

**“Listen to Us and We’ll
Change the World!”**



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**A practical guide to The Tapor
Silhouettes Campaign
for adults working with children**

Resources

Tapori “Children of courage” mini-books

These are true stories of children from every continent. Despite their difficult lives, these children share the same dreams as all the other children of the world.

My Heart is in This Stone

This beautifully illustrated book contains stories and messages sent in by children all over the world in response to Tapori’s Special Stones Campaign.

The Tapori newsletter

A newsletter for children from 7 to 13 years-old, published in six different languages. It creates a connection between children of all backgrounds who want and work for peace and friendship around the world.

In French 11 issues/yr.

In English, Spanish, and German 6 issues/yr.

In Portuguese and Dutch 4 issues/yr.

To subscribe, contact: Tapori –7600 Willow Hill Dr. – Landover, MD 20785 – USA

tapori@4thworldmovement.org

The Tapori Website: www.tapori.org

This site will give news of the campaign, including photos of silhouettes and places they have been displayed. It also features the story of Ono and Rene, which children can read and react to. It also contains general information about the Tapori Children’s Network.

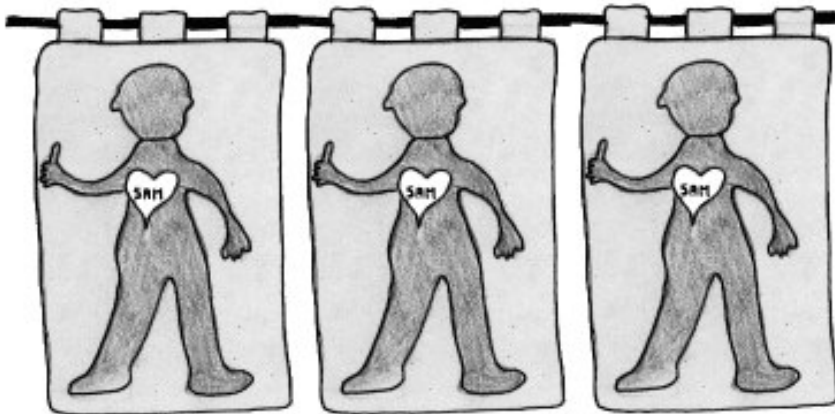
If you don’t have internet access, you can also send us news or messages by mail. When you write to us, don’t forget to include your address and contact information. You can follow the progress of the campaign in the Tapori newsletter.

The Fourth World Movement: www.atd-quartmonde.org

Tapori’s parent organization, the Fourth World Movement works to end exclusion and extreme poverty through working in partnership with people in situations of poverty around the world.

Timeline

1. Starting now, read all about the campaign and silhouettes. Discuss it with coworkers or others to see how to develop the campaign locally.
2. From now until October 17, 2007, organize activities with children so that they can read the story of Ono and Rene, make their silhouettes, and write their messages. You can choose:
 - To send the silhouettes or one delegate silhouette (with a presentation of your group) to Tapori (to be displayed in exhibits at the United Nations in New York and Geneva, for example).
 - To prepare a local exhibition.
 - To trade silhouettes with other groups near you.
3. October 17, 2006:
 - If you've already done silhouettes: The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is commemorated in many different cities—you can organize an exhibit in your city or send the silhouettes to the closest city where there are events to make the children's messages heard.
 - If you haven't started yet: This date can be the beginning of the campaign and activities. Workshops presenting the project could be a way to commemorate the day.
4. After October 17, 2007, the silhouettes will begin to travel in Silhouette Suitcases to different groups of children all over the world so that they have a chance to "meet" each other.



Listen to Children

“A lot of people say that children are the future. If everyone really believed this, there would be less, and maybe no more, extreme poverty in the world. Today the fight against poverty is the most important thing.” *Tapori delegation at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in Geneva in July, 1999.*



Children have a lot to say. In the right conditions, they can share their ideas now, without waiting to be adults. They can take action to help build a world with more friendship and justice.

