

Irish Hunger Memorial Text

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The agent came round, saw the improvements, and told me I should not sow any seed, but must quit the premises... I must take my little all, and leave my father's bones, and seek a home in America.

Asenath Nicholson, *Ireland's Welcome to the Stranger*. 1847

...the land in Ireland is infinitely more peopled than in England; and to give full effect to the natural resources of the country, a great part of the population should be swept from the soil.

Thomas Malthus, *An Essay of the Principle of Population*. 1798

If one could see into the houses, it was rare that he saw any other thing than the bare walls, a rickety wooden stool, a small turf fire burning slowly and dimly between four flat stones.

Alexis de Tocqueville's Journey in Ireland, July-August, 1835. Emmet Larkin, trans, 1990

Here I found a company of would-be intelligent Irish and English aristocrats who... were professed enemies to the poor Irish, calling them a company of low, vulgar, lazy wretches, who prefer beggary to work, and filth to cleanliness... it is an established law of our nature to hate those we oppress.

Asenath Nicholson, *Ireland's Welcome to the Stranger*. 1847

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine. People live in one another's shelter.
Irish proverb

...many lives have been prolonged, perhaps saved, by the long apprenticeship to want in which the Irish peasant has been trained, and by that lovely, touching charity which prompts him to share his scanty meal with his starving neighbor.

Transactions of the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends. 1852

In the part of *The Evening Post* dedicated to the interests of the Farming World, we have made rather an ample report of a matter of great importance, indeed, namely the failure of the potato crop-very extensively in the United States... But, happily, there is no ground for any apprehensions of the kind in Ireland.

The Dublin Evening Post. 9 September 1845

We stop the Press, with very great regret, to announce that the Potato Murrain has unequivocally declared itself in Ireland.

The Gardeners' Chronicle. 13 September 1845

Potato Murrain: Phytophthora Infestans

Striding nearer every day, Like a wolf in search of prey, Comes the Famine on his way.

Heremon, "The Famine," 7 March 1846

...Many of us would have died from want had we not been relieved by a portion of the Calcutta Relief Fund . . . They are compelled to pawn their clothes and fishing tackle to purchase provisions.

Petition of the Claddagh Fishermen to the Lord Lieutenant, Distress Papers, 3018, 1846

I cannot longer deny myself the pleasure of congratulating you on the justness of your views relative to the Botrytis infestans being the cause of the potato disease and not the effect as I had supposed.

David Moore, Curator of the Royal Dublin Society's Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin to Rev. Miles J. Berkeley, 29 July 1846

Our potato crop is lost without exception I believe throughout Ireland.

David Moore to Rev. Miles J. Berkeley, 24 August 1846

Famine food: copóg (dock), nettles, braiste, caisearbhán (dandelion), samhadh (sorrel), grass, mangels, turnips, leaves of trees, watercress, seaweed, herbs, rabbits, hares, wild fowl.

At present prices [1846] it would require 21 shillings a week to support a laborer and his family; he earns six shillings, seven shillings or eight shillings at the highest. What must be the result?

The Irish Journals of Elizabeth Smith, 1840-1850. 1980

Table of livestock exports during the famine years: 1846: 186,483 oxen, bulls, cows, 6,363 calves, 259,257 sheep, lambs 480,827 swine. 1847: 189,960 oxen, bulls, cows, 9,992 calves, 324,179 sheep, lambs 106,407 swine. 1848: 196,042 oxen, bulls, cows, 7,086 calves, 255,682 sheep, lambs 110,787 swine. 1849: 201,811 oxen, bulls, cows, 9,831 calves, 241,061 sheep, lambs, 68,053 swine.

Mary E. Daly, *The Famine in Ireland.* 1986

Famine is raging in Skibbereen Union [December 1846]. Since November 5, 197 people have died in the poorhouse, the principal cause of death being "the prevalence of a fatal diarrhea, acting on the exhausted constitutions of the persons admitted." Nearly 100 bodies have been found in the lanes or in derelict cabins, half-eaten by rats. The Guardians want to open soup shops but the Poor Law Commission insists that relief is to be provided only inside the workhouse.

Brendan ÓCathaoir, *Famine Diary.* 1999

Hunger will break through a stone wall.

