

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1



IN THIS ISSUE

THEMATIC AREAS

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION FAREWELL'S COLLEEN SWAIN

On December 15, Mercy Global Action paid tribute to Colleen Swain who has been working with MGA for the past 5 years and is departing from the office to take up an Officer role with the US Coast Guard. Colleen hopes that her work with the Coast Guard will build on her leadership skills and enable her to further develop her understanding and work for the environment.

To read more of Colleen's work and MGAs tribute, click [here](#).



INSIDE THE UN: THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES

USEFUL RESOURCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:
ANGELA REED RSM, CECILIE
KERN, AND LEAH SCHIFFMAN



THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS



MERCY SISTERS HELP CLIMATE-DISPLACED PERSONS IN PERU

Unprecedented rainfall in 2017 destroyed many parts of Peru with rising waters, mudslides, and flooding. The floods destroyed farms and neighborhoods, creating food insecurity, and displacing an estimated 700,000 people. Peru is still facing the ramifications of this event and has seen conditions get worse with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leah Schiffman from the Mercy Global Action office was privileged to speak with Mercy Sister, Veronica Aucoin (Verna), about her experience serving people who were displaced by the 2017 flood in Huarmey, Peru. In Huarmey, which is around 250km north of Lima, there are four Mercy Sisters who work with and support people experiencing homelessness. At the beginning of the floods, Verna went out with other Sisters with a truck full of water to the desert where many of the displaced population lived. She described the scene of people crowding around them in need of not only water but shelter and furniture. Verna and the other Sisters took it upon themselves to fulfill these needs by providing mattresses, mini stoves, and small shelters.

During her work with people affected by the floods, Verna met Rina, a former social worker whose home was damaged. The Sisters of Mercy were able to provide Rina with support and resources so she could continue living in her home. Eventually, Rina became an essential part of the Mercy Sisters' mission to support the population experiencing homelessness.

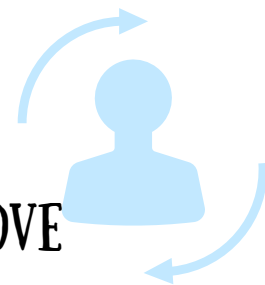
To read more, click [here](#).





THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS



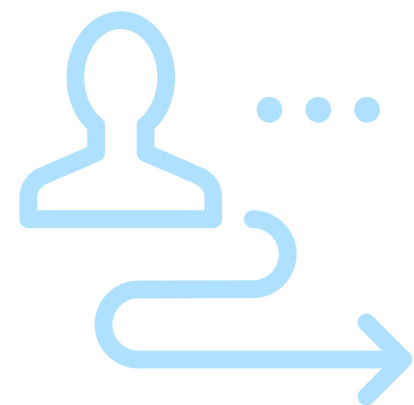
MIA PRAYER INTENTION: PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

International Migrants Day is a day to celebrate the many contributions of migrants.

Migrants around the world use their knowledge, networks, and skills to build stronger, more resilient communities. The global social and economic landscape can be shaped through how we address the challenges and opportunities presented by global mobility and people on the move.

The International Organization for Migration recently published the “World Migration Report 2022,” where it examines how the COVID-19 pandemic has altered migration and mobility for people around the world. In “Hope in a Time of Pandemic,” the Mercy world also reflects on how innovation, skill, compassion, resilience, and hope have been witnessed in responding to this global health crisis.

We continue to pray for all those who are on the move. In Mercy, we pray: “We thank you for opening the hearts of many to those who are fleeing for their lives. Help us now to open our arms in welcome, and reach out our hands in support. That the desperate may find new hope, and lives torn apart be restored. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ who fled persecution at his birth and at His last triumphed over death.”



THEMATIC AREAS

WATER

MGA OCEANS TASK FORCE

Expressions of Interest now open for new Mercy Global Action Justice-Based Task Forces

An exciting opportunity exists to join one of two newly-established MGA task forces to commence in August 2021. Each of the task forces are directly linked to Mercy Global Action's priority themes of MIGRATION and WATER/CLIMATE CHANGE

The task forces are issue-based, time-limited, and have an action-oriented focus. Comprising twelve members, including the MGA team, the task forces will draw upon the experience, expertise, and aspirations of its members in relation to either migration or water/climate change. Attached, see the terms of reference for each of the MGA Task Forces Water & Climate Change, Migration

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open for membership in an MGA Task Force and will close on Tuesday, July 13th 2021 at 5pm, EDT. Sign up [here!](#)

Mercy Global Action is specifically seeking members from the Mercy World who:

- Are energetic and enthusiastic about oceans and/or water and climate change
 - Have direct knowledge and/or experience in any of these areas
 - Willing to develop and exchange ideas, advocate and enact change
 - Ability to work collaboratively with a diverse team

Selection will be based on a range of perspectives, including different knowledge and experience levels, geographic locations, cultural backgrounds, and other lived experiences.



AT THE UNITED NATIONS
THROUGH OUR
ECOSOC EYES...

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION REPORT ON COP26



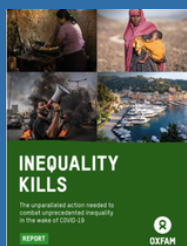
Mercy Global Action is pleased to share its report on MIA participation at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland this past November. The report includes analysis on priority advocacy topics, summaries of COP events and activities, and information about COP26 outcomes and what to bring forward into COP27 in 2022.

While governments and other stakeholders, including private sector actors, made some positive commitments during COP26, the level of ambition is still not high enough to meet the 1.5^oC temperature target set out by the Paris Agreement in 2015. The period leading up to COP27 has to be about meeting promises. It is up to governments and stakeholders to deliver and build on the commitments made at COP26, and it is our role as members of civil society to ensure that as the spotlight shifts away from COP, the pledges are not forgotten.

To read the full report, click [here](#).

