



ATD Fourth World Annual Review 2010



What a difference a year makes: a new government, new policies, new fears and new insecurities.

The impact of the recession and the cuts on families in poverty stirs much debate but the reality is quite simple: those with nothing still have nothing, but are now threatened with having even less.

At a recent meeting, one participant's view was stark: *"The government wants to get rid of the deficit very quickly; they want an instant legacy to prove to everyone that the coalition works. But what this is doing is creating a condition of fear amongst the poor, which is disgusting... We're afraid that they will just give our homes to people who aren't on benefits, to people who can afford them. It'll be like social cleansing, moving us out of our neighbourhoods."*

Challenging times



Currently the recession and cuts in public spending are interacting with welfare reform on a massive scale. The most vulnerable families could possibly have weathered one or another, but now all three together are crashing in on them simultaneously.

Many of the organisations these families would turn to face increased demand for their services combined with reductions in funding and resources. At the same time, long-term strategies, preventive programmes and services for the disadvantaged are being cut by local authorities faced with impossible choices and unrealistic deadlines.

And yet ATD Fourth World's experience demonstrates that joined-up, long-term thinking grounded in the expertise of people with first-hand experience of poverty is essential in producing innovative policy

and practice. Our holistic Family Support Programme shows that families confronted by many difficulties can, given the right conditions and support, stand on their own two feet and take control of their lives.

We must stay hopeful that the infrastructure needed to nurture partnerships, dialogue and innovation remains in place and provides fresh opportunities and insight in these challenging times.

We thank you for your ongoing support.

Martin Kalisa, Daniel Kenningham and
Sarah Kenningham
National Co-ordination Team
ATD Fourth World



Persistent poverty and social exclusion may have been brought back into sharper focus by the financial crisis but ATD Fourth World has long worked alongside individuals and families confronting these challenges on a daily basis.

We believe that families experiencing such difficulties can best be supported with a holistic, proactive approach that takes into account all aspects of their life. Our Family Support Programme therefore aims to work in partnership with the families themselves to prevent crises and plan a way forward.

Where other professionals and agencies are involved in their support, collaboration with these partners to improve co-operation and achieve common goals is fundamental. The Zacchaeus 2000 Trust has been a key partner in providing legal and debt

Working in partnership



advice and their Chief Executive, Joanna Kennedy, commented on the impact that the Family Support Programme has had on one vulnerable young woman.

“When I first met Louise, in 2008, she seemed to be living a chaotic life and was in arrears because she hadn’t been paying the heating and service charge not covered by her housing benefit. She did not seem to have a grip on her finances and gave the impression of living an unhealthy and irregular life.

“I saw her again recently and she seems transformed.

“She came to me because she is a little in debt but had worked out what she could afford to repay and had already paid a substantial instalment. She had lost a lot of

weight, looks much healthier and generally seems to have a more positive attitude.

“I have always found Louise to be bright, lively and amusing. I think that the work that ATD Fourth World has done with her means that these qualities can flourish even more. I feel that she is now equipped for a much brighter future than ever seemed likely when I first met her.”

Oxfam GB also provided funding this past year for a research project examining the lives of several key families in the Family Support Programme. Interactive exercises and interviews using the *Sustainable Livelihoods Approach* allowed families to identify their strengths and take action on their own priority issues, including debt management, housing and education.



The Family Learning Project aims to offer disadvantaged families the opportunity to learn the skills they want and need to raise their children.

Through workshops, run largely by tutors from Surrey County Council's Family Learning team, parents and children are encouraged to discover valuable, practical knowledge as a family.

"The Family Learning Project is special because it's an opportunity to learn together as a family unit. We go in places to learn, and the kids go to school, but here we learn together. Now I have learned to be in the kitchen with my kids, which was impossible before."

In covering many of themes and challenges that families in poverty face on a daily

Building confidence



basis, such as health and fitness, budgeting, child development, nutrition and parent-child bonding, the project fosters a new and mutual understanding between the families and professionals. The positive experiences of learning and the constructive relationships formed with tutors build confidence and encourage families to get more involved in community-based activities when they return home.

“The first time I met Sharon (a tutor from the Family Learning team) was during a Family Learning Project weekend at Frimhurst. We built a strong relationship and now I do and learn things with her in the community. Frimhurst made that link possible.”

As the setting for all of ATD Fourth World's residential activities, including the Family Learning Project, Frimhurst Family House

in Surrey provides families with a peaceful environment in which to spend quality time together, to try new things and to learn together in a respectful, non-judgemental atmosphere. As always, there is a balance between times for learning and times to enjoy the facilities that Frimhurst has to offer in the children's playroom, library, computer room and games room. Families also have the chance to relax, make new friends and discover new places during outings in the surrounding area.