Children often have a simple but profound view of the world:

- If there's a child who doesn't have any friends, you should be his friend.
- If something is broken, it should be fixed.
- If someone is homeless, she should have a home.

This way of thinking is very strong because of its simplicity. It cuts to the heart of an issue with straightforward logic. Adults have a lot to learn by listening to children.

When children express themselves and feel listened to, they realize that they themselves can help create a better world. It's important to assure that all children have opportunities and support to express themselves. The most excluded and poorest children have a lot of important and meaningful things to say about how to make the world a better place.

About Tapori and Tapori Campaigns

Tapori is a worldwide network of friendship between children of all backgrounds. Children learn from other children who have daily lives very different from their own and work to find ways of being together that include everyone. They do this through the Tapori Newsletter, campaigns and website.

Tapori is an international and multi-lingual program. The newsletter exists in six languages: French, English, Spanish, German, Portuguese, and Dutch. The website adds three more; Polish, Chinese and Italian. The newsletter is published between six and eleven times per year, depending on the language, and is written primarily for children between seven and thirteen years old. Today Tapori exists in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Africa.

The Tapori Website, www.tapori.org, is a rich resource containing stories about children from around the world as well as information about Tapori Campaigns and resources for adults.

Tapori campaigns are based on true stories of children who have difficult lives and who get together to fight against poverty and exclusion. Through these stories, children from all backgrounds can get to know others from around the world and feel part of an international network of friendship.

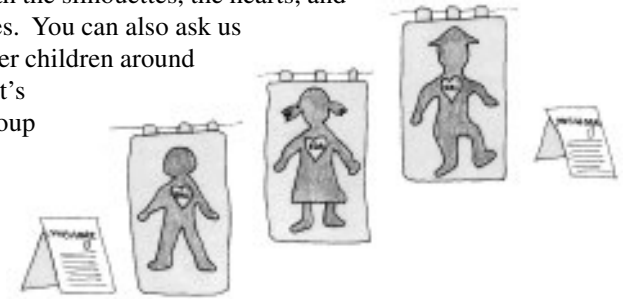
Tapori then proposes an artistic activity to allow children to express their hope and ideas for a better world. These creations can be exhibited in schools, neighborhoods, or places where October 17th (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty) is commemorated locally. They also travel around the world to create connections between children.



Exhibiting the Silhouettes

For October 17, we encourage you to organize exhibitions of these silhouettes locally: in your school, neighborhood, or another gathering place for your city. This is a way to bring children's voices to the fight against poverty. If you are not able to do this, you can send us the silhouettes or a few "delegate" silhouettes to be displayed in well-known places around the world. You can create displays with the silhouettes, the hearts, and the children's messages. You can also ask us for messages from other children around the world (that's why it's important that each group send us their messages).

You can access messages from children all around the world through the Tapori website (www.tapori.org) and the news page of the Tapori newsletter. You can also contact us directly via email at tapori@4thworldmovement.org.



Where to Send the Silhouettes

To send the silhouettes you can:

- Send the silhouette and message by mail.
- Send the message by email to tapori@bluewin.ch and the silhouette by mail.
- Bring the silhouette and message to gathering places for October 17 in your city: at the United Nations in New York City, etc. (See www.oct17.org for more information)

Where to send them?

For North America: Tapori, 7600 Willow Hill Drive, Landover MD 20785
For the rest of the world: Ask us and we'll give you the address closest to you.

If you have difficulties, please contact us at tapori@4thworldmovement.org or 202-393-2822.

All the children who participate in the campaign will receive a reply to their contribution and will be subscribed to the Tapori newsletter to receive updates on the campaign.

Adding Messages

After the silhouette is made, each child can cut out a large heart, about 12 in. (30 cm.) in diameter, to show the world what is in his or her heart. The heart can be on paper, cardboard, or fabric. It can be made into a small pocket to slip a message into or messages can be written directly onto the heart.

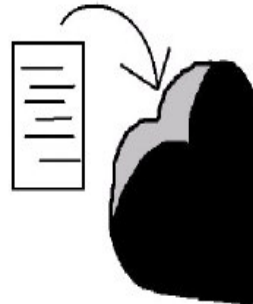
The child draws or writes in the heart what he wants for the world to be better for all children.