“USEFUL RESOURCES

OXFAM Report



UN Secretary General's Report on the Global Compact for Migration



CSocD60 Side Event: End Homelessness & Poverty To Achieve Inclusive Recovery & Dignity For All Through The SDGs



Center for Economic and Social Rights Report on Human Rights and Economic Recovery from COVID

Click the link above to read the report in English and Spanish



UPCOMING EVENTS AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS

- **11 February - International Day of Women and Girls in Science**
- **20 February - World Day of Social Justice**
- **8 March - International Women's Day**

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MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2022 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2



MIA PRAYER INTENTION: PEACE FOR UKRAINE

Mercy International Association prays for peace for the people of Ukraine. We are each made in the image of God and called to have the courage to seek justice. May those in Ukraine feel the power of the prayers said throughout the world. Together, in Mercy, we Pray for World Peace...

We pray for the power to be gentle;
the strength to be forgiving;

the patience to be understanding;
and the endurance to accept the consequences
of holding on to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe
in a world emancipated from violence,
a new world where fear shall no longer lead men or women to commit injustice,
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy
to the task of making peace,
praying always for the inspiration and the power
to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men and women were created.

A Prayer for World Peace, 1978

In response to the situation in Ukraine, MGA signed onto CoNGO's statement against the war in Ukraine. You can read the full statement [here](#).

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MIA'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

MIA, Mercy Global Action, collaborated with Sister Magdalene Musau, RSM. Sr. Magdalene is a Sister of Mercy from the Kenyan Province of the Congregation who taught at St Bakhita from 1999 to 2010. During the event, Sr. Magdalene used a reflective, critical lens, to explore challenges that many women and girls face in Kenya. In sharing these stories. Sr. Magdalene highlighted women's leadership and resilience. She drew on excerpts from her book, 'The Change You Want is Within You' and invited participants to reflect on their own journey as women. This event also informed participants of the upcoming UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and how we can become involved.



THEMATIC AREAS

WATER

WORLD WATER DAY WITH MGA & SISTERS OF MERCY OF THE AMERICAS

World Water Day is commemorated on 22 March 2022. This year, MGA and Sisters of Mercy of The Americas are collaborating on a World Water Day Campaign on Twitter. To follow our campaign, click [here](#).



AT THE UNITED NATIONS THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES...

MIA HOSTING A CSW PARALLEL EVENT

The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), takes place from March 14 to 25 2022. CSW is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and was established as a body to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. This is the 66th year of CSW with a theme of “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.”

As Degradation of the Earth is one of MGA’s thematic areas, we released an official CSW Statement in response to this year’s theme. Not only does MGA focus on Degradation of Earth in this year’s statement but we also highlight the disproportionate effects climate change has on women and the importance of women’s knowledge in combating climate change, with a deep analysis of the role women play with regards to water.

In addition to women bearing the brunt of climate change, many women also experience a lack of access to technology, financial resources, and political decision-making. This infringes upon their abilities to contribute to and make an impact in tackling climate change. Furthermore, women are often designated with the majority of domestic tasks, like water collection. As water becomes increasingly scarce and inaccessible, women are often going to great lengths to collect water for their families, this is at the expense of their education, income-generating activities, and cultural and political investment. Despite this, women are essential to tackling climate change and must be included in the conversations, policies, and decisions in climate change mitigation, disaster reduction, and adaptation strategies.

MGA understands the importance of raising women's voices in these conversations, which is why MGA is hosting a CSW Parallel Event, co-sponsored by UNANIMA International, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, and Society of The Sacred Heart at the UN, on 14 March from 6-8 PM NYC Time. This event features speakers throughout the Mercy world who will speak to how women’s participation drives creative and sustainable solutions to both the climate change emergency and social injustices. All of these women have on-the-ground experiences and stories, which are some of the most essential to hear.

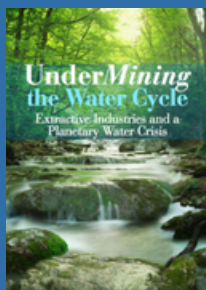
We not only encourage the Mercy World to attend the MGA event but to also attend other CSW Parallel Events, all of which are virtual. To view the schedule and register to watch Parallel events held by Non-governmental Organisations, click [here](#).

To register for our event, click [here](#).

“USEFUL RESOURCES



[Undermining The Water Cycle - Extractive Industries & A Planetary Water Crisis](#)



[JCoR Guide to CSW66](#)



[Secretary General's second Report on The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration](#)



[2022 Special Report on Human Security: New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS

- **21 March - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**
- **22 March - World Water Day**
- **25 March - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**
- **4 April - International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action**

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MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

MARCH - APRIL 2022 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3



EASTER GREETINGS FROM MGA

Greetings from the Mercy Global Action Office. As we approach this Easter, it's a challenge to remain hopeful given all that is happening in our world. The Climate Crisis, the war in Ukraine and many other conflicts in our world, as well as drastic weather events, can leave us feeling powerless and deflated.

Easter is a time of course, when we as Christians are called to be people of hope. To remember that new life rises up from the Ashes. The role of Mercy Global Action is to stay focused on the new life, the possibilities, the little cracks that allow us to see the light. So, let's celebrate who we are and the difference we make, whether it be through our prayers, our daily encounters with those who are struggling or advocating for human rights.

In these challenging times, may we be a sign of transformation and hope. Always believing that we can make a difference, even in the daily choices we make. Sending Easter Blessings to all.



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THE POWER OF PRAYER - MIA LENTEN PRAYER SERIES

PRAYER PREPARED BY SR. ANGELA REED, HEAD OF MGA

On 30 March 2022, Sr. Angela Reed led the MIA Lenten Prayer. The prayer called upon the Mercy World to reflect and focus on the current situation in Ukraine and to pray for all who are impacted by war and violence.

