



Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated.

To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.

October 17, 1987, Joseph Wresinski (1917-1988), Founder, International Movement ATD Fourth World

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Voices That Need To Be Heard

By Diana Skelton-Faujour

The last issue of the Fourth World Journal looked at the issue of housing and how those living in poverty feel its insecurities the most. *The New York Times* illustrated the same point in a recent article.

*"The Padillas [...] had a difficult time getting into shelters over the summer. Ms. Cintron-Padilla said the family was often turned away because Mr. Padilla had a job [...] as a security screener at Kennedy International Airport. Even when the family was accepted into a shelter, Mr. Padilla found himself locked out because he works until 11:30 at night and missed the shelter curfew."**

This makes no sense. Shelters exist to help families over rough times when they have lost their homes and yet the rules can often penalize a parent for having a steady job. If adults like the Padillas had a voice in shaping housing policies, the system would work better.

Such voices have to be heard. And they can be.

At the General Assembly of the International Fourth World Movement, our members from diverse backgrounds around the world came together to articulate our common message. Asked whether the process of writing this statement helped fight poverty, one delegate from the United States, Tina Lindsey, responded with a resounding, *"Yes, because everyone had a voice!"*

The Taporí Resource Guide offers teachers the chance to give their students a view of poverty that comes directly from children living in poverty. All too often, stories about children in poverty end up disrespecting their parents. Taporí exists to support these children to share their own stories in ways they can find constructive and positive.

And, with its re-opening, the Fourth World House in New York is now, even more than before, a place where people living in poverty can make their voices heard to others from many different walks of life.

During the inauguration, Rosa Cho, a graduate student in social work currently interning with the United Nations, told us what it means to her to be able to hear these voices: *"Why do I feel so passionate about the Fourth World Movement? In Korea, where I'm from, the extremely poor get their homes pushed up to the mountains. We call the villages 'moon towns' because they are closer to the moon. As a kid, I used to accompany my parents to these towns to do little things, like planting flowers, and my parents taught classes. My family was not affluent, and there were days when we skipped meals, so I asked my mother why she was doing all this work. She said that extreme poverty was not a single person's fault, it is everyone's problem. It can only be solved when everyone decides to eradicate it."*

"I understood her words when I knocked on the door of the Fourth World House last summer and saw the power of a long-term commitment to the Street Library Program, the Taporí Program, and the representation at the UN... These are tools for making the eradication of poverty possible. And with so many dedicated members, we can make the changes at all levels of society."

Making these voices known is important. It is only then that we can all begin to learn from them and the experiences they carry.

* Stephanie Rosenbloom, "Even With a Job, a Father Can't Afford to Stay in New York," *The New York Times*, December 13, 2004.

A New Beginning and Renewed Hope

The Inauguration of the Fourth World House in New York

By Patrice Faujour

Back in January 2003, the Fourth World House in New York City closed for a \$1.3 million renovation and expansion project. Two years on, it is with great pleasure that we can announce that the redesigned house was officially re-opened at an inauguration ceremony this past January. The event was marked by a large gathering which often reduced the house to standing-room-only. Many of those present were people who regularly participate in our programs, but I was also amazed to see members of the Movement who had known Vincent and Fanchette Fanelli* some twenty-five or more years ago come back to the house, as well as many new people who came to learn about the Fourth World Movement for the first time.

Since the Fourth World Movement first purchased the house in 1974, countless volunteers from all over the world had made repairs to the one hundred year-old structure, but time had taken its toll and the plans for renovation and expansion called for professionals to take up the challenge. Architect Paul Castrucci, assisted by Warren Frey, created an environmentally-responsible design filled with light. We worked closely with both of them over the last three years, as well as with their contractor, Ace Drywall System, led by Kazik Kopinsky, whose workers had great teamwork.

We also had friends help us out with the finishing touches. Nicole Spiers donated her professional expertise to help design our display window, while John Cleary and Steve Steinbrueck helped us with the light

"The Fourth World House brings together people from here and abroad. It is a place where everyone is welcome, if they need a place to sit and talk, or just an ear to listen to them." - Rosalyn Bridges

construction necessary to get the house set up properly. When the house was finally ready, we put up a photo exhibit to illustrate both the history of the Fourth World Movement in this city and our links to Fourth World Movement teams and projects in the rest of the country and across the globe in Africa, Asia, Europe and other parts of the Americas.

