

## Human Ring around the European Parliament - 19 November 2010

Input by Fintan Farrell, 2010 NGO Coalition ([www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu))

This is **not a protest**. Today we don't let anybody else determine our message. We're here to say loud and clear that, **there is enough for everyone**. Mahatma Gandhi knew this when he said "there is enough in this world for everyone's need but not enough for anyone's greed". We're here to express our commitment to a **solidarity model** that ensures **access to fundamental rights for all**. With this **symbolic action** of creating a human ring around the European Parliament we're here to claim this Parliament as the **People's Parliament** and to say clearly that the primary responsibility of our Parliaments is to ensure that the **public goods** are used for the public good.

Let's make no mistake about it, the **present model of development** pursued globally and in the European Union is **creating poverty and inequality**. This is not an ideological statement, this is a fact, with UN data telling us that the **richest 2% of the population** have **50% of the world's wealth** while the **poorest half of the world population** have only **1% of the wealth**. Europe is not immune from these growing levels of inequalities. To claim our future and find a way out of the current crisis, we need to get across the message that **more equal societies are better for everyone** and to put the fight against inequalities at the centre of our political actions.

We must reject the narrow economic theory which is shaping our political realities which tells us that we must manage scarce resources. We should spread the good news that we live in a world of abundance that if managed sustainable and equitable can ensure a good life for everyone. We are calling for a gentle revolution which replaces our competitive and growth driven development model with a model that is social and sustainable. We need to capture the wealth that is available through: well regulated market economies, dynamic public sectors and a vast expansion in a value driven social economy.

**The agreed European target to reduce poverty and social exclusion must be followed up by a decade of action on poverty, including:**

- **Putting access to fundamental rights at the heart of the EU Agenda**
- **The focus on the redistribution of wealth to create more equal societies**
- **Protection and development of High levels of social protection that ensures adequate incomes for all**
- **Ensuring Equality between women and men and an end to all discrimination**
- **The creation of decent work as a sustainable way out of poverty**
- **Defending accessible public services**
- **Action plans to end homelessness and fight child poverty**
- **A imaginative leap forward in participatory democracy to rebuild trust in our democratic systems**

**On behalf of the 2010 NGO Coalition I thank you for being present today.**

**Let's spread the message:**

- **There is enough for everyone**
- **Il y a assez pour tout le monde**
- **We hebben genoeg voor iedereen**