To watch this reflection and prayer, click [here](#).



THEMATIC AREAS

WATER

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION AND SISTERS OF MERCY OF THE AMERICAS MARK WORLD WATER DAY WITH TWITTER CAMPAIGN

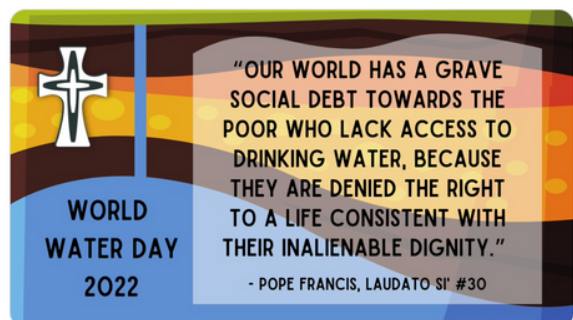
22 March marked World Water Day, a day to reflect and acknowledge the impact climate change has on our freshwater supply, specifically groundwater. Mercy Global Action invited all in our Mercy community to reflect on the sacredness of water in your life, the life of your community, and to consider taking action to learn more about this precious resource.

Through our Twitter campaign, Mercy Global Action and Sisters of Mercy of the Americas highlighted reflections on water, Laudato Si, extractivism, deforestation, contaminated water, indigenous and vulnerable persons accessibility, and water as a basic human right. To read our Twitter campaign or follow our Twitter, please click [here](#).

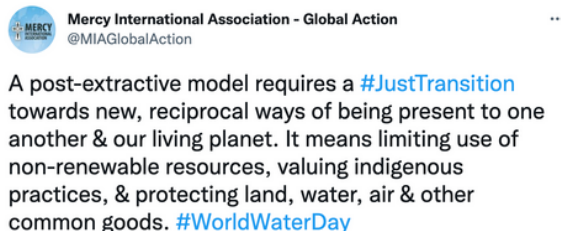


Mercy International Association - Global Action
@MIAGlobalAction

On [#WorldWaterDay](#), we centre our work on the sacredness & life-giving power of water. In [#LaudatoSi](#), [@Pontifex](#) names the disparities in access, quality, & use of water as moral, ethical issues, and describes access to safe, drinkable water as a “basic & universal human right.”



Sisters of Mercy and 2 others



Mercy International Association - Global Action
@MIAGlobalAction

A post-extractive model requires a [#JustTransition](#) towards new, reciprocal ways of being present to one another & our living planet. It means limiting use of non-renewable resources, valuing indigenous practices, & protecting land, water, air & other common goods. [#WorldWaterDay](#)



Sisters of Mercy

“USEFUL RESOURCES

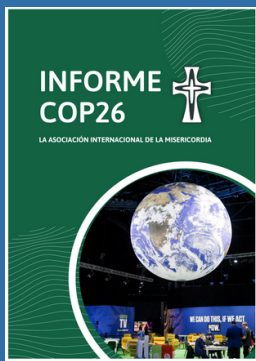
[CSW66 Agreed Conclusions](#)



[UN Oceans Conference 2022 - Zero Draft](#)



[MGA Cop26 Report - Spanish Translation](#)



MGA OCEANS TASKFORCE

MGA is pleased to announce the establishment of an Oceans Task Force. The role of the Oceans Task Force is to raise a voice about oceans, climate justice and water ahead of the UN Ocean Conference in June 2022. The Oceans Task Force will also provide direction and leadership to the Mercy World on issues related to the impact of climate change and water on the oceans and make recommendations moving forward.

We thank the members of the Task Force for their expertise and generosity: Alexis Stephens (Guyana), Cecilie Kern (MGA) Elizabeth MacNeal (MIA), Leah Schiffman (MGA), Monika Moal rsm (Tonga), Letecia De Los Santos (Philippines), Magdalena Musau (Kenya), Marietta Latonio (Phillipines), Mary Galing (Philippines), Paula Amamani (Samoa) Wendy Flannery (Australia),

[Tun Channareth addressing the UN on Mine Awareness Day.](#)



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MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

APRIL - MAY 2022 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4



LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2022

You are invited to join Mercy Global Action and Catholic communities around the world to participate in Laudato Si' Week 2022. From 22 May to 29 May, we will celebrate the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care of creation, and unite with Catholics around the world to listen and respond to the cry of God's creation.

The theme for the week is "Listening and Journeying Together," which invites us to listen, learn, and reflect on how we are working together to solve the dual challenges of the climate emergency and ecological crisis. We invite you to unite with us and with Catholics around the world as we further bring Laudato Si' to life and care for the most vulnerable.

Locally, thousands of events will bring the message of Laudato Si' to bring this global celebration to life. To see the general program and list of events, click [here](#).

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THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS

MERCY PARTICIPATES IN THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

Mercy Global Action is participating in the first international review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration next week. Adopted in 2018, the [Global Compact for Migration](#) is the first inter-governmental agreement negotiated at the United Nations which covers all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It contains commitments and actions related to issues that are important to the Mercy World, including the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, migrants' access to services and social inclusion, the treatment of migrants at borders and in detention, actions to address trafficking in persons, and climate-related migration, among many others. The Global Compact presents a significant opportunity to improve the governance of migration, to address the challenges associated with migration today, to strengthen protections for migrants, and to value the contributions of migrants to their communities.

The [International Migration Review Forum \(IMRF\)](#) is reviewing of progress, challenges and gaps in the implementation of the Global Compact over the past four years, including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as discuss recommended actions to accelerate the implementation of the Global Compact and to strengthen international cooperation on migration in the future. You can follow along with the IMRF live on [UN WebTV](#).

