



## **Closing the gap(s)!** Fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality!

Michaela Moser - Die Armutskonferenz - EAPN

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Doris Salcedo  
***Shibboleth***  
Tate Modern, 2007



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Vladimir, José Manuel, José Luis, Trinidad, Felipe ....



**Opening of the EU-Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**

**Madrid - 21-01-2010**



Susanne, Idriss, Mirko, Genevieve, Maria, Zoltana....



**8th European Meeting of People experiencing Poverty**

**Brussels, May 15-16 2009**



# A growing gap: Where do we stand?

78 mio people living with an income below the poverty line. Growing gaps between poor and rich.



An undelivered promise of making a decisive impact towards the eradication of poverty



# A growing gap: Where do we stand?

The complexity of political processes, theoretical concepts, suggested measures, lack of implementation and effectiveness



The 'simplicity' of basic needs deriving from concrete realities:

- + respect and dignity
- + an adequate minimum income
- + access to basic services
- + meaningful work
- + participation



# A growing gap: Key challenges



Facilitating social progress in a time of crisis

Breaking stereotypes - promoting human dignity and rights

Ensuring a more just distribution of resources

Developing more and better democracy

Taking a true global approach



# A growing gap: Key challenges



**Facilitating social progress in a time of crisis**

**Ensuring a more just distribution of resources**

**Facing the negative effects of inequalities on all of society.  
Reducing inequality = the missing MDG**

**Confronting and combating the realities of  
social polarization and poverty production**

# A growing gap: Key challenges



**Breaking stereotypes and promoting human dignity and rights**

**Developing more and better democracy**

**Strengthening participation / participative democratic processes!  
Increasing accountability!  
Promoting new forms of good governance = ownership = social cohesion!**

# A growing gap: Key challenges



## Taking a true global approach to social justice

Placing the fight against poverty and social exclusion  
in the wider context of ensuring a decent life for all

## Re-identifying development as human development ( = not economic growth)

## Rethinking our ideals of social cooperation: re-defining global action

## Globalizing the Capabilities Approach

Overdetermination of responsibility: domestic, justice, global redistribution,  
responsibility of corporations ...

Development of a thin global public sphere.

Focus on problems of the disadvantaged, on care and education

(Martha Nussbaum: Frontiers of Justice, 2006)

# Closing the gap(s): Ensuring a good life for all!



Life: Living one's life (not that of another) - Bodily Health: adequate nourishment and shelter... - Bodily Integrity: freedom of movement, opportunities of sexual satisfaction, reproductive choices - Senses, Imagination and Thought - Emotions: attachments to things and people, love, care, grieve, longing, gratitude, anger ... Practical reason: forming a conception of the good, engaging in critical reflection about one's life - Affiliation: social interaction, self-respect, nonhumiliation, dignity, nondiscrimination - Living with other species - Play - Laughter - Control over one's environment: Political participation, property rights, meaningful work ...

**An EU - and a world - free of  
poverty is possible!**



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

**[www.eapn.org](http://www.eapn.org)**