



ATD Fourth World Annual Review 2011



This has again been a very bleak year for families experiencing extreme hardship and, in the form of caps on benefit levels and reduced entitlement, the threat is of more to come. Whilst the governmental welfare reforms aim to encourage the realisation of full potential, the stark reality is that many instead find themselves living in fear of homelessness and hunger rather than the prospect of a better future in work.

Undermining all efforts to support those most in need is the continued use of derogatory language that labels families as “troubled”, “chaotic”, “undeserving” and “anti-social”.

Such terms allow poverty to be seen and treated not as a shame on our wealthy society but rather as the fault of the poor themselves. Instead, it is the privileged and

# Absence of true dialogue



the powerful that should feel ashamed about an unfair and unjust system that maintains the status quo for those at the top whilst those at the bottom bear the heaviest burden.

And still it is those at the bottom who are farthest away from having a voice on the future of society. Even in times of plenty the most disadvantaged have often been denied the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the debate. But it is only with their genuine participation that we can move away from the ill-conceived programmes of the past that have fostered inequality and halted social mobility.

*“There is nothing more demoralising than hearing the echo of your own voice in an empty room. Having what you say taken into account can be liberating but it’s not enough on its own just to have a voice; if nobody*

*takes that voice into account, it’s pointless.”*

Now that reform is becoming the norm, it is time to involve the true experts on poverty as equal partners in building change, overcoming injustice and recognising the inherent dignity of every human being.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Three handwritten signatures in black ink on a light grey background. The signatures are stylized and cursive. The first signature on the left is partially obscured by a white rectangular box. The middle signature is clearly legible as 'SKenningham'. The signature on the right is also cursive and appears to be 'D. Kenningham'.

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



Providing families with real support does not solely mean being there at a time of crisis. It can, and often does, mean giving families the opportunity to learn new skills and offering them the accompaniment necessary to transfer new skills into their homes, their communities and their neighbourhoods. This is what our Family Support Programme strives to do.

With positive outcomes linked to schooling and education, health, employment and children's behaviour, the combination of new skills and genuine support reduces the isolation and exclusion experienced by families and gives them greater independence.

The difference this can make is immense. According to one mother, "*Budgeting was the one thing I always had trouble with. I*

# Fostering independence



*just could not make my money last.*

*“But at the budgeting workshop I learned to literally write out everything I need to do for the week before I even go down to the bank and get my money. Then I come back and put everything I know I have to pay to one side. Everything else, I put into piles. Everything is paid for and it helps me put money away, to save.*

*“It was like a lightbulb had been switched on; I knew how to do it. I enjoyed it. And then I couldn't wait for the next workshop.”*

ATD Fourth World has also, over the past year, continued to collaborate with Oxfam in promoting the use of the *Sustainable Livelihoods Approach* in a UK context. This model, which originated in international development, encourages families to actively

participate in identifying their own support needs by looking at the strengths and positives that already exist within the family and their networks. Actively involving families in this way in the decision making process can not only confer ownership of any support package to the family but also contribute to a better relationship with the professionals mandated to work with them.

Our experience tells us that standing alongside families to address the challenges they face and building a relationship over the long term are essential characteristics of effective family support.

family support



The final year of the Family Learning Project remained true to the aim that underpinned it at the outset: to create the right conditions to allow parents and children to learn together the skills they want and need to improve their lives.

Over the three years of the project, 80 families spent time at Frimhurst Family House and took part in activities ranging from baking and outdoor games to baby massage and computer skills while covering a whole host of themes including nutrition, health and hygiene, child development, accessing rights and budgeting.

Afterwards, 95% of participants said they had discovered a new interest that they wished to pursue at home and 98% of children and parents reported an improvement in their relationship.

# A legacy for the future



In providing a place where families can relax and open up to learning in a respectful and non-judgemental environment, Frimhurst was central to the Family Learning Project. One social care professional was so impressed that she remarked, *“It’s so simple and can really change people. There isn’t another place like it in the country.”*

This sentiment was affirmed by a father who took part in the project with his family for the first time last year and told Social Services, *“It’s a shame that we didn’t know Frimhurst before. In the last eight years, this is the only place I went where I felt equal to the other people there.”*

The Family Learning Project was supported by many generous donations. In their final review, the Big Lottery Fund said, *“Congratulations on the success of your*

*Family Learning Project. It engaged a large number of families in challenging and difficult circumstances, providing activities, sessions and respite stays introducing them to some key skills and a range of soft skills. We hope the positive and supportive experiences will provide the families with a legacy for the future.”*



LOTTERY FUNDED



family learning



To mark the *European Year of Volunteering* in 2011, ATD Fourth World invested in opening up more volunteering opportunities to disadvantaged adults and young people.