Mercy International Association co-sponsored a side event at the IMRF with Caritas Internationalis, ACT Alliance and the NGO Committee on Migration, titled “The Cross-Cutting Call to Protect People and Planet: Experiences and Timely Recommendations for Accelerating the Implementation of GCM Objectives 2 and 5 to Address the Impacts of Climate Change on Human Mobility.” The event highlighted grassroots experiences and best practices for addressing the adverse drivers of migration and encouraged regular migration pathways as a means to guarantee protection for forced migrants.

Don't forget to follow [Mercy Global Action on Twitter](#) to see our posts for the IMRF, including excerpts from our upcoming publication on Mercy and migration which will contain the findings of the Mercy Migration Mapping we conducted a few months ago.



THEMATIC AREAS

DEGRADATION OF EARTH

MGA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY

Every year on 22 April, the world celebrates International Mother Earth Day. We at Mercy International Association are grateful for the blessings we receive from Earth every day and we continue to reflect on the sacredness of Earth.

While International Mother Earth Day is a day of celebration, we are also called to grieve the current ecological crisis as it affects the social, cultural, and economic circumstances of our Brothers and Sisters around the world. One of our thematic areas – degradation of Earth – allows us to reflect on the inter-linkages between people and nature and understand that climate change is a cross-cutting phenomenon that affects women and girls, migration patterns, indigenous peoples, and our water resources, all of which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



22 April 2022

International Mother Earth Day

Loss of biodiversity, climate change and environmental degradation are among the costs of our disregard for Nature and the integrity of its ecosystems and life-supporting processes. Nature has been treated as a commodity that exists largely for the benefit of people, and environmental problems have been considered as solvable through the use of technology. We must create more sustainable models for production, consumption and the economy as a whole.

“USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch the International Migration Review Forum on UN Web TV
16-20 May



Laudato Si' Week 2022



JCoR Guide to the IMRF



UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- **21 May - International Tea Day**
- **21 May - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**
- **4 June- International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**
- **5 June - World Environment Day**
- **8 June - World Oceans Day**

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MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

MAY - JUNE 2022 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 5



OFFICE RELOCATION!

The Mercy Global Action Office has relocated from the sixth to the tenth floor of the Church Center at the United Nations. This new location provides greater space for staff to work and includes a small conference room which facilitates our online meetings. Accompanying this message are some pictures of the new office. Significantly, pictured, you will see the beautifully hand-crafted plaques of the thirty articles which make up the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are indebted to the Kern family (Cecilie's family) who generously created these and gifted them to the Mercy office.

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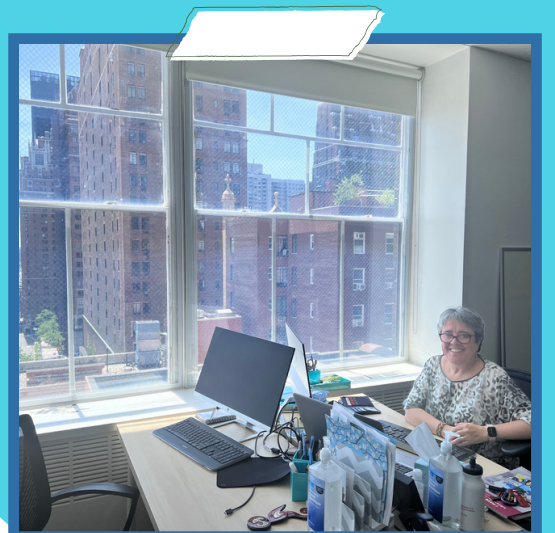
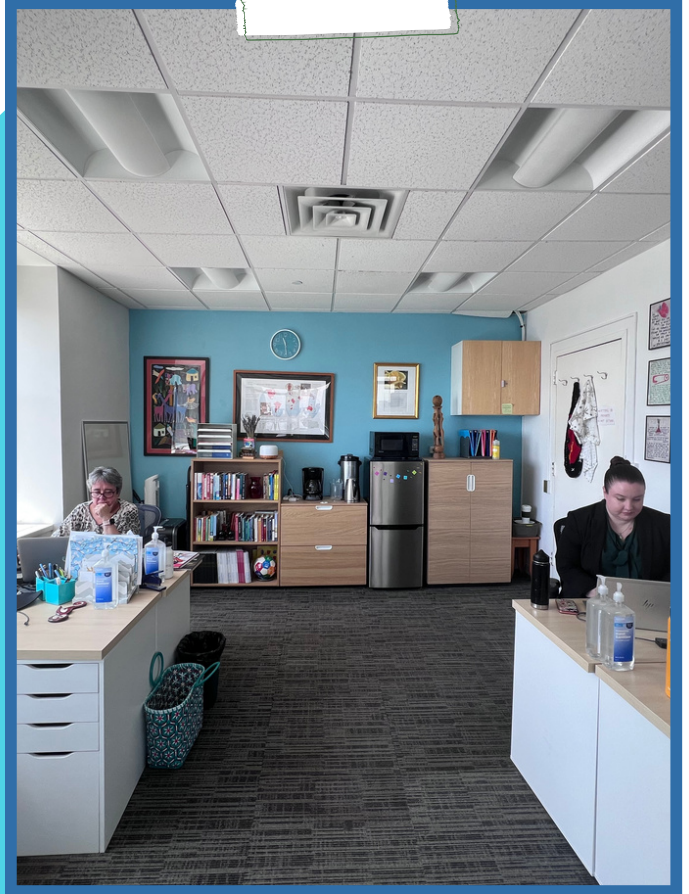
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UPDATES ON MELF

MELF FUNDING INTO THE FUTURE

Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF) has been guaranteed funding for a further three cohorts, enabling the program to continue up until 2028. Gratitude and special thanks to our very generous donor whose support will enable sixty women to participate in the Fellowship. The second cohort will gather in Cambodia this August and graduate in July 2023 at Mercy International Centre in Dublin. Expressions of Interest in participating in MELF will be posted in Mercy E-News and the Mercy Global Action Newsletter in December, 2022.