Irish proverb

“Na Prátaí Dubha.” Siad na prátaí dubha do dheir ár gcomharsana a scaipeadh uainn, Do chuir sa phoorhouse iad, is anonn thar fairrgí. In Reilig a' tSléibhe tá na céadta acu treascartha, Is uaisle na bhflaitheas go ngabha a bpáirt. A Rí na glóire fóir agus freagair sinn. Sgaoil ár nglasa agus réitig ár gcás, Ar an mbeatha arís, ó do chroí go gcasfar í, San poorhouse go leagair anuas ar lár. (The black potatoes have scattered our neighbors. Some to the poorhouse and some over the seas. Hundreds are thrown in the mountain graveyard. O King of Heaven, take our part. O God of Glory, help us. Answer us. Release our bonds and ease our case. Let your heart shower us with life And destroy the poorhouse that is in our midst.)

Londubh an Chairn, Being the Songs of the Irish Gaels. Maighread ní Annagáin and Séamus Clandillon, eds, 1936

In some cases, it is well-known, when all other members of a family have perished, the last survivor has earthed up the door of his miserable cabin to prevent the ingress of pigs and dogs, and then laid himself down to die in this fearful family vault.

James Hack Tuke, *A Visit to Connaught in the Autumn of 1847*

Total amount remitted by laboring Irish, male and female, from New York \$808,000 . . . proof of the self-sacrifice and self-denial that such a sum . . . could in one year be remitted. . . by the Irish at labor and at service.

Jacob Harvey, *New York Daily Tribune*, 9 January 1847

Let Ireland's extremity be America's opportunity to teach the nations a magnificent lesson in human brotherly love.

Elihu Burritt, *A Journal of a Visit of Three Days to Skibbereen and its Neighborhood.* 1847

New York General Relief Committee, 10 February 1847, was organized to... contribute their mite towards the alleviation of misery, which we fear no human aid can reach in all its depth and recesses. Contributions received: Jury and Clerk in the case of Griffin vs Mutual Life Insurance \$2, Lithographers of New York by N. Currier \$50, Inhabitants of Huntington, L.I. \$290, Cadets and laborers at West Point \$312.43, Citizens of Catskill \$334.08, Donation from Fort Gibson in the Cherokee nation \$103.30, Theodore Frelinghuysen, Chancellor of the University of the City of New York \$5.00, Benevolent Society of Operative Masons, City of New York \$400.00, New York Stock Exchange Board \$2000.00, Clerks in the employ of A.T. Stewart and Co. \$140.00, John J. Astor \$500.00, Irish Relief Committee, Nashville, Tennessee \$1200.00, Irish Relief Committee, Dubuque, Iowa \$589.89, Citizens of the island of Mackinac \$200.00, A little boy \$0.50, A few young girls \$5.00, A poor man \$3.00, A lady in Spring Street \$10.00, A few poor Christians in Brooklyn \$10.00, A friend to social re-organization \$100.00, Nobody \$4.00, Descendants of the Pilgrims \$10.00, Cash for the destitute Irish, "by a lady (in front of my house)" \$20.00, Ten dollars for the Irish \$10.00, A youth saved out of his pocket money \$1.00, A tribute from conscience \$4.00, The boys of Ward School 3 in 10th Ward (in cents) \$1.54, A little Irish emigrant \$0.50, A friendly son of St. Patrick \$25.00, An Irishman's son

\$2.00, Members of the Franklin Street Synagogue \$80.00, Collection made at the Synagogue, Crosby Street \$175.00, The Amity Street Baptist Church \$275.00, Collection in the German Lutheran Church, Walker Street \$229.65, Universalist Church, Bleecker St. \$38.55, Collection in St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Christopher Street, \$83.37, Collection in the Protestant Dutch Church, Franklin Street \$75.00, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Williamsburg \$230.00, Roman Catholic Church of St. Andrew, Duane Street \$276.07, Roman Catholic Church of St. Columba, W. 25th Street \$435.88, Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church, Mott Street \$534.00, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Sixth Avenue \$800.00, Roman Catholic Church of St. James, Brooklyn \$921.39, St. James Roman Catholic Church, James Street \$1,000.00, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Barclay St. \$1,083.82, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Mott Street \$1,350.87, Nativity Roman Catholic Church, Second Avenue \$2,060.62, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Grand Street \$2,250.72.

