



Understanding the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty

Poverty Aware Practice





**All Together in Dignity
(ATD) Ireland**

*"Poverty is not
inevitable ...
human beings
can end it"*

- JOSEPH WRESINSKI

WHO WE ARE?

Seeking eradication of poverty



Working together with people in poverty



Working to overcome poverty
through a human rights based approach



Offering volunteering opportunities



WHAT WE DO?

Reaching out to and supporting people



Marking UN End Poverty Day 17 October



Campaigning against socioeconomic
discrimination



Promoting the SDGs and the Leave No
One Behind Promise



All Together In Dignity Fourth World (ATD)

Created in 1957 in Paris

**Small teams in 33 countries on
five continents**

**NGO with consultative status
at the UN, Council of Europe
and the ILO**

<https://www.atdireland.ie/wp/>

ATD Ireland (All Together in Dignity) is part of the International Organisation ATD Fourth World a movement of solidarity among and in collaboration with the most disadvantaged and excluded families around the world, with more than sixty years' experience of tackling inequality and promoting social justice.

We hold a vision of a world without poverty, a society where each person is respected. Poverty is an affront to human dignity, and people in poverty have unique knowledge and experience that can lower the barriers separating people and communities.



**We believe that the
true experts of
Poverty are those
who live with it!**

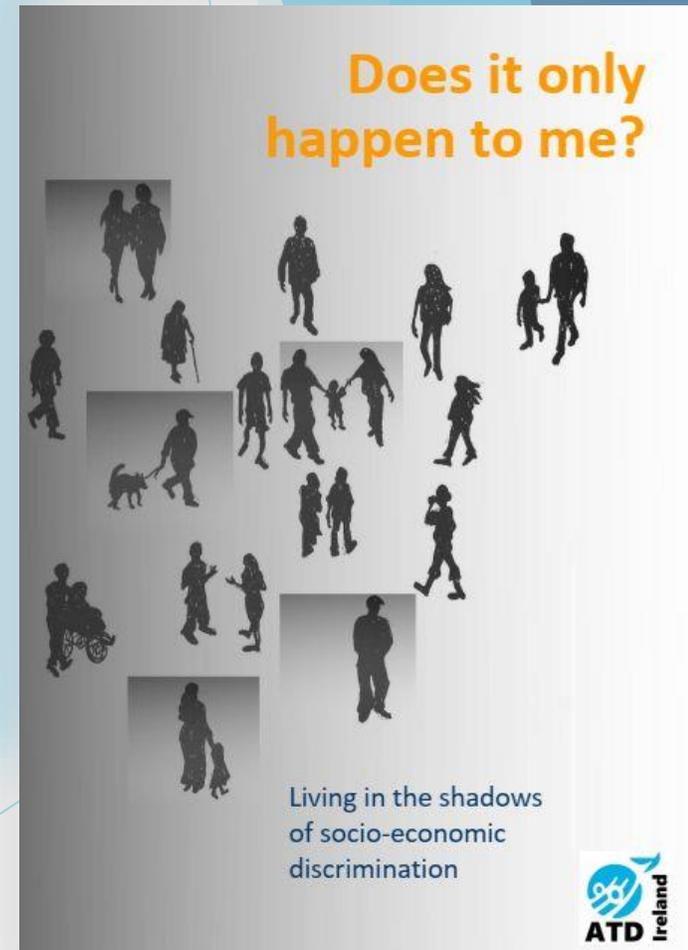


Exercise: Separate into small groups and discuss:

**What does poverty and
socio – economic
discrimination mean to
you?**



Real life statements about what it is like to experience Socio - Economic Discrimination



ATD activist Kye
speaks about his
experience of socio -
economic
discrimination and
the care system



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIWz1qJwNIE>

ATD Ireland has been collaborating with Trinity College Dublin to develop and deliver a Poverty Aware Practice to social work students. Led by ATD community activists with lived experience of poverty and socio-economic discrimination.

The module consists of testimonies based on lived experience, group exercises, a presentation and an interactive discussion and Q& A with the class. The aim of these sessions was to provide trainee social workers with a more dynamic and holistic understanding of the lives and daily experiences of those who are experiencing poverty, people they will be working with in the future.