When the big day finally arrived, I went to collect Zena Grimes and her children, who have been members of the Fourth World Movement for sixteen years now. Zena was excited at the

* Vincent and Fanchette Fanelli lived in New York between 1968 and 1986 as co-directors of Fourth World Movement/USA.

prospect of seeing the renovated house. She said, *"The first time I met the Fourth World Movement was at a shelter. So, when I first came to the house, I got to meet new people and share ideas and thoughts."* She later added that she prefers the new design of the house because, *"Before, to go to the kitchen, you had to walk over that iron cellar door with everybody standing there when we were having a meeting. It was annoying."*

The inauguration and the day itself were also a time for people to take gifts that were special



to them and present them to the house, as Rosalyn Bridges did. In the early 1990s, David Lockwood, a British member of the Fourth World Movement Volunteer Corps, was part of the team here in New York. During his time here, he spent a great deal of time walking around East New York in order to learn about the neighborhood and its people. For one event, David baked cookies and placed them in a tin box that was decorated with flowers. Seeing how Rosalyn admired the box, David later offered it to her. It was this box that Rosalyn brought to the inauguration, with her hope that it can stay in the house as a reminder of the years that David spent here.

Representatives from several Fourth World Movement teams in other countries joined us for the inauguration, including France Fournier from Quebec, who sang for us. For Evelyne Louveaux from London, being present brought back memories of the years she spent in New York and her efforts to find both funding and new friends for the Fourth World Movement. She said, *"Today, there are many more friends, and that is the best reward for us – to see not only the house but all the people here."*

We also received a message for the inauguration from His Excellency Mr. Jean-David Levitte, Ambassador of France to the United States. He wrote, *"The Fourth World Movement is very dear to me because of the cause it serves with such determination and rightfulness. Having participated in some of the 17 October Fourth World Movement events, I have seen for myself the invaluable*

The General Assembly Process: Daring to Write Down Who We Are

By Jill Cunningham

What does the Fourth World Movement mean for me today? When I tell others why I am part of the Movement, what do I feel it is most important to say? What do I think is common to all of the members of the Movement who I know? What unites us?

These are the questions that, since January 2004, members of the Fourth World Movement from around the world have been trying to answer as part of a process to discover, agree on and put in writing those essential aspects and values that unite us all in the struggle against poverty and exclusion. A letter from the Director General explained the goal of the process: *"It is important that we create a new statement that fully reflects who we are today... It will say what brings us together, what injustices we are working against, and what is unique and creative about the kind of society we are trying to build for all people."*

Writing such a statement required input from a broad range of members, especially those whose lives are marked by persistent poverty. Thus, the process brought members from different backgrounds together to talk and to learn from and confront their different ways of understanding and expressing the Fourth World Movement.

Here in the United States, over one hundred and twenty members took part in this process. Interviews, meetings and creative workshops took place in New York and New Orleans. Members in Appalachia created a CD-Rom about their connection to the Fourth World Movement, while the National Center gathered contributions from members around the country.

At the May 2004 Annual Meeting, small groups began to read people's contributions and underline important words or passages, publicly sharing



what they chose and why. This began the step to forge a one-page statement that reflected not only all the contributions people had made but also the common themes that had emerged. For example, Barbara Risin of Louisiana said, *"When I tell others about the Fourth World Movement, I tell them: 'You are not alone. There are lots of people who care.'" Likewise, Rebecca Perrigan of southwestern Virginia wrote of the importance of, "Unity and respect for all people in the world, especially those who are struggling in poverty."*

Sixteen delegates then traveled to Montreal in June for a regional assembly where they could share experiences, actions and ways of expressing the Fourth World Movement with members in Canada.