UPDATES ON MELF

MELF PROGRAM MANAGER APPOINTED

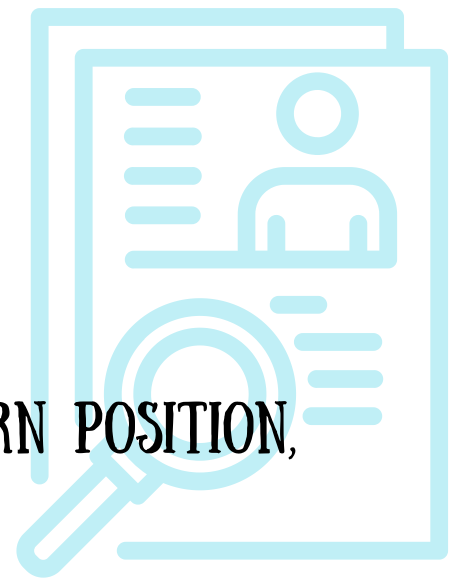
Siobhan Golden has been appointed as Program Manager of MELF. Siobhan will be transferring from her Programmes Coordinator position at Mercy International Centre, Dublin, to Program Manager of MELF at Mercy Global Action Office in New York. Many of you would know that Siobhan undertook a 9-month internship with Mercy Global Action in 2020/21 and graduated from the MELF program in February 2021. Welcome to the MGA team, Siobhan!

MELF LEADERSHIP GENERATION PROJECT

WELCOME JEMIMA & COLLEEN

Further funding from our generous donor has enabled two part-time appointments to the roles of women's leadership generation and capacity building. We welcome **Colleen Swain** and **Jemima Welsh** to the MGA team in this capacity. They will work on a twenty-four-month project focusing on collaborative projects and the long-term sustainability of MELF. Many of you will know Colleen in her capacity as MELF Program Manager. We are delighted to welcome you back Colleen. Jemima Welsh graduated from the MELF program in 2021 and has a strong background in economics and impact investment. We look forward to the unique contribution each will bring.

INTERESTED IN GAINING EXPERIENCE WITH THE MGA TEAM?



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR INTERN POSITION, BEGINNING OCTOBER 2022

An intern position at Mercy Global Action Office in New York is now open. Applications will be received until the deadline of Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

This is a volunteer position five days a week for 10 months. A stipend is provided to assist with some food, housing, and transport.

Download the role description [here](#) (PDF)

Applicants can send a letter of interest and resume to Colleen Swain at colleenswain@mercyinternational.ie



THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS

MGA STAFF MEMBER CECILIE KERN SPEAKS AT UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

Cecilie Kern, Global Policy & Research Advocate at MIA, and newly-elected Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration spoke at the United Nations International Migration Review Forum last week. Cecilie highlighted the importance of migrant voices and access to services regardless of migration status saying, “Faith based and other civil society organizations fill important gaps in providing essential services across the migration cycle. We are at the frontlines - running hospitals, schools and shelters, providing legal services, skills training, and psychosocial support for victims and survivors of gender-based violence. Most importantly, we accompany people who are on difficult and life-changing journeys to ensure that they feel safe, welcome, and included.”

Cecilie and the MGA staff engaged with UN Member States and observed intense negotiations during the IMRF. Mercy was present for the adoption of the IMRF Progress Declaration.

“

Faith-based and other civil society organizations fill important gaps in providing essential services across the migration cycle. We are at the frontlines - running hospitals, schools and shelters, providing legal services, skills training, and psychosocial support for victims and survivors of gender-based violence. Most importantly, we accompany people who are on difficult and life-changing journeys to ensure that they feel safe, welcome and included.

— CECILIE KERN
GLOBAL POLICY & RESEARCH ADVOCATE, MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



Read the **one-page statement** [here](#) and click [here](#) to watch the **video on UNWebTV** (Cecilie's statement starts at 2:18:47). To view **MGA's IMRF Twitter campaign**, click [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION REVIEW
FORUM 2022

#MIGRATION2022





THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

20 JUNE 2022

World Refugee Day is celebrated every 20 June and marks the anniversary of the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention. As Mercy Global Action continues to advocate for displaced people through our work at the UN and at the grassroots, we invite the Mercy World to celebrate with us in prayer by watching and listening to Sister Carmen Rosa Callomamani's prayer for refugees that she presented during Mercy International Association's 2022 Lent Spirituality Sessions. Sister Carmen Rosa Callomamani works with refugees and displaced persons in Peru by providing protection and support for their needs.

To watch and listen to her prayer on migration and refugees, click [here](#). To get updates on World Refugee Day, visit the official website [here](#).



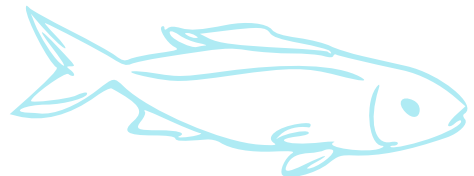
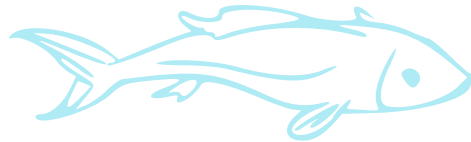
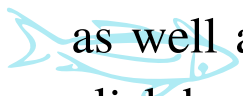
THEMATIC AREAS

DEGRADATION OF EARTH

UPCOMING UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE 27 JUNE - 1 JULY

The Mercy Global Action Oceans Task Force has been preparing for the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference, which will take place in Lisbon, Portugal later this month. To engage with MGA's advocacy, the work of the Oceans Task Force, and the UN Ocean Conference, please visit our [Twitter](#) throughout the Ocean Conference.

If you'd like to learn more about MGA's involvement with Oceans as well as a prayer resource for the UN Ocean Conference, please [click here](#).