For many, poverty often means limited education and few qualifications, long-term unemployment and a lack of confidence to participate in community life. To combat this, our *Access to Volunteering* initiative has over the past year sought to create a range of opportunities in office administration, building maintenance, public campaigning, group facilitation and peer support.

As a result, a number of volunteers successfully gained National Vocational Qualifications that have boosted their self-esteem while recognising their skills and expertise. When asked to explain her decision to volunteer, one mother said, "*It's*



# Expanding horizons



*my way of giving back to ATD Fourth World for all the help they've given me in the past.*

*“Getting a qualification will mean everything to me. It will be my first one! I didn't get anything at school so the thought of this makes me very happy. I'd like to go further with this and keep learning.*

*“It has opened my eyes to different horizons. Nearly everything today is computer-based so working here on the admin side of things I have learned new skills I never had before. I have learned routines and procedures that allow me to see work through to completion and think to myself, ‘Job done’.”*

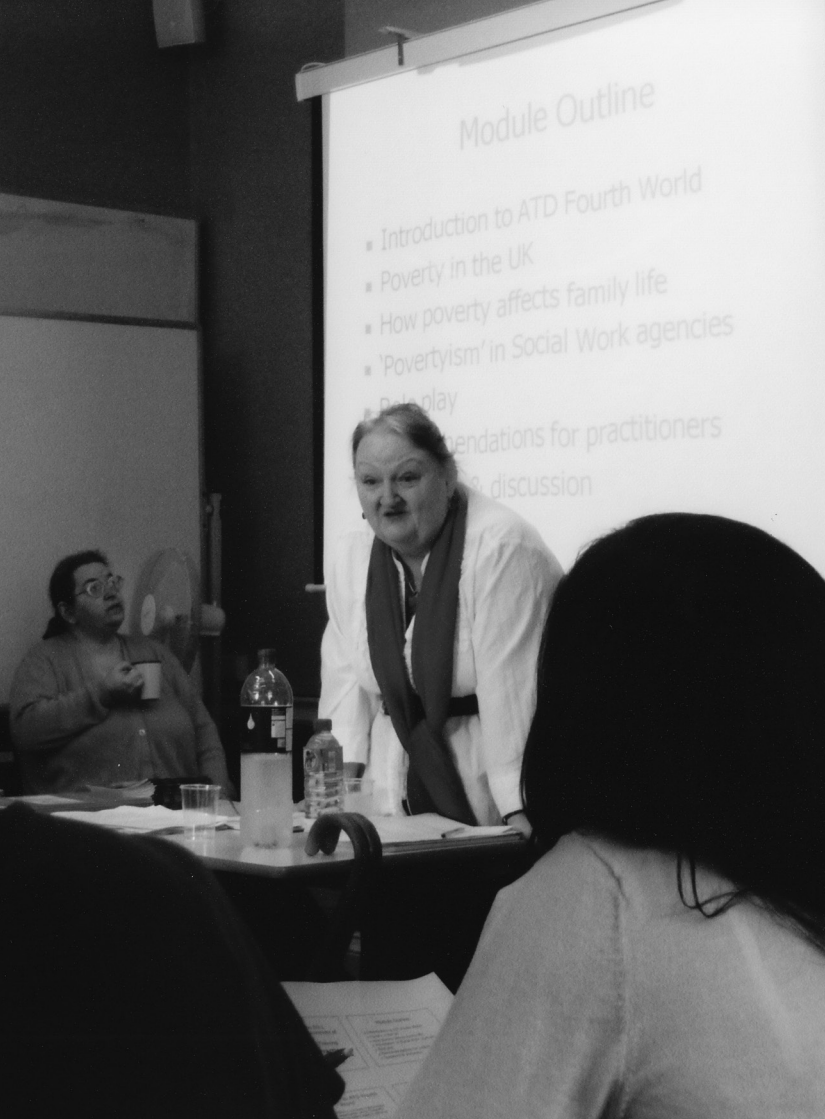
The Kitchen Renovation project at the ATD Fourth World National Centre in London was another such accomplishment. Over a three month period, more than twenty people

from diverse backgrounds contributed some 300 volunteering hours in the course of working alongside trained personnel. The project gave participants the opportunity to practice and learn skills including carpentry, tiling, plastering, painting and plumbing in the knowledge that the resulting new facilities vastly improve the range of Family Learning and Skill-Sharing activities we will be able to offer now and in the future.



