

2017 Stop Poverty Songbook



# **Joining Our Voices**

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# Preface

"Whether singing about love, pain, dreams, or memory, beyond the words a man's voice sings above all else of his search for dignity. In the *aldeas* of Guatemala, the *mornes* of Haiti, the slums of Thailand, or the abandoned inner cities of Europe, everywhere I have heard families fighting the most intolerable poverty singing their dignity... This October 17, thousands of women and men, 100,000 voices, will join their voices with those who have none to sing their dignity." – Joseph Wresinski

It was with those words that, in 1987, Father Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World, invited singers from around the world to launch with him the first World Day for Overcoming Poverty. Since then, the day has become an annual gathering point for all those who know that together we can end poverty. In 1992, October 17 was declared an international day by the United Nations, whose Secretary-General commended it as one of the far too rare moments when poverty is denounced as a violation of human rights, and when those who live in poverty can finally speak out in public about their daily struggles for justice and peace. It is a day that calls upon all of us to join them in action.

Joseph Wresinski would have celebrated his one hundredth birthday on February 12, 2017. His childhood in poverty, and the courage of his parents, forged his character and that of the movement he founded, a movement where thousands of families living in poverty have found one another. Wresinski said, "I am jealous of all those who, from their childhood, learned to love music and dance, art and poetry. I didn't have that opportunity and I have suffered my whole life because of it. To offer that to those in the worst poverty has been my life's struggle."

By organizing a concert this year in your neighborhood, your city, or your village, including the songs of struggle and dignity brought together in this book, you will spread the word about our work for dignity and help share the message of hope and the love of beauty, music, and harmony of those among us who live in poverty. You will join your voices with thousands of singers around the world and help grow the movement of people dedicated to leaving no one behind.

Thank you! Cassam Uteem President of the International Movement ATD Fourth World

# **ZO KWE ZO**

ATD Quart Monde Centrafrique et Plateforme Interconfessionnelle de la Jeunesse de Centrafrique



## **Collecting Songs**

To commemorate sixty years of work alongside people living in poverty, we asked ATD Fourth World teams on five continents to send us songs that give them courage in the face of poverty. We have already received more than three hundred suggestions. Some of these songs express the hope for peace that people living in poverty feel.

Below are other songs of struggle and dignity which may also inspire:

Amazing Grace (USA) Asimbonanga (France: Johnny Clegg) Chanson pour l'Auvergnat (France: Georges Brassens) Bella Ciao (Italy) Duerme Negrito (Argentina: Mercedes Sosa) Calango (Brazil: Thierry Thiebaut) Caminando (Panama: Rubén Blades) Les Corons (France: Pierre Bachelet) Guantanamera (Cuba) Have You Been to Jail for Justice? (USA) Chanter Pour Ceux Qui Sont Loin de Chez Eux (France: Michel Berger) Né Quelque Part (France: Maxime Le Forestier) Sixteen Tons (USA) Le Temps des Cerises (France) We Shall Overcome (USA)

If you know of other songs you think could be part of this list, please feel free to include them in your concerts and to tell us about them at: <u>mobilisation2017@atd-fourthworld.org</u>.

We continue to receive songs from around the world that inspire all of us to struggle against the injustice of poverty, and we plan to send out a list of these songs. Contacts for organizing concerts:

#### International:

mobilisation2017@atd-fourthworld.org

ATD Fourth World 12 rue Pasteur 95480 Pierrelaye, France <u>http://www.atd-fourthworld.org</u>

#### Ireland:

2017@atdireland.ie

All Together in Dignity 26 Mountjoy Square Dublin 1 Tel: 01 855 81 91 http://www.atdireland.ie

#### Philippines:

philippines@atd-fourthworld.org

ATD Fourth World Philippines 1225 Labores Street 1011 Pandacan Manila

#### UK:

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48 Addington Square London SE5 7LB http://www.atd-uk.org

USA:

gcoelho@4thworldmovement.org

P.O. Box 1787 Gallup, NM 87305 http://www.4thworldmovement.org

Your support makes a better world possible. Thank you.

## **Organizing a Concert**

ATD Fourth World is inviting choirs and artists around the world to join us in organizing concerts throughout 2017 (February to October) as part of a global campaign to celebrate the dignity of people living in poverty.

These concerts will help raise public awareness and generate financial support for the work ATD Fourth World does around access to culture, music, art, and reading among the most excluded families.

We can provide participating artists and groups with:

- 1. This songbook: Including songs of dignity and struggle from the most excluded populations all over the world, these songs can be sung at concerts or during national or regional events.
- 2. Communications support: A public-information flyer about the campaign, an announcement for any concerts on the campaign's social media sites, and other awareness-raising materials like photos or publications can be provided.
- 3. A network: Each choir will receive the address of the closest ATD Fourth World group. Interested choirs will be invited to participate in events around October 17, 2017, the 30<sup>th</sup> World Day for Overcoming Poverty.

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