New York Irish Historical Roundtable, New York and the Irish Famine. 1997

Contributors to the Irish Relief Committee, 1847-1848: Mrs. Martin Livingston, John Jay, Alderman Livingston, Mayor Philip Hone, Judge C.P. Daly, Major Denis McMahan, A.T. Stewart, Proceeds from Bishop Hughes collected in the Diocese of New York, Episcopal Churches of New York, A few members of the Rose Street Meeting of the Society of Friends, Society of Friends, New York, American Abolitionists, Children at St. Matthew's Academy, Walker St. \$14.00, Principal and teachers, Danbury Institute, Connecticut \$23.00, Mr. Conder's School \$40.00, Mr. Peugeot's School \$35.00, Articles made by young ladies for Miss Charlotte Havens' fair, 263 Ninth Street \$287.00, Captain William Armstrong near Fort Smith, the largest part contributed by the children of the forest, our red brethren of the Choctaw nation \$170.00, Horace Greeley, Editor, New York Tribune, William Lloyd Garrison, Editor, Liberator, Men of the New York Daily Globe, Proceeds from a longshoremen's fair, Police from the 4th Ward, Men of the New York Gaslight Company, Workmen in the Dry Docks, Brooklyn, Individuals in Sing Sing.

Report of the Irish Relief Committee. 1848

From Particulars of the Relief Contributions from the United States: Contributions came to the Central Relief Committee from New, Yorkers: Albany, Brooklyn, Floyd, Ft. Plain, Glen Cove, Goshen, Hicksville, Manlius, Newburgh, New York City, Ogdensburgh, Oneida, Co., Onondaga, Oswego Co., Otsego Co., Rochester, Sag Harbor, Seneca Co., Sherburne, Spring Port, Utica, Watertown, Williamsburg.

Transactions of the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends. 1852

...exhort your people to give alms for the relief of the Irish people... the beauty of wealth lies not in the manner of life of the rich but in food given to the poor.

Pope Pius IX, Praedecessores Nostros, Encyclical to Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops and Bishops, 25 March 1847

An té a bhíos fial roinneann Dia leis. God shares with the person who is generous.
Irish proverb

The wives and daughters of the gentry are making equal exertions, and ladies of the first rank may be seen daily distributing soup or meal, or cutting out clothes to be made by poor women and sold to the poor at a low rate.
Transactions of the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends. 1852

We are struggling to keep on our breakfasts as the only means [the children] have and to clothe the destitute orphan.
Sr. Mary O'Donel, Presentation Convent, Galway, 1847

Ballina, 1847. It was melancholy in the extreme to see the women and girls laboring in mixed gangs on the public roads. They were employed not only in digging with the spade and with the pick, but in carrying loads of earth and turf on their backs, and wheeling barrows like men, and breaking stones: while the poor neglected children were crouched in groups, around the bits of lighted turf in the various sheltered corners along the lines.
William Bennett, "Accounts of his Journey to Ireland," *Transactions of the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends. 1852*

Ni thuigeann an sách an seang. The well-fed does not understand the lean.
Irish proverb

We ask does her Majesty ever read a newspaper? Does she ever cast her eye over the London Times, where the dying groans of the Irish are ridiculed, and the wail of the starving infant is laughed to scorn?
John B. Knox. ed. *Clare Journal. 25 February 1847*

The sacred and infeasible rights of life are forgotten amidst the incessant reclamations of the subordinate rights of property...
Irish Bishops, 1847

"Old Skibbereen" Oh, son! I loved my native land with energy and pride, Till a blight came o'er my crops - my sheep, my cattle died; My rent and taxes were too high, I could not them redeem, And that's the cruel reason that I left Old Skibbereen.
Traditional Irish song

"Thousands are Sailing" So good luck to those people and safe may they land. They are leaving their country for a far distant strand. They are leaving old Ireland, no longer to stay. And thousands are sailing to Amerikay.
Traditional Irish song

Fever and dysentery and dropsy have already recommended the work of death and the solemn and sober conviction on my mind is that unless prompt and adequate means are adopted to arrest this terrible calamity not hundreds, not thousands but the great population will be swept, as with the besom of destruction, off the face of this land.

Samuel Stock, Rector of Kilcommon and Chairman of the Erris Relief Committee to Prime Minister John Russell, 28 October 1847

I am desired by Lord John Russell that he has no further funds at his disposal to apply in the manner pointed out in your letter of 28 ultimo...

