

ATD Ireland
2027

Pre-Budget
submission

ATD Ireland welcomes the opportunity to make a submission for budget 2027.

ATD Fourth World is an international non - governmental organisation that works through grass- roots projects in partnership with people living in consistent and extreme poverty.

For the past 26 years ATD Ireland has been working alongside families and individuals facing persistent poverty and struggling daily to live in dignity. Our experience gives us a unique perspective on the causes, impacts and possible solutions. Our submission draws from the experience of ATD Ireland and relevant research from, e.g., CSO and from the community and voluntary sector.

ATD Ireland aims through public participatory projects to empower people with experience of poverty to express their views and offer solutions to the problems affecting their lives, while offering policy makers, practitioners and people in positions of power an invaluable insight into overcoming poverty from the bottom up. ATD Ireland recognise that people experiencing poverty are the experts in identifying causes, and in speaking out about the impact and possible solutions to consistent poverty. While ATD Ireland does not engage in empirical research it records the lived experiences of people in persistent poverty. ATD believes that qualitative data plays an essential role in an accurate interpretation of empirical research.

The following are our main proposals

Income adequacy

ATD Ireland's experience with families living in extreme and persistent poverty convinces us that an inadequate income is one of the main causes of poverty and social exclusion. While many other factors, e.g., addiction, family breakdown, unemployment, lack of access to quality education and other essential services, etc., all contribute to the prevalence of poverty, income inadequacy is the primary cause of individual and household poverty. ATD Ireland is very concerned that the 2025 SILC data showed that 12.6% of the population live in poverty and that 4.7% were in consistent poverty. The finding that, without income supports, the figures would have been 14.9% points to the significant impact of income adequacy measures in the reduction of poverty.

ATD Ireland believes that everyone should be entitled to a level of income which enables them to have a minimum essential standard of living. The MESL research centre states that a minimum essential standard of living "is a standard of living which people agree no one should be expected to live below. It represents the minimum required to meet physical, social and psychological needs, and enable a life with dignity".

Proposals

ATD Ireland submits the following proposals which encompass the multidimensional nature of poverty (including income poverty, food poverty, energy poverty and social isolation). In order to increase the income adequacy levels of social welfare rates ATD Ireland requests the following:

- The core working age rate (Jobseekers, one parent family rates etc) be increased by €15 in order to take into consideration the rapid and large increase in the cost of living.

Additional supports for one parent households:

- To address the persistent and often severe poverty faced by these households, extend the Living Alone Allowance to One Adult Households with dependent children and in receipt of core social welfare payments.
- Increase child supports rates by;
 - €10 to €68 for children under 12
 - €18 to €96 for children 12 and over

Fuel allowance:

Increase the rate by €4 and retain the four week extension to the fuel allowance season, temporarily introduced in the 2026 budget, thus restoring the 32 week season.