“USEFUL RESOURCES



IMRF 2022 Review - Center for Migration Studies

When the GCM was adopted in 2018, it stipulated that a high-level meeting take place every four years to discuss progress made, new challenges, and the road ahead. This meeting took place for the first time since the adoption of the GCM from May 16-20, at United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York. The forum brought together member states, stakeholders, civil society, local governments, and migrants and concluded with the adoption of the **IMRF Progress Declaration**, which documents progress made on the implementation of the GCM and pledges future international cooperation to ensure that the human rights, dignity, and safety of migrants are upheld.

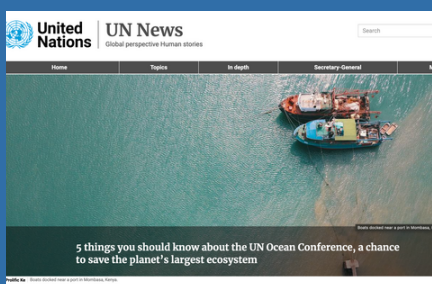
The forum began with an informal interactive **multi-stakeholder hearing** that gave all stakeholders an opportunity to share recommendations and best practices for the future. Donald Kenwin, Executive Director of the Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS), made an intervention stressing the importance of CMS's initiative to estimate the US undocumented population for past and future implementation of the GCM. The hearing included thematic sessions to assess the progress and challenges in implementing the GCM, commitments to advance it, and group reflection to summarize the key recommendations and pledges.

The rest of the forum consisted of four round table discussions that each focused on specific GCM objectives, a policy debate, and a general debate between member states followed by the adoption of the IMRF Progress Declaration. Round Table 1 discussed GCM objectives 2 (minimize adverse drivers), 3 (regular pathways), 6 (recruitment and decent work), 12 (screening and referral), and 18 (skills development and recognition). The panel co-chaired by Germany and Egypt included remarks from representatives of the South Pacific Islander Organization; UN Development Programme (UNDP); Migration Policy Institute; Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the US Department of State; Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines; International

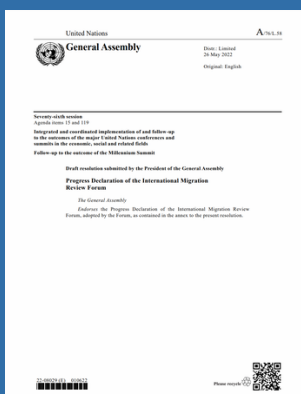
UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- **12 June - World Day Against Child Labour**
- **17 June - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**
- **19 June - International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict**
- **20 June - World Refugee Day**
- **26 June - International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

5 Things You Should Know About The UN Oceans Conference



Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum



Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative fortnightly e-newsletter (MercyNews).

Visit our website to discover more about MIA and our global activities: www.mercyworld.org

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MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

JUNE - JULY 2022 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 6



LEAH SCHIFFMAN REFLECTS ON MGA INTERNSHIP

Nine months ago, I stepped into the Mercy Global Action Office on the tenth floor of the United Nations Church Center. I knew that my internship was going to provide me with new experiences, however, I had no idea that I would be going to visit Baggot Street, attend COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, wake up for 6 AM Zoom meetings, walk in and out of the United Nations, help write Mercy publications, and gain great admiration for the Mercy World.

I still remember sitting around the MGA conference room during our Monday meeting when Sister Angela Reed told me I would visit Baggot Street in Dublin and later go to Glasgow for COP26. I was shocked but so excited to dive into my internship. Getting to see Baggot Street and the house of Catherine McAuley opened my eyes to the Mercy World. It was the first time I was able to grasp the enormity of Mercy and all the work that Catherine had done. (continued on the next page)



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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:
ANGELA REED RSM, CECILIE
KERN, AND LEAH SCHIFFMAN



LEAH SCHIFFMAN REFLECTS ON MGA INTERNSHIP (CONTINUED)



From Dublin, I went with Cecilie Kern and Siobhan Golden to COP26 in Glasgow. I was privileged to be in attendance and represent Mercy Global Action at the conference. Although we were unable to get into the decision-making rooms and processes, I was able to attend events featuring the voices and experiences of women, indigenous peoples, migrants, and people from the Global South. These events

enabled me to learn from those experiencing the brunt of climate change and to hear their stories and best practices.

Another fond memory from my internship was early Zoom meetings. Getting on a work call at 6 AM might not sound enjoyable but it was, and I started to understand, work with, and admire the work of Mercy. My favorite Zoom call to wake up to was MGA's Ocean Task Force, which was created in preparation for the United Nations Oceans Conference. It was special to hear the voices of women from Guyana to the Philippines to Tonga and hear their first-hand experiences with the Ocean. The Oceans Task Force – as well as the other MGA task forces I've been part of – represented the goal of MGA, to learn and hear from the grassroots and to use those lessons and best practices for advocacy at the local and international level. I was grateful when I was asked to do similar advocacy with the Oceans Task Force by creating the videography for MGA's Oceans Campaign. It was a privilege to be trusted with helping tell the stories of people's relationship with the Ocean. Putting those recordings and stories together provided me with such comfort, reflection, and admiration for the power of storytelling in effecting change.

While writing this, I can't help but smile at all the experiences I've had over the last nine months. It's been stressful to decide what to include and what to save for another time, but I want to emphasize one thing: I am so appreciative of the welcoming and accepting presence of those throughout the Mercy World. It has been a privilege to have been part of Mercy and to have seen the living power of Catherine McAuley's mission. I will carry the lessons and stories learned from this experience with me and will strive to emulate the values of Mercy everywhere I go.

I would like to specifically thank Angela Reed, Cecilie Kern, and Colleen Swain for their patience and guidance throughout my internship. I will miss going to the office and seeing you all.