George Keppell to Rev, Samuel Stock, 2 November 1847

Willful waste makes woeful want.

Irish Proverb, Martha Thompson, Ballinamuck

It dwells in my memory as one long night of sorrow.

Sir William Butler, *An Autobiography*. 1913

Many were obliged to pledge their clothes in the pawn-office in Loughrea last July, and were not able to go to mass for want of them.

James MacTighe, banker, Kilcreest, Co. Galway, 1835

When a man is hungry, the shame goes off him; many a mischief is done to the gentlemen of the country that they must overlook when they know the poverty of the people...

James Browne, laborer, Ballina, Co. Mayo, 1835

The habit of pilfering potatoes and cabbage, and even plucking wool from the backs of the sheep in the fields, is common, but it is induced by destitution; a constant struggle is proceeding between honesty on one side and hunger and nakedness on the other...

Father Lyons, parish priest, Kilmore Erris, Co. Mayo, 1835

We are enabled to state, on the authority of private letters from respectable parties in New York, that [there is] a plan for enabling destitute Irish to emigrate on an extensive scale from their present wretched habitations to the delightful valley of Mississippi...

The Freeman's Journal. 8 February, 1847

What Will the Government Do? To whom are the people to look, if not to the government of the country, and therefore, we repeat the question, and will continue to repeat it again and again, till effective relief be administered. What will the Government do?

The Freeman's Journal. 8 January, 1847

There was cleared out of the custom house in this city, for England, within the past week, 1935 barrels of wheat, and 4279 barrels of oats, though thousands are starving in the west of this country.

The Waterford Freeman. 3 October 1846

'Tis hard to argue starvation into quiet, to bid hunger to be silent; they are both spirits of riot and clamour and tumult are their mode of warfare.

Editorial, *The Waterford Freeman*. 7 October 1846

A brooding stillness, too, lay over all nature. Cheerfulness had disappeared, even the groves and hedges were silent, for the very birds had ceased to sing, and the earth seemed as if it mourned for the approaching calamity, as well as for that which had been already felt.

William Carleton, *The Black Prophet*. 1847

Farms 1-5 acres: 306,915. 5-15 acres: 251,128. 15-30 acres: 78,954. 30+acres: 48,312.

Report of the Commissioners Appointed to Take the Census of Ireland for the Year 1841. 1843

Population of Ireland: 1790: est. 4,040,000. 1800: est. 5 million. 1821: 6,801,827. 1831: 7,767,401. 1841: 8,175,124. 1851: 6,552,385. 1861: 5,798,967. 1871: 5,412,377. 1881: 5,174,836. 1891: 4,704,750. 1901: 4,458,755. 1911: 4,390,219. 1926: 4,228,553. 1936-7: 4,248,165. 1951: 4,331,514. 1961: 4,243,383. 1971: 4,514,313. 1981: 4,975,601. 1991: 5,103,555.

Population of the Island of Ireland 1832-1972. W.E. Vaughan and A.J. Fitzpatrick, eds. *Irish Historical Statistics*. 1978. Census for 1981, 1991 *Local Ireland Almanac and Yearbook of Facts 2000*. 1999

The value or condition of a house may be considered to depend mainly on, 1st, its extent, as shown by the number of rooms; 2nd, its quality, as shown by the number of its windows; and 3rd, its solidity or durability, as shown by the material of its walls and roof. Class 4: mud cabin with one room 491,278. Class 3: better built mud cabin with two to four rooms and windows 533,297. Class 2: a good farm house or a house in town with five to nine rooms and windows 264,184.

Class 1: a better house than a class 2 40,030. Total houses occupied 1,328,839.

Report of the Commissioners Appointed to Take the Census of Ireland for the Year 1841. 1843

Who supports the poor in Ireland today? It is the poor.

William Kinsella, Bishop of Ossory. *Alexis de Tocqueville's Journey in Ireland. July-August 1835*. Emmet Larkin, trans. 1990

The blight came before St. John's Day. It came like a fog in the evening and appeared low on the water. Next day the potato stalks were black.