Then, in November 2004, after months of work in their respective countries, some seventy delegates from twenty-four countries gathered for the General Assembly at the international center of the Fourth World Movement in France. They brought with them their national statements, all expressing what gives members strength to unite and struggle against hardship. Tina Lindsey, an activist parent and a supporter of the Street Library program in New York, spoke about how it felt to be there. *"Some of the delegates were actually crying because they see, breathe and eat this extreme poverty so bad that it was like a burden came off their shoulders when they talked about it!... Being a delegate was important for me because I was speaking for everybody."*

Joining Ms. Lindsey as delegates from the United States were the President of Fourth World Movement/USA, Charles Courtney, and the former Director of Fourth World Movement/USA, Colette Jay. The excitement and challenge of writing a statement together with

"The statement makes me feel good about the Fourth World Movement. It can make me feel proud to be part of it." – Doris Newsome

others during the General Assembly clearly affected all three. According to Tina, *"Yes, we were fighting poverty because everyone had a voice! When we were pinpointing 'dignity' and 'priority to the poorest,' we pinpointed everything that people would want to see and read... 'Dignity' was a factor for all the delegates. I think that it was straight to the point. It made our statement stronger. I'm proud of our statement."*

After eight days working simultaneously in English, French and Spanish, all the delegates had settled on the essentials and created a common international statement. It was exhausting but Colette saw the fruits of this approach. *"An important aspect for me was daring to take time, even late the last night, so that everyone could understand. Rob [from Great Britain] sat with Salehe [from Tanzania] to make sure that he was following and give him time to find the words to express himself. As we waited for them, you could feel people getting impatient. We managed to wait, though, and in the end Salehe's proposal was the one chosen to keep for the final version. If we had listened to our*



This statement is the result of a process of input from and consultation among thousands of members of the Fourth World Movement from around the world and of different social, cultural and economic backgrounds. It is an expression of what the Movement means to them personally, the words they use to talk about its values and what unites its members in the struggle against poverty and exclusion. At the general Assembly in November 2004, delegates from around the world created the following statement.

All human beings, regardless of their place in society, are equal in dignity, which must be respected, not violated by anyone for any reason. Equal dignity is the basis for fundamental rights, especially the right to freedom of expression, to live as a family, to housing, to health care and to work. Those who live in extreme poverty are the first victims of the violation of human rights.

Keenly aware of the world's long history of human suffering and hope, Fr. Joseph Wresinski, born in poverty himself, founded the International Movement ATD Fourth World in 1957 with families from the homeless camp of Noisy-le-Grand (France), the first members of the Fourth World Movement Volunteer Corps and others who joined them. His belief that *"Every person is a chance for humanity"* is a source of inspiration for many people all over the world.

Injustice, powerlessness, shame, humiliation and exclusion as experienced by those living in chronic poverty must not be tolerated. Our priority is to reach out to the poorest and most ignored people, be alongside them, and create links with them and between them. We listen to the dreams and aspirations they have for themselves and their children and ensure that those with the hardest life are at the heart of all projects. When the most excluded people can contribute their knowledge and experience to society as equals, extreme poverty will be overcome.

The Fourth World Movement develops partnerships at all levels of society and in all parts of the world. It unites people whatever their origin, social status, culture or beliefs to fight against poverty. In building trust, solidarity and friendship, all have a place to realize their full potential. Working together and learning from each other, everyone is free to express themselves without being judged.

The Fourth World Movement was founded with the conviction that since people have created the conditions for extreme poverty and social exclusion, people can and should make a serious and long-term commitment to eliminating these conditions. Our work must be constantly re-evaluated to ensure that the poorest do not get left behind those who are moving forward.

As long as the power of money is the primary value, the world will be menaced by poverty and violence. If humanity is our primary value, the world will be transformed and we can all enjoy peace. October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, inaugurated by ATD Fourth World in 1987 and recognized by the United Nations since 1992, annually presents this ongoing challenge:

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

Fr. Joseph Wresinski

impatience and 'sacrificed' one person for the rest of the group, we never would have had his succinct and eloquent contribution."

Looking back, Charles says, *"It is clear to me that the statement is not an end in itself but a means to an end. The process was an occasion for literally thousands of people in the Movement around the world to think about what the Movement means and how we are going to express it."*

Delegates took back the

"I really see this statement as being used to show how possible it is for all people to work together and invite others to join us in tolerating extreme poverty no more." – Rebecca Meszaros

statement from the General Assembly to their respective countries, with the challenge now being to collect reactions and feedback from the members they represented there and, if need be, make the text more suitable to their cultural context. Tina recently gave voice to the freedom to speak and willingness to listen that has underpinned the process, *"I hope that we can present the statement so that, if people are down, they can get involved in the Fourth World Movement. I think that our statement should be in the Fourth World Journal, the newspapers and on TV. I would love to post the statement in the President's office and the Mayor's office, but if it's not suitable for the President yet, then we need to work on it some more!"* Thus, the statement stands as a call for further discussion and encounters to challenge and strengthen the fight against poverty.

