



ATD Fourth World Annual Review 2017



Time moves on but over and over again we see far too many situations that hurt the most vulnerable members of our society.

One year on from the horrific Grenfell Tower fire, deep inequalities in the social housing structure remain unresolved. The introduction of Universal Credit and continued legislative changes to the welfare benefits system are creating confusion and turmoil for many families while social services departments up and down the country are at tipping point as the number of children in care hits a record high.

Negative trends such as these reinforce the conviction that people living in poverty need support more now than ever before.

ATD Fourth World's Family Support Programme seeks to accompany families

# Recognising strengths



through this ever changing minefield of ongoing reform at the same time as our Policy, Participation and Training projects strive to create the right conditions for genuine participation and dialogue. It is through standing alongside and listening to those most affected by the system that we encourage people to contextualise their own experiences and put forward their own solutions, their own recommendations and alternative ways of thinking.

One example of this is our new, participatory research project *Understanding Poverty in All its Forms*.

From designing the research questions through to the final steps of analysing and making known the findings, a very diverse group of people are working together on an equal footing. Those collaborating include

academics, grassroots practitioners and people with lived experience of poverty.

This project aims to break down barriers. All too often, society limits people based on labels and prejudices but in this project we see what can be achieved when, instead, people's capacities and strengths are valued and recognised.

With this approach, together we can overcome injustice to change society.

Thank you all for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dann Kenningham'.

Dann Kenningham  
On behalf of the National Co-ordination  
Team  
ATD Fourth World UK



*“Going to court woke me up to my situation. It helped me realise that if I don’t do something I will lose my home and that’s the last thing I want or need.*

*“Having someone there with me, even if I was still worried and had it on my mind the whole time, gave me confidence and held me up in a stressful time.”*

A key tenet of ATD Fourth World’s Family Support Programme is to accompany families living in long-term poverty through times of crisis and to engage with the most difficult issues that they face: poor health, insecure housing, debt, limited employment or educational opportunities and social service intervention.

For one mother and grandmother, *“Being on Universal Credit and working means*

# The need for support



*fighting all the time to get your head around it. It doesn't matter what I do, I cannot understand how it works or follow it. I have no contact with the adviser but I still need someone to support me with the calculations that confuse me.*

*"I've always had problems talking on the phone to people in authority. I get flustered and scared.*

*"But I did a course on communicating with confidence and I feel a bit more confident now, more able to explain myself. I want to do more courses now, it's given me a taste for it because I see how it makes a change to my everyday life when I speak to people."*

Capitalising on such elements of progress, as well as encouraging people to lean on the experiences and validation that a family

network can provide, is at the heart of the *Community Outreach and Peer Support* project. From managing the pressure of having numerous professionals in one's life to dealing with anxiety or looking for understanding in a non-judgemental atmosphere, ATD Fourth World strives to offer the most vulnerable families support, advocacy and resources rooted in trust, long-term relationships and positivity.

community outreach / peer support





The *Getting Away From It* project aims to offer families the unique opportunity to build and become part of a wider network and community.

Residential breaks at Frimhurst Family House, alongside celebratory events such as the Summer Fun Day and Christmas Party, seek to foster a supportive and relaxed atmosphere where children, young people and parents alike can broaden their horizons and break out of the isolation that often comes hand-in-hand with a life of disadvantage and poverty.

With access to a wide range of workshops and activities, from arts and crafts, baking and cake decoration to bike riding, sports, dance and music, *Getting Away From It* allows families to spend quality time together away from the stresses and strains

# A time to bond



of daily life.

In the words of one mother, *“We really bonded. We never usually get to spend time with each other like that.*

*“My eldest son has ADHD and never stands still. He went fishing with all the other kids and it was so relaxing sitting down with him at the edge of the water. It was amazing to see.*

*“My younger son isn’t interested in art workshops or anything like that but me and him worked together on making a Millwall clock that has pride of place in our front room now.*

*“It was so lovely to do things with my boys because it’s getting harder to do things with them now they’re teenagers.*

*“I can’t afford to go on holiday with five kids. I can’t remember the last time we all went to the beach or the funfair together but getting the chance to do that at Frimhurst makes it a magical place.”*

Last year also saw the release of *Frimhurst: A Place of Freedom*, a short film made to mark the sixtieth anniversary of Frimhurst Family House and produced for ATD Fourth World by journalists and film makers Ofelia de Pablo and Javier Zurita.

getting away from it



At a *Skill-Sharing* residential camp in June participants held a bike clinic to service and repair second-hand bicycles donated for children's activities in *Getting Away From It* residential breaks, erected new fencing to encircle and protect the community garden from the local deer population and also repaired and repainted the conservatory entrance to Frimhurst Family House in time for the sixtieth anniversary celebrations.

It is in this way that the participants, mostly young people, enjoyed the opportunity to live, work and relax as a group and build together a sense of collective effort in the tasks at hand. The residential camp also provided the chance to socialise together in an outing to an amusement park beside the seaside.

Alongside this, our *Access to Volunteering*



# A collective effort



initiative has welcomed project participants to undertake training in kitchen hygiene to assist in the catering responsibilities on residential breaks and the weekly Community Lunch.