Bean Uí Sheoighe, Letterfrack, Co. Galway. Department of Irish Folklore, MS 1069

The greatest improvement of all which could take place in Ireland would be, to teach the people to depend upon themselves for developing the resources of their country, instead of having recourse to the assistance of the Government on every occasion.

Letter from Assistant Secretary to the Treasury Charles Edward Trevelyan to Sir Randolph Routh. 1846

They are dying as numerous as bees on a harvest day, burying them in their own clothes, without a coffin or any other thing requisite for them to defray their funeral charges.

Belmullet, Co. Mayo. Letter to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. 1847

They were making the Board of Works road up here to Sliabh na Seasca. It was a frosty hard black morning in the month of January. Four pence was the daily wage then, and 'tis often they would have to walk twelve or fourteen miles to work. They had no boots.

Pádraig Mhichíl ÓSuilleabháin, Sneem, Co. Kerry. Cathal Póirtéir, *Famine Echoes*. 1995

...in a country that is called civilized, under the protection of the mightiest monarchy upon the earth, and almost within a day's communication of the capital of the greatest and richest empire in the world, thousands of our fellow creatures are each day dying of starvation, and the wasted corpses of many left unburied in their miserable hovels, to be devoured by the hungry swine; or to escape this profanation, only to diffuse among the living the malaria of pestilence and death.

Isaac Butt, "The Famine in the Land," *Dublin University Magazine*, 1847

I may be told that the famine in Ireland is a mysterious visitation of God's providence, but I do not admit any such plea... Still the rights of life are dearer and higher than those of property, and, in a general famine like the present, there is no law of heaven, nor of nature, that forbids a starving man to seize on bread wherever he can find it, even though it should be the loaves of propitiation on the altar of God's temple.

Archbishop John Hughes, *A Lecture of the Antecedent Causes of the Irish Famine in 1847*, 20 March, 1847

Mr. William Gregory, MP rose to propose the following Clause: And be it further Enacted, That no person who shall be in the occupation, whether under lease or agreement, or as Tenant-at-will, or from year to year, or in any other matter whatsoever, of any land of greater extent than the quarter of a statute acre, shall be deemed and taken to be a destitute poor person under the provision of this Act, or of any former Act of Parliament; nor shall it be lawful for any board of guardians to grant any relief whatever in or out of the workhouse, to any such occupier, his wife, or children.

The Poor Relief Bill: The Gregory Clause. House of Commons. 29 March 1847

By this carefully prepared clause, the head of a family who happened to hold a single foot of ground over one rood, was put outside the pale of relief, with his whole family. A more complete engine for the slaughter and expatriation of a people was never designed. The previous clause offered facilities for emigrating to those who would give up their land-the quarter-acre-clause compelled them to give it up, or die of hunger.

Canon John O'Rourke, The Gregory Clause, *The History of the Great Irish Famine of 1847*. 1875

Quaker soup shops dispensed nutritious soup for a penny a quart. The Government followed with the "Soup Kitchen Act" in 1847.

Government Soup: 100 gallons of water, 12 1/2 pounds of beef, 6 1/2 pounds of drippings, 25 pounds of barley, 100 onions, 25 pounds of flour (seconds), 1 1/2 pounds of brown sugar, 9 pounds of salt. –Quaker Soup: 100 gallons of water, 75 pounds of beef, 35 pounds of dried peas, 21 pounds of barley, 21 pounds of oatmeal, 1 1/2 pounds of pepper, 14 pounds of salt.

Helen Hatton. *The largest amount of good. Quaker relief in Ireland*

Families served with Eviction Notices: 1846: 19,704. 1847: 51,232. 1848: 69,899. Total: 140,835 families. Evictions: 1849-1854: 47,511. Eviction notice and evictions [1846-1854]: 188,346 families, approximately 974,930 persons.

Tim P. O'Neill, "Famine Evictions," 2000

Numbers of those poor creatures who were thus cruelly exterminated are now living in huts erected by them on the roadside, the victims of famine and fever. Hundreds of them have perished in these Parishes during these last two years. The monstrous conduct of the landlords here and in every other locality throughout the Country has considerably added to the extreme mass of human suffering.

Rev. Dr. Patrick Fogerty, *Waterford Chronicle*. 1848

He threw my three children out on the street; one of them was sick at the time; her name was Anne; she died last week; she was near four years old; Coleman, my son, died Friday last, aged ten years, from cold and hardship. My house was completely destroyed... my wife and remaining child are now lying sick in a hovel I made against the ruins of the house; when my child Coleman died, there was over six inches of water about him.