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

skill-sharing



## Module Outline

- Introduction to ATD Fourth World
- Poverty in the UK
- How poverty affects family life
- 'Povertyism' in Social Work agencies
- Role play
- Recommendations for practitioners
- Discussion

Our Policy, Participation and Training Programme works in three specific areas: we support people living in poverty to contribute to the policy debate around the issues and problems that affect their lives; we place an emphasis on creating the necessary conditions for the genuine participation of people in poverty in our projects and events; and we work with other institutions to not only train social care practitioners and policy makers but also offer them an invaluable insight into fighting poverty from the bottom up.

This past year has seen a concentration on training social work and family support professionals in order to improve their comprehension of the impact that living in poverty has on parents and children.

To this end, ATD Fourth World was

# A platform for change



represented on an expert reference group put together by the Children's Workforce Development Council to develop a training resource to help practitioners understand, recognise and tackle child poverty. Designed to aid local authorities to meet their obligations under the Child Poverty Act, its aim is to inform those working with children and families as to how seemingly unrelated issues are made worse by poverty and why certain problems that affect people appear difficult to address.

A second initiative has been the ongoing development of our Social Worker Training Programme. Our continued partnership with Royal Holloway, University of London allows for parents and young adults who have been subject to social work intervention to deliver poverty awareness training to post-qualified social workers.

One participant said of the training, *"It has alerted me to areas of good practice and reiterated some of the smaller things I can do that are very important to families. I think this has encouraged me to spend as much time as possible with families to get to know them."*

Also this year, ATD Fourth World and Migrant Voice led a UK delegation to the Tenth European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty in Brussels, entitled *Employment, Work and Jobs*. Organised jointly by the Hungarian presidency of the European Union, the European Commission and the European Anti-Poverty Network, the event focused on the experiences of young people. *"It's important for young people to be able to do something like this and be able to say something about jobs, housing, child care and support,"* said one delegate.



Building the capacity of people experiencing poverty to have their voices heard and their contributions recognised is at the heart of ATD Fourth World's work.

With this as its focus, a series of workshops, held throughout the year and based around the photographic exhibition *The Roles We Play*, brought together a mix of long-standing grassroots members, people who had been involved in the *European Young People's Project* and a number of friends and supporters. The aim was to document the important roles people play inside of their families, organisations and neighbourhoods.

The initial workshops encouraged people to be aware of how they were active within both ATD Fourth World and their own communities. This allowed participants to concentrate on better expressing and

# Building confidence



articulating these actions in addition to discussing their involvement in various projects and campaigns. Later workshops looked at confidence-building measures to facilitate public speaking and explaining ATD Fourth World to others, as well as offering opportunities to practice on film and before an audience.

*In the words of one participant, “It’s always nice to get together with your peers and discuss issues and our opinions on life inside and outside of ATD Fourth World but what I really enjoyed was talking in front of the camera and standing behind a podium.*

*“It was important to be able to do it in front of a small group of people I know well. It was a chance to practise public speaking, practise reading a script and practise making eye contact with an audience. It*

*helped me not to shake so much and not to rush through things when the nerves kicked in!*

*“It’s important to speak out. I get asked a lot about what I do in the organisation and this was a chance to prepare answers to questions like that. I like to think that this can give an insight into the organisation and our lives that people have never heard before.”*

roles we play



*“The day is important and it’s special. People need to know about the day and the fight against poverty,”* says one mother of 17 October, the United Nations-recognised International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

*“Those who think poverty doesn’t exist must go round with their eyes shut. It may look on the surface like it doesn’t exist but go to different cities and you can see it in bad housing, for one. So the day is there for people to come together, commit themselves to the fight and tell the world that poverty exists in the UK.”*

This year, to mark the day, ATD Fourth World collaborated on a series of events, entitled *Poverty ‘Hear’: Giving Poverty A Voice*, which aimed to bring to the fore the work and aspirations of people in poverty

# A spotlight on poverty



and the organisations that support them.