According to one young adult, *“I like cooking and I like helping people. It’s nice not just to get a thank you out of people but also to build up your teamwork with the other people in kitchen.*

*“I have learned different things, from the health and hygiene rules of coloured knives and coloured boards to new meals and new cooking styles. It makes you appreciate how much work is involved in cooking for big groups.*

*“I have been coming to ATD Fourth World since I was a little kid and participating in*

*the food preparation is my way to contribute. I enjoy coming anyway because it’s nice to see old friends and old faces.”*

Overall, our *Skill-Sharing Workshops* and *Access to Volunteering* initiative embodies the belief that everyone has something valuable to contribute and aims to enable people to overcome the constraints that the daily reality of poverty places on their opportunities for a brighter future and to fulfil their potential.

skill-sharing / access to volunteering



ATD Fourth World is proud to announce the launch of *Understanding Poverty in All its Forms*.

This new, exciting and innovative research project, being conducted in collaboration with researchers at the University of Oxford, seeks to bring together professionals, academics and people with first hand experience of poverty to change the ways in which poverty is understood and talked about by decision makers and governments.

The nature of poverty is changing. Ideas and measurements are often defined without talking to those directly affected or it is measured solely according to income. With research being carried out in Bangladesh, Bolivia, France, Tanzania and the United States as well as the UK, *Understanding Poverty in All its Forms* aims to build

# Generating debate



consensus around the best ways to determine the dimensions of poverty, how to measure them and how to eradicate it once and for all. The study is participatory throughout.

*“There are several aspects of this project which make it important, and especially so in the current climate,”* says one member of the research team.

*“The focus on collaborative working brings together the direct experiences of those living in poverty and the expertise of researchers.*

*“While researchers and academics have access to the means of drawing attention to serious financial and social inequalities, their voice is especially powerful when it imparts the first-hand knowledge of those who suffer discrimination and*

*disadvantage.”*

Here in the UK the research team will steer the project, discuss findings and debate conclusions that emerge from data gathered from peer groups to be set up in three different regions across the country. These diverse peer groups will also reflect the different ways poverty is experienced.

By generating this debate, merging knowledge and by engaging with policy and practice communities throughout the duration of the research, the ultimate goal of this project is to support efforts to end poverty in all its forms.

understanding poverty in all its forms



From its outset, *Giving Poverty a Voice* has striven 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.

Over the course of the year the project showcased workshops and discussion groups looking at the political landscape and participation in the democratic process as well as continuing its series of outings to museums and exhibitions.

During the General Election campaign, project participants analysed the slogans and policies of the major parties and then drafted their own political statements in response. Touching on homelessness, opportunities for young people, the National Health Service, equal pay for women and housing,



# Having our say



participants offered their statements to the *Voices from the Margins* campaign led by Church Action on Poverty before re-framing and editing them into letters to their local Members of Parliament.

Later in the year, Dr. Michael Orton from the University of Warwick led a workshop around the changes people would like to see made to the benefits system in the Autumn Budget as part of a wider project funded by Trust for London and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

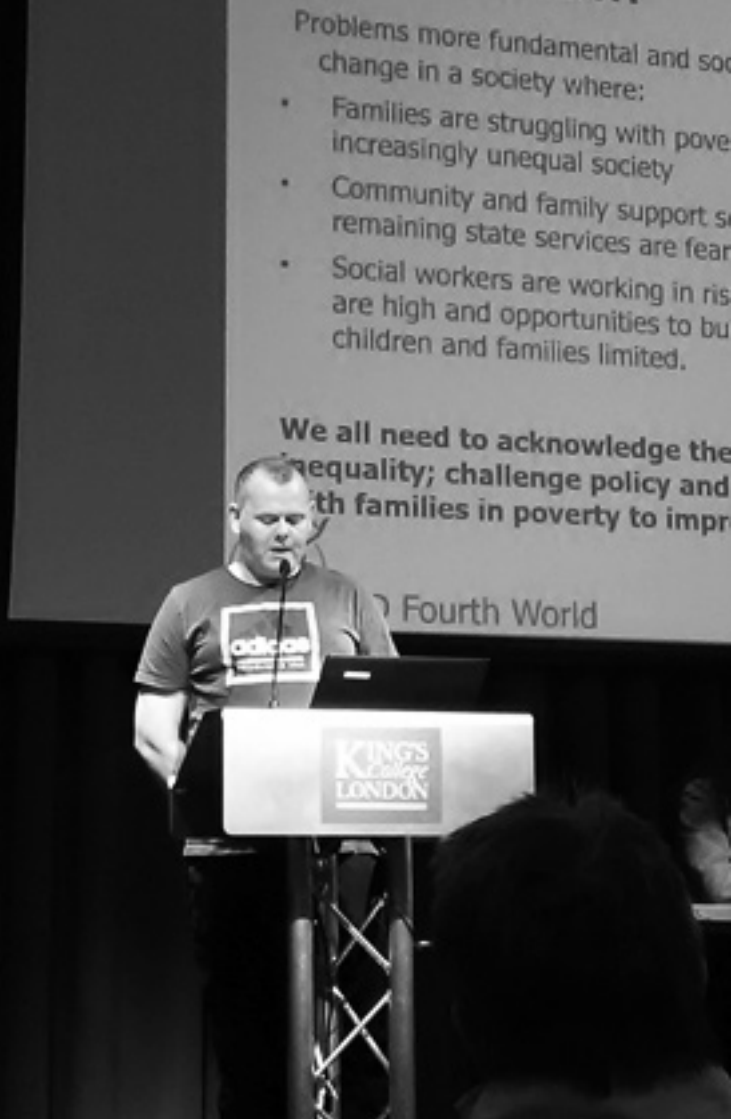
Empowering project participants to speak out is vital. In the words of one mother, *"Giving Poverty a Voice is a platform where people from very poor backgrounds can feel confident enough to express themselves without any prejudice, without feeling like they will be looked down on... Knowledge is*