John Costello, Inverin, Co. Galway. New Year's Eve, 1847.

Forty years later the French writer Louis Paul-Dubois warned that "emigration will soon cause it to be said that Ireland is no longer where flows the Shannon, but rather besides the banks of the Hudson River and in that 'Greater Ireland' whose home is in the American Republic."

Cormac Ó Gráda, *Irish Emigration to the United States in the Nineteen Century*. 1980

I was then but four and a half year's old; yet, I have a distinct remembrance of that morning's scene: the remnant of our household furniture flung about the road; the roof of the house falling in and the thatch taking fire; my mother and father looking on with four young children...

Michael Davitt, 1850. T.W. Moody, *Davitt and Irish Revolution 1846-82*. 1982

The Almighty, indeed, sent the potato blight, but the English created the famine.
John Mitchel, *The Last Conquest of Ireland (Perhaps)*. 1861

...nothing but the walls of the houses remaining, the inhabitants being scattered through the country seeking shelter where they could best find it.

Poor Law Inspector Richard Hamilton. Mullaghroe, Co. Mayo, 1 January 1848

I tried to count the roofless houses, and after proceeding as far as seventy, gave it up in despair... [the people had been]... scattered up and down the country, like sheep upon the mountain.

James Hack Tuke. Mullaghroe, Co. Mayo, 1847. *A Visit to Connaught in the Autumn of 1847*. 1848

I counted as many as 300 emaciated people in various stages of fever, starvation and nakedness... Many, too weak to stand, were lying on the cold ground; others squatting in the bare turf to hide their naked limbs.

James Hack Tuke. Mullaghroe, Co. Mayo, 1847. *A Visit to Connaught in the Autumn of 1847*. 1848

The first recorded famine in Ireland: Anno Mundi 4019. Bearngall Mac-Geyd... was king twelve years. In his time there were continual wars, which brought great scarcity of victuals throughout the whole kingdom.

William Wilde, *The census of Ireland for the year 1851*. 1856

Irish Emigration to North America, 1845-1851: 1845: 74,969. 1846: 105,955. 1847: 215,444. 1848: 178,159. 1849: 214,425. 1850: 209,054. 1851: 249,721.
Census of Ireland, 1851

The sick were placed in a long sack with a name label attached, put in a cart and conveyed to an auxiliary workhouse at "The Big Stone" in Ardnaree. The rumble of the cart struck terror into the unfortunate people who asked "Whose turn next?"

Padraic Flannelly, N.T., Addymass

The Irish Famine, a litany of death, suffering and emigration, left an indelible mark on our psychological landscape. It resonates profoundly in Ireland and throughout the global Irish family. Famine has long ceased to haunt Irish homes. But for millions of our fellow human beings, its deadly march continues. In commemorating victims of the Irish Famine, we must renew our pledge to feed the hungry and to end the scourge of famine and poverty worldwide. "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine." [We all live in each other's shadow]

Mary McAleese President of Ireland

We have to think back, reflect, understand, learn how the great starvation of 1845-1852 could have happened, not simply to be in the position to understand history, but to prevent it from happening again.

Governor George E. Pataki, groundbreaking ceremony for the Irish Hunger Memorial

1948. Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Article 25:(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance, All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same protection

Inequitable land tenure poses one of the most serious obstacles to rural development.

Nicole Ball, *World Hunger, A Guide to the Economic and Political Dimensions*. 1981

To anyone familiar with the history of Britain's economic domination of Ireland, it will come as no surprise that the factors cited by Cecil Woodham-Smith [The Great Hunger] as causing famine: monoculture, absentee landlords demanding high rent, lack of investing in agriculture, subdivision-are the same as those identified by authors of the most recent studies as causing hunger in the dependent regions of the world today.

Nicole Ball, *World Hunger, A Guide to the Economic and Political Dimensions*. 1981

Debt, not weather, is the real killer of Sahelian peasants.

John Sutter. Dakar, Senegal. Rural Poverty Program, Ford Foundation. 1986

A hungry people are a people without peace.

Traditional Proverb

1996: More than 25% of the world population lives in poverty. 1.3 billion live on less than \$1 per day. 160 million children are moderately or severely malnourished.