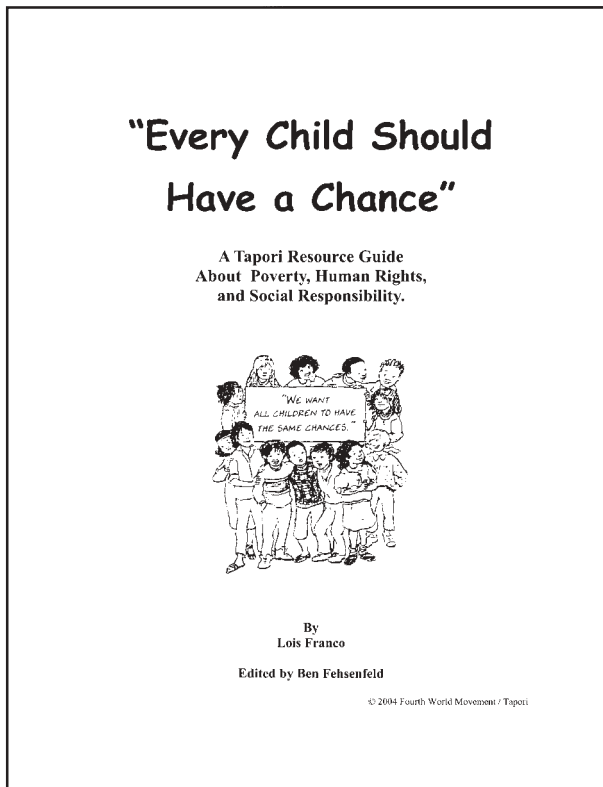
Every Child Should Have a Chance: A Tabori Resource Guide

By Ben Fehsenfeld

Love, tolerance, respect, compassion, fairness, friendship, empathy, creativity and an appreciation of the role of the family are values that we all want to pass on to our children. With more than thirty years experience of doing just this here in the United States, the Tabori Children's Network and Fourth World Movement/USA are proud to announce the upcoming release next month of *Every Child Should Have a Chance: A Tabori Resource Guide About Poverty, Human Rights and Social Responsibility*.

Every Child Should Have a Chance is a collection of lessons, texts and activities that can be used by teachers, social workers, community-based organizations, and church groups to introduce eight to eleven year olds to Tabori and deepen their understanding of extreme poverty and social justice. Based on the stories of children living in poverty all around the world, the guide helps children build their ideas of fairness, friendship and human rights. As always with Tabori, the guide is designed to facilitate communication and solidarity between children at local, national and global levels and provide a forum for teachers and those that work with children where they can discuss values with children and help them feel that they are part of a larger community.

The guide features twenty-four lessons spread out over four chapters, including *An Introduction to Tabori*, *October 17: World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty, Human Rights at Home and Abroad* and *Tabori City*. The lessons balance reading and discussion with activities for the children to do, and each lesson also has a follow-up activity that can be used as an extension or as



'Every Child Should Have a Chance' is a collection of lessons, texts and activities to introduce children to the spirit of Tabori and deepen their understanding of extreme poverty and social justice.

homework if the guide is used in school. The guide will also include a video of the Tabori Children's Forum in 1999, a CD with two Tabori songs and a set of *Children of Courage* mini-books. The guide will be available to buy as a whole or as individual chapters.

Every Child Should Have a Chance is the result of years of work by a number of people. The project began in 1999 when Lois Franco, a third grade teacher in a public school in Brooklyn, was granted a year-long sabbatical by the New York City public school system to write the guide with the support of Janet Schmidt, an author of human rights curriculums, Fourth World Movement Volunteer Corps member Bruno Tardieu and Don Wertlieb, a professor at MIT. Over the past four years, the text has been revised, edited, updated and field-tested to ready it for publishing.