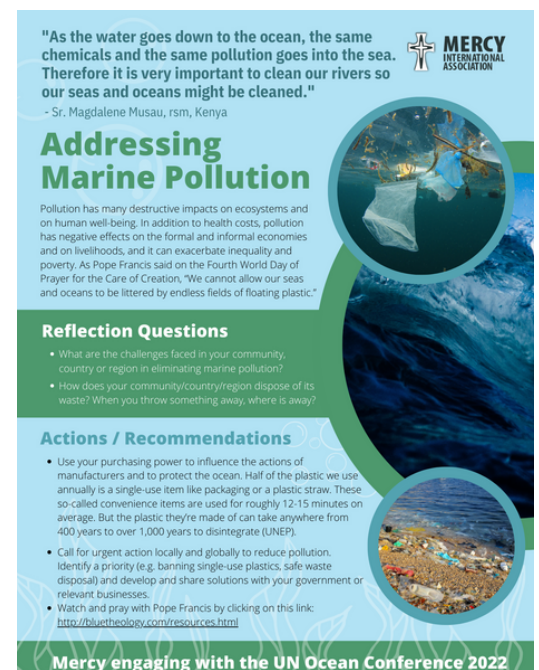
THEMATIC AREAS

DEGRADATION OF EARTH

MGA OCEANS TASK FORCE SHOWCASES MERCY EXPERIENCES DURING THE UN OCEAN CONFERENCE 2022

The Mercy Global Action Oceans Task Force launched the Mercy Oceans Campaign during the UN Ocean Conference, which took place in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June - 1 July. The campaign examined six thematic issues, including pollution, ocean-based economies, marine ecosystems, fisheries, ocean warming, and the interlinkages between oceans and sustainable development, as well as a reflection on the importance of oceans to culture and spirituality. Videos from Task Force members and materials for awareness-raising, reflection and action were shared widely through Mercy networks, social media and beyond. **The entire toolkit is available in both English and Spanish.** Even beyond the UN Ocean Conference, the campaign urges the Mercy World and other partners to reflect on and take action for the health and sustainability of the world's oceans.

Special thanks to the members of the MGA Oceans Task Force for their dedication and hard work to create this campaign: Wendy Flannery, rsm (Australia, Co-Chair), Elsa Cromarty (Guyana, Co-Chair), Magdalene Musau, rsm (Kenya), Alexis Stephens (Guyana), Monika Mo'ale, rsm (Tonga/Aotearoa New Zealand), Letecia De Los Santos, rsm (Philippines), Marietta Latonio (Philippines), Elizabeth MacNeal (USA/Ireland), Paula Anamani, rsm (Samoa/Aotearoa New Zealand), Angela Reed, rsm (MGA) Cecilie Kern (MGA), and Leah Schiffman (MGA).



"As the water goes down to the ocean, the same chemicals and the same pollution goes into the sea. Therefore it is very important to clean our rivers so our seas and oceans might be cleaned."
- Sr. Magdalene Musau, rsm, Kenya

Addressing Marine Pollution

Pollution has many destructive impacts on ecosystems and on human well-being. In addition to health costs, pollution has negative effects on the formal and informal economies and on livelihoods, and it can exacerbate inequality and poverty. As Pope Francis said on the Fourth World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, "We cannot allow our seas and oceans to be littered by endless fields of floating plastic."

Reflection Questions

- What are the challenges faced in your community, country or region in eliminating marine pollution?
- How does your community/country/region dispose of its waste? When you throw something away, where is away?

Actions / Recommendations

- Use your purchasing power to influence the actions of manufacturers and to protect the ocean. Half of the plastic we use annually is a single-use item like packaging or a plastic straw. These so-called convenience items are used for roughly 12-15 minutes on average. But the plastic they're made of can take anywhere from 400 years to over 1,000 years to disintegrate (UNEP).
- Call for urgent action locally and globally to reduce pollution. Identify a priority (e.g. banning single-use plastics, safe waste disposal) and develop and share solutions with your government or relevant businesses.
- Watch and pray with Pope Francis by clicking on this link: <http://bit.ly/theology.com/resources.html>

Mercy engaging with the UN Ocean Conference 2022



THEMATIC AREAS

DEGRADATION OF EARTH

WENDY FLANNERY, RSM SPEAKS AT UN OCEAN CONFERENCE SIDE EVENT

Wendy Flannery, rsm, from the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, who served as Co-Chair of the MGA Ocean Task Force, and is a former representative of Mercy to the United Nations, was a featured speaker during the NGO Mining Working Group's side event at the UN Ocean Conference, "The Sea Is Sacred: Religious Responses to Deep Seabed Mining."

The event brought together different faith-based voices to highlight the challenges that deep sea mining poses toward managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine ecosystems. In her presentation, Sr. Wendy spoke about the importance of the ocean for life, culture and spirituality, but also its importance for life on the planet. She also spoke to industry arguments in favor of deep sea mining, and contrasted these with warnings about the devastating impacts of extractivism and the toll that such activities will have on ecosystems that we know very little about. "We are gambling with the health of the ocean." Citing *Laudato Si'* and a number of international human rights instruments, Sr. Wendy joins her voice to many others calling for a moratorium on deep sea mining. Watch the entire event [here](#).



JOIN THE NEW MGA CLIMATE JUSTICE TASK FORCE

An exciting opportunity exists to join the new MGA task force on Climate Justice, to commence in August 2022. MGA task forces are issue-based, time-limited and have an action-oriented focus. [See Terms of Reference for the MGA Climate Justice Task Force here.](#)

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open for membership of the Climate Justice MGA Task Force and will close on Monday, August 1, 2022 at 5pm, New York time. [Sign up here!](#)



INSIDE THE UN: THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES

MERCY AT THE 2022 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

The UN annual High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) was held from 5-7 July and 11-15 July 2022 to measure progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” the 2022 HLPF reviewed in-depth SDGs 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. During this year's HLPF, 44 countries presented their voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including three countries with Mercy presence: Argentina, Jamaica, and the Philippines.





