today we have shown that people with experience of poverty have ideas and, when they can share and combine them with those of others, new thought is created. These ideas are forged in the context of struggle, with the pride of continuing the fight against injustice at a time when it would be easy to give up because of how hard life is."

"You have spoken of your hope of finding partners in local neighbourhoods, at school, at work, in town halls and in political circles, of creating this school where knowledge is no longer a source of competition, but is shared between everyone, of policies for employment and training that are effective and free from discrimination or labelling, of supporting your families who are your first source of support for your projects at all levels, including your determination to create solidarity in your neighbourhoods."

"We also have ideas for Europe. We want a Europe of human rights and not a Europe of handouts. We want a Europe which refuses to give up, which is why we are so concerned to hear that the number of poor people is supposed to be reduced by 25%, and the number of children disconnected from education from 15 to 10%. What about the rest?"

"Participation is an important topic in today's Europe. It still poses a challenge to us, to Europe and the world. The challenge is to create the conditions for people who would normally never meet to speak to one another without fear or ulterior motives and to reflect together. We are ready and willing to meet this challenge, together with Europe."

The European platform against poverty and social exclusion

This platform is one of the 7 "flagship initiatives of the 2020 strategy. It aims to foster the joint engagement of Member States, European institutions and major interested parties in the fight against poverty and social exclusion." Since its adoption, ATD Fourth World has been calling for concrete policies to be applied in line with the following principles:

- To ensure that the policies are effective for the poorest people
- To develop tools to tackle extreme poverty in order to respect Human rights
- To end intergenerational poverty
- To think and act in partnership with the poorest people
- To implement the horizontal social clause
- To draw on social innovations and pilot projects

[Find out more...](#)



European Fourth World People's University: Brussels november 8th 2010

Citizens' Agora "Crises and Poverities"

The Citizens' Agora serves as a bridge between the European Parliament and civil society in Europe. It was held at the European Parliament in Brussels on January 27 and 28 2011. A delegation from ATD Fourth World, which included several young people from Belgium, France, Switzerland and Poland, spoke at the event.

Several of our proposals were mentioned in Agora's concluding remarks:

- "To create policies which take the poorest people into account; to create a "reporting schedule" with concrete objectives and diversified indicators for the fight against poverty, and to ensure an annual evaluation
- To guarantee real dialogue with the poorest people by involving all parties concerned, particularly social partners and civil society actors
- To recognise the link between poverty and Human rights and to guarantee access to and the effectiveness of these rights (through applying the study of the Fundamental Rights Agency: *Extreme Poverty and Human Rights*)
- Deputies and officials of the European institutions must participate in training on poverty and social exclusion, with people who have experienced poverty as trainers".

2010 Innovations Brussels: February 13 - 17

Belgium recently hosted the fourth and final meeting of "2010 Innovations" which was launched in Belgium by Globul'in, Haus Neudorf in Germany, Eurocef¹ in France and ATD Fourth World in Poland.

This programme of exchanges aimed to facilitate a Europe-wide meeting of social workers, educators, students in these fields and the beneficiaries of social aid. Participants (50 to 100 people) met in 4 countries and then set out to look for innovatory projects for delivering family support and accompaniment.

The website www.innov2010.eu features a number of working papers that were created as part of the project.

Participants are now preparing a document to report on their findings. They are committed to innovation in their workplaces and within this fruitful new partnership between aid services and beneficiaries.

In 2012, members will meet to share their experiences and new practices.

Pierre Klein, ATD Fourth World coordinator in Poland

Advance screening of the film "Joseph l'insoumis" Monday february 21st 2011

This is the account of the beginnings of ATD Fourth World and the fight of Father Joseph Wresinski and the families of the slums of the Paris region for "the equal dignity of all against humiliation and for relief".

Director Caroline Glorion stated of her work:

"The suffering and courage of those who fought at the beginning of the 1960s nourished the interpretation of both actors and the extras, people who today continue to fight and who agreed to lend their voice, body and energy to interpret the characters of this film"

The evening was held at the Arenberg cinema and organised by the Joseph Wresinski Society, and attended by the Queen, the culture minister, a European deputy, several actors including Jacques Weber and Anouk Grimberg, members of the People's Universities, friends and allies of the ATD Fourth World Movement.

The film won first prize, the *Pyrénées d'Or*, at the 13th Luchon festival (1 – 13 February 2011) and also won the public's prize at the festival. It will be broadcast on France 3 and used as the basis of a lecture tour in Belgium.

"In the months and years to come, we want this film to mobilise a wide public from across the world and throughout Belgium."

Yvette De Vuyst, ATD Fourth World Belgium national team



Jacques Weber, Caroline Glorion, Eugen Brand ATD Fourth World deputy director general

Upcoming dates:

- **Monday 28 March 2001:** "Extreme poverty and Human Rights": meeting co-organised by ATD Fourth World and the CNCDDH (Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l'Homme - France) in Paris
- **Thursday 14 and Friday 15 April 2011:** Meeting of the civil society platform of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna
- **Wednesday 6 April 2011:** 19h 30 at the Catholic University of Leuven: the Joseph Wresinski Society with Dr William Parienté, on the topic: "what methods of evaluation do we have to test the efficiency of anti-poverty measures?"

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¹ Globul'in : An assistance service for young people in Belgium; Haus Nordorf: A Fourth World centre in Germany; Eurocef: Service d'aide aux jeunes en Belgique; Haus Neudorf : Maison Quart Monde en Allemagne; Eurocef : Comité européen d'action spécialisée pour l'enfance et la famille dans leur milieu de vie (French NGO)