



ATD Fourth World Annual Review 2012



Looking back, the past year was one of remarkable highs and extreme lows. On the world stage, our country pulled together to host an Olympic Games that we could truly be proud of and yet, at home, it has become commonplace to discriminate against the most disadvantaged members of our society.

When government ministers can claim that people on benefits “enjoy a lifestyle” and sleep behind “drawn blinds” while their neighbours go to work, and not be challenged on such assertions, it is clear that this attitude is now seeping into the national consciousness.

At a time when many are struggling, it is all too easy to find a scapegoat. As one young man noted, *“If even the Prime Minister is calling us scroungers, frauds and fakes, then ordinary people will believe it, won’t they?”*

Taking a stand



Such misinformation is used by politicians to justify otherwise unpopular economic policies, such as harsh austerity measures, benefit caps, a bedroom tax and punitive welfare-to-work schemes.

It is also a building block in the creation of an “us and them” culture that can lead to indifferent and even inhumane treatment of the most vulnerable. We see this in the withdrawal of local health, support, legal and advice services.

The heaping of these cuts on the shoulders of the weakest can only have a massively detrimental effect on their long-term health and capacity to work and to parent. One father observed that, *“There will be a rise in the number of children placed into care when their parents can no longer feed, house or clothe them properly due to these cuts.”*

A stand must be taken against the demonisation and humiliation of those living in poverty. We need to build alliances with those who challenge the economic argument propping up this political agenda and ensure that these attacks on the poorest are exposed as being as morally bankrupt as they are financially disastrous.

With thanks for your ongoing support.

Three handwritten signatures are displayed on a light grey background. The first signature on the left is Martin Kalisa's, the middle one is Sarah Kenningham's, and the one on the right is Dann Kenningham's.

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



At the heart of ATD Fourth World's Family Support Programme is a desire to recognise and build upon the strengths of a family and to work alongside them in overcoming the challenges they face.

To do so, we offer families support to access all the information they need, which they otherwise would not necessarily have, and enable them to make positive changes in their lives before crisis strikes. We also try to encourage families to identify and focus on their own wishes and aspirations in order to gain a better understanding of their goals and plan together the steps that they can take to move forwards.

Hand-in-hand with this approach is an emphasis on working with the family as a whole. Statutory bodies are frequently mandated to focus on one family member or

Enabling change



issue and may, for example, work only with pre-school children or teenagers. In contrast, we always try to take into account the fact that the whole family is affected by issues in different ways.

As a consequence, interventions by different professionals are often not discussed or explained to families in ways that they can understand or that genuinely involve them in the process. As such, the efforts made by parents to improve their situation and that of their children can go unseen. It is often our role to bridge the gap between families and professionals and to help them understand each other.

In the words of one father, *“It has helped a lot. Without support, you feel trapped. This has helped us understand social services more and say things in the right way, in*

ways professionals will understand. It means someone is there to talk to when everything is in your face. I’ve learned to open up and you can always find someone on the phone or come and see them.”

Finally, we know that families continue to call on us when they need support because they trust us. This serves as an important reminder that this trust is precious and must continually be earned by spending time with people and valuing their constant efforts to overcome poverty.

family support



A life in poverty is often filled with attendant stresses and strains: frustration at long-term unemployment, anxieties over poor health, worries over rising debts and an inability to make ends meet year in, year out.

It is against this backdrop that Frimhurst Family House stands out as a fantastic resource for ATD Fourth World's Family Support Programme and particularly the Getting Away From It project. Time spent at Frimhurst, set in its own woodland in the Surrey countryside, offers distance from life's everyday problems, space to think clearly and activities to invest in together as a family.

Being in such a peaceful, non-judgemental environment can have a profound impact upon an individual's well-being and relationships within the family. In the words

A welcoming environment



of one mother, *“Frimhurst Family House is a place I can go to get away from stress and get away from pressure; it is peace and quiet and big grounds to roam around in. I first went there three or four years ago and it is the simple things I remember: meeting new people, new families and the meals.”*

Creating the conditions for families to form new friendships, build new connections and see themselves within a broader network of support is central to the Getting Away From It project’s residential breaks as well as annual events such as the Summer Fun Day and Christmas Party.