The hearts can be attached to the silhouette, but they can also be detachable to facilitate a skit or symbolic gesture during their presentation or the opening of an exhibit (for example, the children attach their heart to their silhouette while reading their message).

Here are some possible questions, but feel free to use other related questions to allow children to express themselves more easily.

- Who are you? How would you describe yourself to another child who doesn't know you?
- Whom or what do you hold near to your heart and why?
- What do you think needs to be done for poverty to disappear?
- What is your dream for a better world with less injustice?
- What do we need to live well together?

Don't forget to send us a copy of this message by mail or email! Add the name and address (mail and/or email) of the child or the person who can pass a message on to the child. Tapori will reply to each child.



Tapori's 2006-2007 Campaign



In the letters that children send Tapori, they tell us about their desire to write to and get to know other children. The theme chosen for Tapori's 2006 campaign is getting to know each other and fighting prejudices. The campaign will be launched based on the story of Ono and Rene, two boys from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ono has to go fishing at night to help feed his family and falls asleep watching the other children play during the day. The others don't understand why he is not like them and for this reason they call him crazy and exclude him. But one boy, Rene, wonders why Ono's life is like that and gets to know him. The story shows how much this relationship allows Rene to change his view of Ono and Ono to feel like he belongs and contributes to the group, becoming a role model for younger children.

Are we sure we know the children around us well? We see their silhouettes, but sometimes we don't see what they hold in their hearts. What do they dream about for themselves and all children?

To contribute to this campaign, children are invited to create and send their life-size silhouette.

Our priority is for children's words to be heard about what they do to say no to poverty and what they think is necessary for everyone to have a better life. We're challenging children to collect as many silhouettes as possible. Children who have already done their silhouettes should help others do the same. We hope that the children who have the hardest time expressing themselves can also participate in this campaign.

We'll then organize exhibitions in important places around the globe. We're in link with the United Nations for this campaign through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). DESA will publicize the campaign within its network and invite others to participate.

We'll also create silhouette suitcases that will travel between groups or school classes throughout the world so that children can find out about and get to know others better through this project.

Creating the Silhouettes



The campaign is designed to be flexible to allow as many children to participate as possible. We invite you to use your imagination! Here are a few ideas and suggestions that have come from other groups that have already participated in the campaign.

After reading and discussing the story of Ono and Rene, each child creates his or her silhouette. The child lays down on a large piece of paper, cardboard, or fabric and another child (or adult) traces her outline. Be careful to do the outline as close as possible to the child's body, because if not the silhouettes can be too big, even the size of an adult. The child can lie flat or take a more dynamic pose.

Things to consider when selecting materials:

- Think about using durable materials that will stand up to being moved, folded, or rained on. The silhouettes shouldn't be too fragile or heavy.
- Take into account the way the silhouettes will be exhibited before you start their creation as well. How will they be hung up or displayed. On what backing?

If the silhouette is on fabric, think about sewing the edges so that the fabric doesn't fray. You can add loops of fabric to hang it on a dowel. Try to choose a fabric that won't fray too much.

Each child decorates her silhouette with care. She can paint, draw, or decorate it with other objects (collage, beads, yarn, fabric, buttons, etc.). She can also add other things that portray her or where she lives (postcards, photos, bus tickets, etc.).

We recommend not cutting the silhouette out, but instead leaving it on the rectangle of



fabric, cardboard, or paper. This makes the silhouettes sturdier and easier to exhibit. The decoration of the silhouette should allow the outline of the child to stand out against the background.

Other options.

- If the project is done with a group or class, you can create one or a number of collective silhouettes that will represent the group.
- It's also possible to create a large banner with all the children's silhouettes drawn side-by-side, in a group, in positions of friendship (hand-in-hand, etc.).
- We have found that it is a good idea to try this activity out with one child before doing it with a group to be able to gauge the material constraints and time necessary to create a good product.

