

Stand Up and Take Action
Against Poverty and for the Millennium Development Goals
October 17-19, 2008



Stand in Solidarity

Mark the 2008 **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**. Stand in solidarity with those who continue to face poverty with hope and support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Last year over 43 million people Stood Up to demand that world leaders keep their promise to end poverty and inequality. Join the global movement of people who refuse to stay seated in the face of increasing inequality and broken promises.

Why?

In September 2000, heads of government of 189 countries signed the [United Nations Millennium Declaration](#) and committed the nations of the world to an agenda for action designed to establish a world free from want, a world free from fear; a world where all people are free to live in dignity.

Still **50,000 people die everyday as a result of extreme poverty** and the gap between rich and poor people is increasing. Nearly half the world's population live in poverty, 70% are women. We have the power to change this.

What?

This year people worldwide will **Stand Up** ([English](#), [Español](#), [Português](#); for [French](#) <http://www.standagainstopoverty.org/fr>) and **Take Action** to push their governments to keep their promises of more and better aid, debt cancellation, education for all boys and girls, healthcare, trade justice, gender equality and public accountability. Stand with them and publicly demonstrate to policy makers the growing global support for the eradication of poverty and the accomplishment of the MDGs ([English](#), [Español](#)).

When?

To make sure more people can take part, we will Stand Up sometime between **October 17** and **19**, as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty unfolds across the world.

How?

Participating in this **worldwide solidarity event** is easy and all the resources you need (posters, the pledge, sign-up forms and additional information) are available in the event toolkit at www.standagainstopoverty.org. ([English](#), [Español](#), and [Português](#))

1. Plan your event to take place between 9:00 pm GMT on October 17th and 9:00 pm GMT on October 19th.
2. Pre-register your event at www.standagainstopoverty.org.
3. During your event ask everyone to stand for 1 minute and read the pledge.

*We, _____ have taken part in the **Stand Up and Take Action** movement to draw attention to the problems our world still faces. Each day over 30,000 children die of poverty. Each day, over 7,000 young people contract HIV/AIDS.*

*Today we come together to demand a change. Today we are asking you to keep your promise to end poverty by 2015 and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The world has the resources, money and technology to finally end poverty forever. **Please don't miss this historic opportunity.***

4. Count all the people at your event and record your numbers at: www.standagainstopoverty.org

Take Action

We are also asking you to take action. This could be in conjunction with the event itself or something you do individually. There are any number of other ways to contribute towards ending poverty and inequality. You might:

- Pray! (cfr., Millennium Prayer below)
- Write to your government officials. Ask them to put an end to poverty and inequality and support the MDGs.
- Organize food distribution.
- Donate used-books and school supplies.
- Give blood.
- Improve basic sanitation facilities. Dig a well or build a latrine.
- Distribute mosquito nets.
- Plant trees.
- Start a no plastic bag campaign.
- Write letters to local media.
- Post banners and posters.
- Distribute pamphlets.
- Sponsor a MDG quiz, debates, poster or essay competition.
- Send an instant message to your friends about poverty eradication.
- Give a public speech or lecture.
- Wear and distribute white bands.
- Give a concert. Perform the [Poverty Requiem](#).
- Organize a religious procession.
- Teach about the MDGs.
- Visit your local officials and tell them about your commitment to end poverty.
- Fast for world hunger.



Additional Resources

- Learn more about the MDGs (<http://notredameonlinenews.wikispaces.com/UNMDG>)
- Founded in 1957, by Fr. Joseph Wresinski, the International Movement ATD Fourth World ([English](#), [Español](#), [Italiano](#), [Japanese](#), [Português](#), [Français](#) link is given in heading) is a non-governmental organization which seeks to find solutions to eradicate extreme poverty. Working in partnership with people in poverty, ATD Fourth World's human rights-based approach focuses on supporting families and creating public awareness of extreme poverty and influencing policies to address it. ATD Fourth World is the primary sponsor of October 17—World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty. ([English](#), [Español](#), [Italiano](#), [Japanese](#), [Português](#))
- The Global Call to Action against Poverty—GCAP ([English](#), [Español](#), [Português](#),) and the [UN Millennium Campaign](#) offer multiple resources and provide links to country level campaigns.
- The United Nations *Dag Hammarskjöld Library* ([English](#) and [Español](#)) offers multiple resources about the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and poverty in general for teachers, students, scholars, and interested citizens.

Prayer for the Millennium Goals

In a world where so many go hungry, let us make the fruits of creation available for all. In a world where one billion of our brothers and sisters do not have safe drinking water, let us help the waters run clear. In a world where so many die so young, and so many mothers die in childbirth, and so many families are ravaged by disease, let us bring health and healing. In a world where women carry such heavy burdens, let us recognize and restore the rights of all. Let us join together, with a new sense of global community, a new awareness of our need for one another and for this fragile planet, to meet the clear challenge of the Millennium Goals, to bring hope as substantial as bread, to make human dignity as visible as wheat in the fields. **Amen!**

(Center of Concern www.coc.org)