United Nations Development Program Report. 1997

Panhandler, United States: Poverty means never having quite enough to eat.

United Nations Development Program Report. 1997

More than 500 million of the world's poorest people live on marginal lands.

United Nations Development Program Report. 1997

Think about what the human race has accomplished. Space exploration. Satellite communication. Heart transplants. Cracking the human genetic code. We've done what previous generations never dreamed of. But do you ever wonder, if we're so advanced, why 820 million people still don't have enough to eat? It's absurd.

Miriam Makeba. South Africa. FAO Ambassador. 2001

Customers don't buy my yams, not because people are no longer hungry or because they don't eat yams anymore, but because they don't have the money.

Mary Esi Asiedu, Babatokuma, Ghana. Ernest Y. Kunfaa, et. al. "Empty Pockets," Deepa Narayan and Patti Petesch, *Voices of the Poor From Many Lands*. 2002

Migration, we have seen, is the oldest action against poverty. It selects those who most want help. It is good for the country to which they go; it helps to break the equilibrium of poverty in the country from which they come...The Irish who departed at the time of the famine, and thereafter, made good their own escape from poverty and made possible the escape of those who remained behind.

John Kenneth Galbraith, *The Nature of Mass Poverty*, 1979

We have come to the clear realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. Necessitous men are not free men. People who are hungry and out of jobs are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "State of the Union Address," 1944

In 1995 India exported \$625 million in wheat flour, \$1.3 billion in rice while 200 million Indians go hungry.

Food and Agricultural Organization. *Mapping Undernutrition, An Ongoing Process*, 1996

While to most people scarcity means suffering, to others it means profit.

Betsy Hartman and James Boye, *A Quiet Violence, View from a Bangladesh Village*, 1983

There is enough in the world for everyone's need but not enough for everyone's greed.

Attributed to Ghandi

The profound comment of our era is that for the first time we have the technical capacity to free mankind from the scourge of hunger. Therefore, today we must proclaim a bold objective: that within a decade no child will go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread and that no human being's future and capacity will be stunted by malnutrition.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Speech to the World Food Conference, 1974

...grief and silence are luxuries which we in the West cannot indulge if men and women and children in Somalia are to survive. They need our action, not our tears: our practical, downright, problem-solving help, and not our wordless horror.

Mary Robinson, President of the Republic of Ireland, 1992

Afghanistan, 2001: We did not want to leave our homes, but we had no food. We used to have animals-goats, sheep and donkeys-but we sold them a long time ago. We ate our wheat seed because we had nothing else. What could we do? We had only dried mulberries left to eat. And not enough of those.

Refugee and Relief Alert, Newsletter of Refugees International 2001

The twentieth century was the most violent in human history, with nearly 150 million people killed by war. But in just the last half of that century nearly three times as many died of malnutrition or related causes.

George McGovern, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, "The Real Cost of Hunger," *United Nations Chronicle*, 2001

Well-fed people have many problems; hungry people have only one.

Chinese proverb (Bage)

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, April 1953

Hunger does not breed reform; it breeds madness and all the angry distempers that make an ordered life impossible.

President Woodrow Wilson, Speech to Congress, 1918

What greater human right is there than the right to eat?

Senator Robert Dole. 1990. USDA Inducts Four members into a newly established Hall of Heroes, 2002

We know that a peaceful world cannot long exist one-third rich and two-thirds hungry.

President Jimmy Carter, "Human Rights and Foreign Policy," 1977

Our vision of helping the poor must not dim. In fact, it must become stronger and more ambitious. It must not accept the anaesthetic of relief and mitigation alone. It must recognize the right and ability of the poor themselves to eradicate poverty.

CONCERN "The Changing Face of Poverty"

It is by no means clear that there has ever occurred a famine in which all groups in a country have suffered from starvation, since different groups typically do have very different commanding powers over food.

Amartya Sen, *Poverty and Famine: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*.

Up to now, individual nations... have dealt with the specter of mass starvation as an unexpected crisis - as something to react to when it occurs rather than as a likelihood to be planned for in advance.