“It’s important to make all families feel included, that we’re not the only ones struggling. And it’s nice to catch up with people you’ve not seen in years. I always look forward to the Christmas Party and like

to be involved in the planning, to give my ideas on what we can do. It’s just something that’s nice for everyone.”

These activities are designed to enable children, young people and their families to once again feel part of a wider community, with outings and opportunities to look forward to like everybody else.



getting away from it



Enabling people to overcome the constraints that the daily reality of poverty places on their opportunities for a brighter future, and thus fulfil their potential, is at the heart of our *Skill-Sharing Workshops* and *Access to Volunteering* initiative.

We continue to offer supported volunteering placements, particularly in building maintenance, which are grounded in real work experience alongside skilled team members. This year, significant renovations have been made possible to the living accommodation at the National Centre and there has been investment alongside local volunteers to improve the grounds and create a community garden at Frimhurst Family House.

In a further boost to the self-esteem of those involved in the project, one participant was

Unlocking potential



recently awarded a Southwark Star for his time, energy and efforts in the renovation work in London. *“It’s brilliant. I’ve done plastering, fitted a bathroom, redecorated a kitchen and helped with the attic conversion. And these are skills I’ve used at home; I ripped our kitchen out, the sideboards and cabinets, to make more space. I like to have a go at things whether it’s bricklaying, building walls or woodwork. It’s good because it gives us our own ideas.”*

Those volunteers that have gained qualifications in business administration as part of the project continue to provide valuable support with office and reception duties and also mentor newer members of the team.

The opportunities offered at ATD Fourth World have opened up the possibility

of further study for some and improved the confidence others now have to seek employment.

“I left school with only one GCSE, in Art, but I feel like I’ve got real qualifications now. This has shown me that working in an office means meeting people, it means job satisfaction, it means being able to use a computer and answering the telephone. But, more than anything, having a qualification means a lot to me. I didn’t know if I could last a whole course but I wanted to see if I could get that certificate and get something that I never got when I was at school.”

skill-sharing



This past year also saw the launch of *Giving Poverty a Voice*, a project that strives to support people experiencing poverty and inequality to engage and participate in their communities and have their say on the decisions that affect their lives.

Using issue-based discussion forums, capacity-building workshops and examinations of the different opportunities and avenues to take part in the democratic process, our aim is for *Giving Poverty a Voice* to empower and encourage people to stand up and be heard.

As a first step, participants have explored the theme of homes and housing and, in relation to this, have looked at the impact of recent changes to the benefits system. They have begun to analyse not only the effect these reforms will have on themselves and their

Breaking the silence



neighbourhoods but also what changes they would like to see implemented and what their ideal system would look like.

Being given the platform to cover an issue, even one as large as housing, over a number of months has allowed the participants' thinking to be challenged and to evolve. In the words of one father, *"It's a chance to share my experience of some issues and hear what other people have to say. We often only know about things like this when a letter drops through the door but here it's nice to be given information that otherwise we wouldn't have had a clue about. We've learned about changes, laws and reforms that we had never heard about before."*

The project also seeks to strengthen the links between community groups and organisations across London that are

committed to making an impact on policy and practice affecting people in poverty. We will work together in order to maximise the possibilities for those at the grassroots to be heard by decision makers at all levels.

Giving Poverty a Voice is supported by Trust for London, Southwark Council and the Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales.



 Lloyds TSB | Foundation for England and Wales

giving poverty a voice



When our *The Roles We Play* project began in 2009, its aim was to provide a forum for people with experience of poverty to counter widespread negative stereotypes of their lives through the use of positive imagery and self-representation.

Since then, the project has continued to evolve and, over the past year, branched out into film-making. Informed and inspired by a relationship with film-maker and photographer Mihaal Danziger, a video workshop based on capturing people's thoughts on the themes of poverty and dignity produced the short film *Our Voices*.

To capitalise on this momentum, we then embarked upon a more expansive, participatory film project which took its cue from the original photo exhibition and the texts that accompanied the portraits.

Positive representation



Through weekly workshops spread over three months, a small group of participants were involved at every stage, from filming interviews, recording sound and drawing storyboards to choosing content to be used in the final edit.

The resulting ten-minute film, *The Roles We Play*, features participants' own explanations of the contributions they make within ATD Fourth World, in their communities and in their homes. It also follows some of the delegates who took part in a European Fourth World People's University in Brussels, supported by the European Union's Europe for Citizens Programme.

