

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Publication Enables those Living in Extreme Poverty to Claim their Rights

Making Human Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty: A Handbook for implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights will be launched and introduced Monday, September 21st at 18:00 at the UN in Geneva. The event will also feature a preview of the short film "Extreme Poverty: Standing up for Rights," produced to accompany the Handbook, illustrating **what it looks like for vulnerable communities to claim their rights**.

On September 27th, the UN will vote to adopt the new sustainable development goals, the first of which is to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere" – this handbook provides a tool for reaching this goal through a rights-based approach.

Making Human Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty is the result of a two-year participatory process involving dozens of organisations and individuals worldwide. The purpose of the handbook is to assist those working directly with people living in extreme poverty to understand their situation from a human rights perspective, and to suggest actions that can be taken with local governments and other sectors of society to ensure that their rights are respected and protected.

At the source of this publication are two NGOs: Franciscans International and ATD Fourth World, who believed that the UN's Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights needed translation into **concrete and accessible suggestions for those working in the field**. "Our starting point was the expertise, knowledge and experience of our partners at local level," explains Francesca Restifo, FI's Advocacy Director. "We started with where the people are: situations in urban informal settlements and in rural communities with little access to basic services, indigenous peoples who are losing their lands due to the operations of big corporations, migrants and refugees, children whose rights to protection and development need greater safeguarding. This handbook is the result of their concerns and their contributions."

Ms. Magdalena Sepúlveda, former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights and author of the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights wrote in her compelling forward, *"This handbook is a practical tool [...] to ensure that public policies reach the poorest members of society and respect and uphold all their rights. I am convinced that it can help to create an enabling environment in which people living in poverty are empowered to lift themselves out of poverty."*

The handbook and film launch: Monday, September 21, at 18:00 in the exhibition space in front of Room XX at the UN in Geneva. A light apéritif will follow.

**Please find attached a PDF of the Handbook, for information purposes only.
The document is embargoed until September 21 at 18:00.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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