Jean Mayer. Michael Glantz, ed. *Drought and Hunger in Africa. Denying Famine a Future*. 1987

Principles of famine relief drawn from the Indian experience: 1. Intervene early: keep people at home with their productive assets. 2. Early intervention requires local knowledge. 3. Relief should be in the form of employment that generates money incomes. Employment should be created in ways and on projects that facilitate the development of the affected region. 4. Working capital for agriculture and pastoral populations must be rebuilt at the end of a drought. 5. The government of the affected region must be in charge with all other actors' efforts supporting and supplementing governmental efforts. 6. Development of an effective famine policy takes time.

Michelle B. McAlpin, "Famine Relief Policy in India: Six Lessons for Africa," Michael Glantz, ed. *Drought and Hunger in Africa*. 1987

The problem of chronic undernutrition is the problem of poverty.

Kiri S. Parikh, "Chronic Hunger in the World: Impact of International Policies," Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, eds. *The Political Economy of Hunger*, I. 1990

Refugee reports which record among their dietary items chaff, grass, leaves, tree bark, roots and many wild plants. Widespread reports of starving beggars and occasional incidents of cannibalism in the literature.

A.J. Jowett, *China: The Demographic Disaster of 1958-1961*

...someday someone will also count up those many carloads of food supplies rolling on and on for many, many months to Imperial Germany under the terms of the peace treaty of Brest-Litovsk

Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago 1918 -1956*. 1973

Meanwhile, in the Volga region, they were eating grass, the soles of shoes and gnawing at door jambs.

Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago 1918-1956*. 1973

Famine usually occurs in the rural areas where the food is produced. Peasants cannot afford to eat the crops of their own fields and cannot keep back the necessary reserves before selling what they can do without.

Abebe Zegeye and Siegfried Pausewang, *Ethiopia in Change. Peasantry, Nationalism and Democracy*. 1994.

Famine is not a mere deficiency of food, but often an absolute lack of food. For people under famine, the question of quality of food simply does not arise.

Trócaire

Sudan May, 1989... Here a few months ago I saw starving people crawl the last yards and collapse in the camp... The vultures hovered overhead. There were reports of scavengers, wild dogs eating the spare flesh of the victims of starvation and dispossession... In this camp, South Dorofan, is a reflection through the years of the crowded workhouses of Ireland's 1840s or the crowded holds of the coffin ships, or the delousing reception centers across the Atlantic. Irony of ironies, much of the relief food arriving in Muglad comes from the same source as the replacement food that fed the starving Irish robbed of their corn as payment to absentee landlords. It is American grain! It has earned the nickname "Regan" in Africa's recent famines.

Aengus Finucane C.S. Sp. of CONCERN. Muglad Refuge Camp, Sudan, May 1989

Drought is not like most other disaster: it can be seen coming, slowly, from a long way off. Drought, more than any other disaster, chooses its victims... the wealthy are never killed by drought.

Timberlake 1985. Shaw Michael Glantz, ed. *Drought and Hunger in Africa*. 1987

We were given no food. We lived on snow; it took the place of bread. The days were like nights, and the nights left the dregs of their darkness in our souls.

Eli Wiesel, *Night*

To keep you is no benefit; to destroy you is no loss.

Khmer Rouge slogan. Cambodia 1975

Overweight and obesity are increasing in both men and women and among all population groups. In 1999, an estimated 61 percent of U.S. adults were overweight or obese, and 13 percent of children and adolescents were overweight.

Approximately 300,000 deaths a year in this country are currently associated with overweight and obesity.

The Surgeon General. "2001 Report on Overweight and Obesity" 2001

Every day 25% of our food supply is wasted.

President Clinton, Remarks to D.C. Kitchen Trainees and Volunteers, 1998

Almost 100 billion pounds of safe, edible food-meat and poultry, fruit and vegetables, milk and eggs-are thrown away every year by retailers, restaurants and farmers while twenty-five million Americans are hungry, including 12 million children.

USDA 1997

Paz con hambre no dura.

Painted on a wall. Bogota, Columbia

[On African-American music] Nowhere outside of dear old Ireland, in the days of want and famine, have I heard sounds so mournful.

Frederick Douglass, *The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*. 1882

The Slack family of Corrimbla townland, Attymass, Co. Mayo, donated their two-room stone cottage from Carradoogan to the Irish Hunger Memorial. Dating from the 1830s, the cottage was occupied by six generations of Slacks until the 1960s.

Irish Hunger Memorial. July 16 2002