"The film project gave me a new outlook and the chance to learn a new skill I'd never had before," says one participant. *"I know it's something I would love to take part in again*

if I had the chance... It built my confidence and self-esteem. With that confidence, I can challenge myself more; I'm more confident in what I'm doing and how I speak to people. I'm not afraid anymore to give my view. I'm a more open person."

Both films, *Our Voices* and *The Roles We Play*, are available on the ATD Fourth World website at www.atd-uk.org



Europe
for Citizens

roles we play



The United Nations-recognised International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, held every year on 17 October, is a day to recognise the struggles of those living in poverty around the world. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the efforts of all those who take a stand against poverty and who work to overcome its consequences and forge a better future for all.

This year in London, we chose to raise awareness of the links between poverty and housing issues by organising a series of music and film events. Local DJs and bands headlined a reggae, ska and dub night in Peckham with a second evening showcasing folk music talent held at St Giles Church in Camberwell.

An exclusive documentary film night at Whirled Cinema in Loughborough Junction

Raising awareness



then presented a number of short films from local projects, including the short film *The Roles We Play* made in partnership with Mihaal Danziger, and *Evicted*, a BAFTA-winning look at homelessness.

Alongside these events was an Open House Family Day held at the ATD Fourth World National Centre in Addington Square, Camberwell. In amongst activities and workshops for children, as well as information on local organisations and advice centres, people also had the chance to speak out on poverty, its effects on their lives and what the day means to them.

According to one participant, “*The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is important because it is a chance for ATD Fourth World and others to get together and find ways to fight poverty. We*

need to get the real story of poverty out and in the public eye; we need the press and the politicians to take notice of what we say. The day is a chance to make people think again about poverty and the support people need... I hope what we say makes them understand better what we go through.”

Lastly, delegations from ATD Fourth World attended the annual TUC Poverty Conference, entitled *Work or Full Maintenance*, which covered a number of issues including the division of rights and responsibilities in today’s society, and a round table on participation hosted by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

17 october



A residential internship at ATD Fourth World can offer new skills, discoveries and experiences to anyone willing to give their time, energy and talents towards making a difference.

Volunteers have an important role to play in the running and organisation of a number of our projects in the UK and there are opportunities to work directly with families living in poverty or supporting those who do. Every effort is made to take into account the location, availability, background and interests of the applicant so as to make it possible for those that wish to get involved to do so.

A limited number of residential internships are made available throughout the year, ranging from supporting specific projects and campaigns to fundraising or general

Creating social change



maintenance. Often based at the ATD Fourth World National Centre in London or at Frimhurst Family House in Surrey, these full-time internships last a minimum of six months and accommodation, work-related travel expenses and basic living expenses are provided.

Isabelle Monk spent a year working with the UK team and said of her experience, *“What drew me to ATD Fourth World was the people-centred, bottom-up approach to creating social change in the UK.*

As soon as I arrived I was made to feel a part of a large family. And there is never a dull moment at ATD Fourth World – from meeting and talking to families and helping at residential breaks to outings with kids, cooking workshops and much more!

My internship focused on fundraising and publicity, which meant I was involved in devising ways to raise the public profile of the organisation and engage more effectively with its Friends and Supporters’ Network. I also helped develop ATD Fourth World’s online presence through social media but best of all was planning two live music gigs and a film night to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

What I loved most was the level of independence and trust I was given to lead on projects and develop my own ideas. From the word go I was made to feel like a valued member of the team rather than just another ‘intern’.”

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

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.

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

	July 2011 - December 2012	July 2010 - June 2011
INCOME		
Grants	£373,000	£301,000
Donations and legacies	£79,000	£47,000
Publications, contributions and interest	£25,000	£19,000
	<u>£471,000</u>	<u>£367,000</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Family Support	£255,000	£204,000
Policy, Participation and Training	£183,000	£132,000
Publications	£7,000	£4,000
Administration, fundraising and depreciation	£15,000	£9,000
	<u>£460,000</u>	<u>£349,000</u>

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

Company Secretary Daniel Kenningham

With thanks to the following for their support over the past year: BBC Children in Need, Darton Charitable Trust, European Union's Europe for Citizens Programme, Lloyds TSB Foundation, Persula Foundation, Southwark Council, St John Southworth Fund and Trust for London



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