

Unveiling of English language information board for the Poverty Stone of the Council of Europe

Remarks by Ambassador of Ireland, Caitríona Doyle

10 October, 2023

I am honoured to be here and I would like to thank you all for attending this morning and particularly to Pierre, and everyone at All Together in Dignity, as well as the Secretariat, for completing the English language information board.

I am very proud of the work we do here within the Council of Europe to strengthen and improve state responses' to tackling poverty with a human rights-based approach to fulfil the European Social Charter and, specifically, Article 30 of the Charter.

Our work is carried out in conjunction with the UN and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the first of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is our world's greatest challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

Ireland takes great pride in its contributions to the SDGs, including leading the negotiations of the SDGs in 2015 with Kenya and co-facilitating the Political Declaration, which was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly last month, which recommits the international community to eradicating poverty in all its manifestations everywhere by 2023.

I come from a country that experienced decades of emigration as a direct result of astounding levels of poverty, touching every family and every generation. [I am sure that that experience chimes with that of many of you present here this morning.] For most in our country now such levels of poverty are something we know only from the history books. But that is not the case of so many in today's world who experience poverty so acute and oppressive it is difficult to imagine.

As we look forward to 2030, we must demonstrate that the Sustainable Development Goals are not just a set of aspirations; we must turn words into action and implementation and take concrete steps to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, everywhere. Because the fight against poverty is

ongoing. It is lost each and every time someone must sleep in the street or choose whether they will eat or heat their homes.

In Ireland, it is our history that reminds us of the dignity denied by poverty. We welcome this stone which reminds us of our history and which, moreover, reminds us of our obligation to keep on fighting until poverty is eradicated everywhere.