The Family Learning Project is supported with funding from the Big Lottery and Children in Need.



family learning



Weekly visits bringing books to a disadvantaged housing estate in West London are the cornerstone of the Doorstep Library project. The aim is to encourage parents to engage in reading with their children and foster a positive relationship with books that will further develop their children's education and well-being.

Furthermore, creative activities and cooking workshops to occupy and entertain the children during the school holidays were run in co-operation with the local Tenants and Residents' Association and H&F Homes. These included a felt animal workshop designed to introduce children to sewing and needlework, the popularity of which led to the recruitment of a professional artist to run further sewing workshops later in the summer that attracted both parents and children.

Positive relationships



The workshops gave children the opportunity to return time and again to their creations, build up their skills over an extended period and take their work home to show their families. They were also able to benefit from much needed individual attention and support thanks to the energy and resources invested into the programme.

Community cohesion was evident in the presence of a number of mothers in the workshops, providing them with a forum to meet other women, build new relationships and share information while enjoying positive interaction with their children outside of the home. A group of children were also brought together on an outing to the Hocus Pocus theatrical magic show.

Taking stock of ATD Fourth World's involvement in the estate, one volunteer with

the project said, *"When I first got to know one young boy, he was reluctant to read with us, hyperactive and unable to concentrate at all. He was easily distracted by his brother and couldn't switch off from the chaos around him.*

"It's taken two years but, through regular interaction, one-on-one work and a lot of patience, he now loves reading, will sit through two or three stories at a time and picks his own books to borrow."

The final year of our involvement in the Doorstep Library project also saw increased collaboration with the local Tenants and Residents' Association and the creation of a local charity to ensure the sustainability of the project in years to come.



Our Policy, Participation and Training Programme aims to give those living in poverty the chance to speak out and contribute to policy development, practice and awareness-raising on a wide range of issues related to their experience. The European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (EY2010) provided many such opportunities.

The key objectives of the year were: to raise public awareness of poverty and social exclusion; renew political commitment to combat them; challenge stereotypes and collective perceptions of poverty; and give voice to the concerns of people who have to live with poverty and social exclusion.

We were a major partner in organising the London regional EY2010 activity together with the European Anti-Poverty Network

Speaking out



(EAPN) England and took part in events across the UK and Europe.

Highlights included the family-friendly *Spark in the Park* event in North London, which brought together groups working for migrant rights, community volunteering, disability awareness and multicultural understanding, and participation in a national *Listening Campaign on Working-Age Poverty* run by Church Action on Poverty and Community Links.

ATD Fourth World also joined forces with EAPN England and Southwark Council to organise the *Building a Fairer Future* conference in South London. The event brought those with direct experience of poverty into dialogue with policy makers, civil society and public sector workers to promote joint action on the challenges facing

people and their organisations in the current climate. Workshops on a range of themes were complemented by input from speakers and politicians including Simon Hughes MP, Jean Lambert MEP and Leader of Southwark Council Peter John.

As a forum for grassroots voices to be heard across Europe, EY2010 also offered those participating an opportunity to recognise the value of their contribution. *"I enjoyed speaking out in the main conference room, in front of 200 people or more, talking to different government ministers and officials. For me it was an honour representing ATD Fourth World in a different country. I felt very proud and would love to do it again,"* said one delegate about a meeting hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels.



This is a time when it is vital that the authentic voice of young people be heard. If it is not, society risks losing an entire generation to a vicious cycle of poverty and worklessness.

Throughout 2010, ATD Fourth World sought to use the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion to take young people's experiences of daily life, as well as their dreams and concerns, to policy makers in the UK, in Europe and the wider world.

Through co-ordinated discussion forums, questionnaires and residential weekends, groups from across Europe prepared feedback on many of the key issues that affect them, from employment, education and training to crime, housing, public attitudes to those in poverty and the quality of State-run support services.

Finding our place



These contributions were then debated over five days of meetings and creative workshops at a rally held in Jambville, France, in July where more than two hundred participants from Belgium, France, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and the UK collectively wrote a *Message from the Young People of Europe*.

“What unites us is our refusal to stand by and allow the poverty and exclusion we see all around us to continue. We are the next generation and we demand a fairer future... We want a school system that takes into account the reality of our day to day lives. We want schools that open up our potential to the world... We are looking for our place in the world.”

On 17 October, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, this message

was read out in English, Dutch and French at an event in Brussels in front of MEPs, members of the European Commission and representatives from the European Economic and Social Committee. The culmination of the year's work came the next day when the message was publicly delivered to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek in Strasbourg.

In bringing together young people from a range of backgrounds and different countries, the project clearly demonstrates the energy, enthusiasm and skills of a generation with much to give.



The daily reality of persistent poverty goes far beyond a simple shortage of money. For many, it also means isolation, low self-esteem, long periods of unemployment and a lack of opportunities to meet others and pick up new skills.

With the goal of building confidence and widening horizons, ATD Fourth World's skill-sharing workshops offer a welcoming environment where people can volunteer their energies, learn from others, share their own experiences, discover hidden talents and recognise the contribution they can make to the wider community.