Among the highlights were a walking tour of Camberwell, led by London-based artist Melissa Bliss, which focused on the past and present of the area alongside the stories and experiences of the local community. A spoken word event, headed by poet and novelist Leslie Tate, looked at the contributions those in poverty make to society through their own words, prose and poems.

There were also two nights of live music including an evening of jazz in St. Giles' Church and a concert featuring Camden Calling, a collectively-run social enterprise that seeks to improve access to mainstream music for the homeless and other vulnerable groups. Further to that, an open day showcasing the work of local organisations

and the life stories and testimonies of people who have known poverty and exclusion was held at ATD Fourth World's National Centre.

In Surrey, a *Pilgrimage Against Poverty* was held at Brookwood Cemetery. The event, supported by Surrey Heath Coalition Against Poverty and Brookwood Cemetery Society, visited the unmarked graves of pauper burials before holding a short service to remember those who live and die in poverty around the world.

A delegation from ATD Fourth World also attended the annual TUC Poverty Conference, *Challenging Myths and Stereotypes*, where Patricia Bailey and Angela Babb made presentations in a workshop on the subject of child poverty and Bea Roberts participated in the panel discussion.

17 october



There are a variety of ways to volunteer with ATD Fourth World, including working directly with families in poverty or supporting the programmes that they participate in.

With a range of opportunities tailored according to the location, availability, background and interests of volunteers, getting involved is a shortcut to discovering new skills and experiences.

A limited number of residential internships supporting the ATD Fourth World teams in London or Surrey are advertised throughout the year and cover fields as diverse as specific projects, campaigns, general maintenance and fundraising. These are usually full-time and of minimum six month duration with accommodation, work-related travel and basic living expenses provided.



# A genuine insight



For Damon Cartwright, who has been working with the UK team for nine months now, his internship has been both an enriching and eye-opening experience. *“I found myself being thrown straight into my role at ATD Fourth World. In my first week I was tasked to produce a giant ‘Snakes & Ladders’ board around the theme of Jobs, Work and Employment for a European Anti-Poverty Network Conference. The idea was to represent the obstacles people in poverty face when looking for work as well as the support they need to succeed.*

*“I was helped along the way by family members and volunteers; without their input, I would not have been able to complete it. It was their thoughts and experiences around these topics that helped me not only with the project but also gave me a valuable and genuine insight into the struggles and*

*injustices that poverty causes on a day-to-day basis.*

*“In my time at ATD Fourth world I have met many inspiring individuals, people who show compassion and empathy towards others in similar situations to themselves, offering help and advice using their own experiences. There is definitely a sense of ‘family’ within the organisation, with people from different backgrounds working together towards the same goal - to eradicate poverty in the UK.”*

Visit our website at [www.atd-uk.org](http://www.atd-uk.org) or contact us at [atd@atd-uk.org](mailto:atd@atd-uk.org) for more information on volunteering opportunities with ATD Fourth World.

volunteering opportunities

# How can I get involved?

Our **Friends and Supporters' Network** is a way for everyone to get involved in the fight against poverty.

Friends and supporters help us in many ways from the running of our projects, housekeeping, gardening and fundraising to maintenance, special events, administration, family support and a whole lot more.

Whether you like to work alone or in a group, in an office or outdoors, on the front line or in a support role, we can always use the help and we are very flexible according to your available time and skills.

It is also a great way to meet a lot of new and interesting people!

Call us to find out more or visit our website at [www.atd-uk.org](http://www.atd-uk.org).

**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.



**Summary of accounts** (Year to 30 June)

**2011**

**2010**

**INCOME**

Grants	£301,000	£303,000
Donations and legacies	£47,000	£46,000
Publications, contributions and interest	£19,000	£26,000
	<u>£367,000</u>	<u>£375,000</u>

**EXPENDITURE**

Family Support	£204,000	£213,000
Policy, Participation and Training	£132,000	£128,000
Publications	£4,000	£5,000
Administration, fundraising and depreciation	£9,000	£6,000
	<u>£349,000</u>	<u>£352,000</u>

**Board of Directors** Rev. Nicholas Edwards (chair), Eugen Brand, Paul Paroissien, Veronique Reboul-Salze, Ajanta Sinha, Mark Smith and Greygory Vass

**Company Secretary** Daniel Kenningham

With thanks to the following for their support over the past year: Beatrice Laing Trust, Big Lottery Fund, Bishop of Guildford's Foundation, Children in Need, Dulverton Trust and Santander Foundation

finance



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