So far, those who have seen and used the guide have been overwhelmingly positive. Myriam Sleeth, a special education teacher in Maryland, commented, *"These lessons were very successful and beneficial for my students. They really enjoyed the content and the activities."* Denise Emmerling-Baker, a teacher in Oregon, said, *"The program is tremendous... It is a nice model for continuity of positive social awareness while teaching basic skills and content area. There is opportunity for authentic education, engaging and sensitive to various ability levels, cultures and learning modalities of all students."*

For more information about *Every Child Should Have a Chance*, or to order a copy, contact the National Center or look under the publications icon at www.4thworldmovement.org.

Or, for more information on the Tabori Children's Network, visit www.tabori.org.

Thank You



Fourth World Movement/USA wishes to thank Books to Dreams Inc. for their generous donation of 205 books and 40 'reading buddies' to the children of the New York and New Orleans Street Libraries and the Tabori Group of the Jamaica Family Center, NY.

Books to Dreams Inc. distributes books as gifts to parents and children, allowing children to choose the books, and inscribes the family's name within. The 'reading buddies' are cuddly toys that accompany the gift for younger children in order to make the books seem more friendly.

Mailing List

Fourth World Movement/USA is dedicated to fostering partnerships with families living in persistent poverty and all members of society in order to work together to overcome extreme poverty and social exclusion.

As part of our drive to reach out to as many people, groups and organizations as possible, we would like to ask you if you are willing to share with us the names and addresses of one or more friends whom you think would be interested in the work of the Fourth World Movement and our publications.

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A New Beginning... from p. 1

meaning of your work. Today is a landmark day in your history in the United States. I believe that the renovation and expansion of the Fourth World House in New York City will help it to be more visible, to be more effective in bringing support to the disadvantaged here and, because of its location, in enhancing the links with members of the Movement from elsewhere in the world, and raising awareness among the United Nations people, serving as an 'embassy' for the disadvantaged."

It is amazing to hear this house now called an 'embassy'! The first time I came to New York, the city was incredibly impressive and yet this Fourth World House had buckets positioned in various places to catch the rain coming in through

"I was six when I first came to the house. I was shy but the Fourth World Movement has opened a lot of kids to new things: to read and write, to using computers, and we grew plants." – Kristial Franklin

the leaky roof! Thinking back to such scenes and to such realities, it is impossible not to think of the efforts of Angela Mendolaro, Robert Jordan, the members of Westchester Accueil and many others who worked over the past eight years to raise the money for and organize the



details of the renovation of the house. It was their efforts that made it possible for people like Tony Velazquez, who has been actively involved for twenty-five years now, and Pauline Williams, who has known the Movement since we first moved into this house more than thirty years ago, to see this house made new again.

Our inauguration ended with some words from Susan Devins, the Deputy Director General of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, who herself used to live in this house and who traveled here from our international center in France to be at this event. "The Fourth World Movement started

in a camp for homeless families and, even today, fifty years later in the richest country in the world, we have families who don't know where they are going to sleep or who spend years in shelters. We have to be as radical as our founder was. When he went to that camp, it was a dead end. He looked at the people and knew that they had something to give to society. What are our challenges for the future? One of them is reaching out to new places. This coming September, we will hold a seminar with people who are fighting poverty in the Mediterranean Basin. There will be people coming from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and elsewhere. This seminar will take place in Marseille, France, but I mention it here because New York is an international city and we count on you to help us meet other people you might know in those countries who could be interested."

So there are still many challenges ahead. Here in New York, we will continue to be present in disadvantaged neighborhoods and at the United Nations, where we will continue to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty every October. We will continue to



"I was greeted with warmth and met so many people from around the world who came to talk about poverty. I felt a part of what this house was about." - Jean Stallings

gather together teachers, community workers and parents who know poverty to expand the dialogue about how to unleash children's hidden potential. And we will do it all from this beautiful house, which is now a place worthy of the varied mosaic of people we welcome here.

In our next issue, a final report on the Fourth World House Capital Campaign which made the renovation and expansion project possible.

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FOURTH WORLD JOURNAL

The Fourth World Journal is a regular publication of the Fourth World Movement/USA, the US branch of an international association working with and on behalf of those around the world who live in extreme poverty.

The International Movement ATD Fourth World is an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO and the Council of Europe.

The Fourth World Journal aims to bring together different points of view, especially those of the very poor themselves, on topics related to extreme poverty. We encourage our readers to share with us their reactions and comments.

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INSIDE:
Hearing the Voices of
Those Living in
Poverty

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