*power. I feel like I can fight stuff more easily, I can speak loud and I know where to knock because of these meetings. It boosts your confidence."*

Outings to museums and exhibitions, a theme begun last year, continued to provoke the participants to think about the history of poverty in London and its impact on the city today. Outings included, among others, visits to the *Tunnel: The Archaeology of Crossrail* and *People Power: Fighting for Peace* exhibitions at the Museum of London Docklands and the Imperial War Museum as well as the Tower of London.

The Wakefield and Tetley Trust

giving poverty a voice



The *Social Worker Training Programme* aims to promote dialogue between vulnerable families and social work professionals. This is done through exploring a number of avenues: conferences, academic articles, contributing to social work research projects and the delivery of a teaching module to highlight the impact of poverty on social work practice.

For one project participant, *"We want to let social workers know that people in poverty have a voice and want to be heard. We want to make the system better and it's nice to be a part of making that happen. To be in the same room as social workers and hear them, and for them to hear us, brings us closer together. And we want the same things in the end."*

It was in this vein that an ATD Fourth World

# Promoting dialogue



activist and father delivered a presentation outlining his family's experience of social service intervention at the *Reinforcing or Reducing Inequality Among Children? The Role of Child Protection Services* conference at King's College London at the start of the year.

The study groups that bring together professionals, academics and family members to discuss key issues in social work practice inspired two more academic articles, both again written in collaboration with Professor Anna Gupta of Royal Holloway, University of London and independent researcher Hannah Blumhardt.

The European Journal of Social Work published *Poverty, Exclusion and Child Protection Practice: The Contribution of 'the Politics of Recognition&Respect'*

while *Radical Practice in a Risk-Averse Environment: Learning from ATD Fourth World UK* appeared in the Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work journal.

Lastly, a delegation of ATD Fourth World activists with experience of social service intervention presented a teaching module at Royal Holloway, University of London. Their participation prompted one student to say, "*It helps to have real people talking about their experiences. What struck me was how much social work can empower people if done right in terms of service user involvement, respecting service users, actually finding out how service users feel and and talking and listening to them.*"



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 maintenance. Often based at the ATD Fourth



# Making connections



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

Salomé Larssonneau enrolled on a summer internship and says of her experience, “*I really enjoyed being part of two big events: the Frimhurst Family House sixtieth anniversary celebration and the summer residential break.*”

*“These events helped me better understand the philosophy of ATD Fourth World, which is to support people to be able to get back on their own two feet and reclaim their dignity. I strongly believe in this, too.*

*“I organised arts and craft workshops for*

*families, sports and games activities for children and cooked for the weekly Community Lunch. What stands out are the little moments spent talking with families and making precious connections.*

*“Everybody I met, from the residential break to the Community Lunch, was simple and generous, and I admire how they all make this fight for dignity their own life.*

*“The internship has convinced me that I would like to find ways to support international institutions, national governments and non-governmental actors to better work together, share their expertise and create real co-operation for the benefit of all.”*

For more information on ATD Fourth World volunteering opportunities, visit our website at [www.atd-uk.org](http://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](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

|                        | January 2017 -<br>December 2017 | January 2016 -<br>December 2016 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>          |                                 |                                 |
| Donations and legacies | £389,323                        | £309,076                        |
| Charitable activities  | £40,421                         | £36,273                         |
| Investments            | £99                             | £1,026                          |
|                        | <u>£429,663</u>                 | <u>£346,375</u>                 |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>     |                                 |                                 |
| Raising funds          | £4,245                          | £3,864                          |
| Charitable activities  | £423,926                        | £347,734                        |
|                        | <u>£428,171</u>                 | <u>£351,598</u>                 |

**Board of Directors** Rev. Nicholas Edwards (chair), Caroline Davies, Anna Gupta, Margaret Guy, Tish Mason, Thomas Mayes, Maeve McGoldrick, Isabelle Pypaert-Perrin, 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: Johnson Wax Charitable Trust, Justice au Coeur, The Peter and Theresa Charitable Trust, Porticus UK, St Paul's Church of Camberley, Terre et Homme de Demain and The Wakefield and Tetley Trust.

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