Investing in people's potential and highlighting their efforts was at the heart of the photographic exhibition *The Roles We Play: Recognising the Contribution of People in Poverty*. These portraits,

Investing in people



developed in partnership with London-based artist Eva Sajovic to challenge to the negative attitudes often held towards the most excluded, are accompanied by texts emphasising people's lives, hopes and place in society as seen through their own eyes.

Having been displayed at events in London, Newport, Glasgow, Birmingham and Brussels, including the TUC conference *Challenging Poverty in Changing Times* and the Poverty Alliance Annual Conference, the exhibition has had a marked effect on all those who have taken part.

In the words of one participant, *"It's one of the best things I've ever been involved in. It shows ordinary people with ordinary lives who go that extra mile to help other people. Being part of the exhibition shows people there is a lot more to ATD Fourth*

World's work than they think. I feel I can speak out more now, and when the exhibition goes around the country I feel proud to be associated with it."

This past year also saw the third and final chapter of the *Even Better Together* project, run in partnership with contemporary arts organisation Gasworks and funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Inspired by people's relationships with their own neighbourhoods and communities, the workshops explored social and political issues, disaster scenarios and self-expression through drawing, film, photography and drama.



ATD Fourth World can offer all kinds of opportunities to gain new skills and experiences to those willing to give their time, energies and talents towards making a difference.

Volunteers are essential for the development of our projects in the UK, either working directly with families in poverty or supporting those who do. These opportunities vary widely and are tailored according to availability, background, wishes and skills. So, whether you want to share your talents, work with others or support our events, you can get involved.

Volunteering opportunities focused on specific ATD Fourth World projects and campaigns arise throughout the year. These include full-time internships, based at the National Centre in London or at Frimhurst

Fighting poverty together



Family House in Surrey, which are initially six months in duration with accommodation, work-related travel expenses and basic living expenses provided.

For Anna Bowell, who has spent eighteen months working with the UK team, *“My time with ATD Fourth World has been more than just a job; it has opened my eyes to the realities and struggles of those living in poverty in the UK.*

“The people I have met are often inspiring, compassionate and hard-working. This was exemplified to me in my work with the Young People’s Project where their passion to speak out against the injustices and prejudice they experience on a daily basis took them to conferences and to meetings with politicians, as well as giving them the chance to voice their opinions in front of the

European Parliament in Brussels.

“My time here has also highlighted the importance of community. ATD Fourth World brings people together to fight poverty and systemic injustice together, regardless of their background. For me, being a part of this offers hope that we can work towards a more harmonious and equal society.

“ATD Fourth World readdresses the power balance. Every day, the team and the families work together and learn together. It is a partnership. And still I feel I am learning far more from the families than they could ever learn from me.”

For more information on ATD Fourth World volunteering opportunities, visit our website at www.atd-uk.org.

volunteering opportunities

How can I get involved?

ATD Fourth World Volunteer Corps members make a long-term commitment to working alongside families living in extreme poverty and are involved in projects here and overseas.

Members of the Volunteer Corps agree to live on the same basic wage and make themselves available to go where their expertise and skills are most needed.

Families, couples and individuals of all ages, from a variety of backgrounds and with an assortment of practical skills and qualifications, make up this diverse group of dedicated, full-time workers.

There are a number of steps to joining the Volunteer Corps, the first being involvement in ATD Fourth World projects here in the UK.

The **Friends and Supporters' Network** provides vital part-time and/or occasional support to the ATD Fourth World team and our projects.

Being a friend and supporter of ATD Fourth World can involve anything from helping out at a Family Learning weekend or participating in a sponsored bike ride to offering new project ideas, writing newsletter articles or making the tea!

The Friends and Supporters' Network is currently active in family support, fundraising, partnership initiatives and creating new ways of supporting the team and one another.

Come to an information weekend to find out more or visit www.atd-uk.org.



Summary of accounts

Year to 30 June

2010

2009

INCOME

Grants	£303,000	£210,000
Donations and legacies	£46,000	£44,000
Publications, contributions and interest	£26,000	£20,000
	<u>£375,000</u>	<u>£274,000</u>

EXPENDITURE

Family Support	£213,000	£183,000
Policy development and training	£128,000	£77,000
Publications	£5,000	£5,000
Administration, fundraising and depreciation	£6,000	£7,000
	<u>£352,000</u>	<u>£272,000</u>

Board of Directors Rev. Nicholas Edwards (chair), Eugen Brand, Paul Paroissien, Veronique Reboul-Salze, Ajanta Sinha, Jo Tunnard and Anna Vass

Company Secretary Daniel Kenningham

finance



ATD Fourth World
48 Addington Square, London SE5 7LB
tel: 020 7703 3231 fax: 020 7252 4276 website: www.atd-uk.org
Registered Charity no: 209367