New Film: Poverty Aware Practice <https://youtu.be/nteiJlwosM>

Key issues families we work with face with social workers

Positive Practice



Often people only hear the negative stories about social workers and we don't hear about all the positive work

It's important to recognise the positive practice that takes place!

It's time to build a good, constructive relationship together 😊

"The social workers are often changed, you can have a lot of different social workers in your life in a short time and in my opinion this doesn't help us build a strong relationship."

Power

Social workers carry a lot of power - parents can often feel powerless in the relationship.

The stakes can be extremely high to the point of losing a child into the care system.

Recognizing this power disproportion is important!

Fear

When a social worker comes to the door, you are filled with fear ... fear based on what you have heard from others. You may have done nothing wrong but the fear still comes. I am not sure that even the social workers know how much power they have in the eyes of a parent.

Power is something very important, and needs to be addressed. A parent can feel powerless in the face of a social worker and this can lead to fear, shame, guilt and a backdown in the relationship.

Feeling Judged

People are often judged on their past, you could have gone through a rough patch a few years back and moved on since then, but it can still go against you. It could be on record and turn up and go against you even though you have changed and things are going well.

Add the 10th campaign



**What are you
taking away from
today's discussion?**



today's discussion

**THANK
YOU**



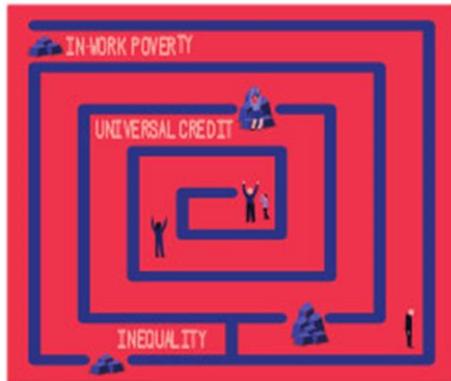
The Cycle of Poverty



- Intergenerational Poverty trap
- Deep rooted systematic factors
- Affects core trunk of being
- Inside - Out
- Limited branches of individual opportunity
- Physical and Mental health effects
- Possibility of resilience/hope
- Falling leaves of struggle/hardship
- Rebirth of difficult cycle for future children of family/community

How do these dimensions & what you heard together relate to Social Work - especially your recent placement?

Understanding Poverty in All its Forms: A participatory research study into poverty in the UK



**DISEMPowering SYSTEMS,
STRUCTURES AND POLICIES**



**FINANCIAL INSECURITY, FINANCIAL
EXCLUSION AND DEBT**



DAMAGED HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



STIGMA, BLAME AND JUDGEMENT



LACK OF CONTROL OVER CHOICES



**UNRECOGNISED STRUGGLES,
SKILLS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Other related reading materials:

▶ ATD Ireland Socio - Economic Discrimination Report <https://www.atdireland.ie/wp/socioeconomicground/>

▶ Lockdown Liberties Book - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/137UYyMVWBsSbKQjdBlkSpxPla9Glem72/view>
▶ And film - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EeRXGz1uNk&t=461s>

◀ Walker: Poverty & Shame

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-shame-of-poverty-9780199684823?cc=gb&lang=en&>

◀ Ruth Lister

https://repository.lboro.ac.uk/articles/A_politics_of_recognition_and_respect_involving_people_with_experience_of_poverty_in_decision_making_that_affects_their_lives/9472979

◀ Michal Krumer-Nevo

Poverty-aware social work practice: A conceptual framework for social work education

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/250396302_Poverty-aware_social_work_practice_A_conceptual_framework_for_social_work_education

◀ ATD Fourth World Hidden Dimensions of Poverty/ Understanding Poverty in All its Forms participatory research study <https://atd-uk.org/projects-campaigns/understanding-poverty/>

◀ <https://atd-uk.org/2018/12/13/when-the-right-to-family-life-is-violated-trust-betrayed-again-and-again/>

When the Right to Family Life Is Violated: “Trust Betrayed, Again and Again” blog ATD Fourth World



Ireland

<http://www.atdireland.ie/wp/>