INSIDE THE UN: THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES

MERCY REPORTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

As an organization in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Mercy submitted a brief report of our activities over the past 4 years, known as the quadrennial report, which highlights Mercy contributions to the work of the UN.

Mercy's consultative relationship is a reciprocal one, as we have the privilege of participating in a wide variety of United Nations-sponsored events, meetings and activities. In return, we contribute to the development aims of the United Nations, based on our areas of experience and expertise. The quad report allows us to inform Member States about our work, and to receive an official acknowledgement of our contribution as partners in development.

The report for 2018-2021 highlighted Mercy services and advocacy in the areas of health, education, anti-trafficking, migration, homelessness, response to gender-based violence, empowerment of women and girls, and protection of land and water, among many other related issues. We showcased projects like Inherent Dignity, an advocacy guidebook and webinar series launched in 2018 on preventing trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and to realising the human rights of women and girls throughout their lives. (continued on next page)



INSIDE THE UN: THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES

MERCY REPORTS TO ECOSOC (CONTINUED)

We also highlighted the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF), which began in 2019 and was submitted as a Generation Equality Forum Commitment in 2021. MELF seeks to build upon the capacities of women and provide effective tools to be agents of change in their own communities and in the greater society, through international encounters, webinars and modules, mentorship, and research. We also featured *Hope in a Time of Pandemic*, a publication and series of recommendations and resources created in 2020, linking grassroots experiences and critical analysis on social, economic, political, and environmental areas during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report also highlighted Mercy Global Action's active participation as a member of various coalitions of non-governmental organizations UN, including the NGO Mining Working Group, the NGO Committee on Migration, the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons, and the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness. Finally, the report listed the many UN meetings Mercy has engaged with over the past four years, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Social Development, the annual COPs of the UNFCCC, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the process to elaborate the Global Compact for Migration, the High-Level Political Forum, and our engagement with several human rights mechanisms, among many others.

USEFUL RESOURCES

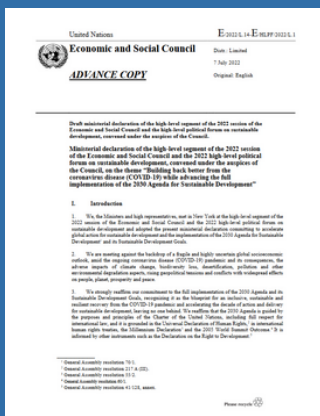
The Lisbon Declaration on Ocean Conservation



Global Gender Gap Report 2022



Ministerial Declaration of the 2022 High-Level Political Forum



UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- 30 July - World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
- 9 August - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 12 August - World Youth Day
- 19 August - World Humanitarian Day

- 19-28 August - MGA Emerging Leaders Fellowship Cohort 2 Immersion in Cambodia
- Mercy Week 2022 - 20-24 September Catherine McAuley: Boundary Breaker - [More information and registration here.](#)

Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative fortnightly e-newsletter (MercyNews). Visit our website to discover more about MIA and our global activities:

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MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

AUG-SEPT 2022 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 7



MELF Fellows at Ta Prohm temple, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Special Edition: Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship 2022-2023

MGA Commences the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship 2022-2023!

Following the success of the 2019-2021 Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF), MGA was delighted to commence the MELF programme for our second cohort of fellows on August 19th in Cambodia. The MELF programme offers women who are passionate about advancing Mercy and Justice the opportunity to embark on a transformational leadership journey which stimulates creative and critical thinking, promotes collaborative leadership and personal reflection, leading to a compassionate and communal response to current concerns of our world.

The Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship builds upon the capacities of women and provides effective tools for participants to be agents of change in their own communities and in the greater global society. The ten women who make up cohort 2 are already active leaders of justice and peace in our world; however together, they will build relationships with other Mercy leaders and form a united network, advocating for justice in their own communities and beyond. For a full overview of the MELF programme and objectives, follow this link.

Our 2022-2023 MELF team leaders are Angela Reed rsm, Tylia Barnes, Marietta Latonio, and Siobhán Golden.

IN THIS ISSUE

**MELF CAMBODIA
IMMERSION**

MEET THE FELLOWS

**USEFUL
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**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:
ANGELA REED RSM, CECILIE
KERN, SIOBHÁN GOLDEN,
JEMIMA WELSH AND COLLEEN
SWAIN



The Chapel at Mindol Metta Karuna Reflection Centre, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Meet the MELF Fellows:

From left to right

- Gaby Kinsman (Australia)*
- Magdalene Masau rsm (Kenya)*
- Rebecca Rathbone (Canada)*
- Elizabeth MacNeal (United States)*
- Dominique Marendy (Australia)*
- Sarah Brown (United States)*
- Derby Mercado rsm (The Philippines)*
- Stellah Mathe (Kenya)*
- Michelle Gorman rsm (United States)*
- Paula Anamani rsm (Samoa / New Zealand)*



MELF Fellows gathered in Preah Vihear

Read more about each of our Fellows on our [website](#)

MELF Cambodia Immersion

The MGA Emerging Leaders Fellowship 2022-2023 Cambodia Immersion took place on the 19th - 28th of August 2022 at Mindol Metta Karuna Reflection Centre in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

We began our immersion with a welcome lunch hosted by Denise Coghlan, rsm and the Metta Karuna Cambodian Team who are staff of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Cambodia. Following introductions, the Fellows were taught local history and useful Khmer phrases to use during their time in Cambodia. From the Metta Karuna Team, each Fellow received a handmade angel carved out of wood and a tote bag made by local Cambodian women. The Fellows also received a journal, Catherine McAuley quote cards, and a bookmark of Catherine’s Suscipe from Mercy International Centre, as well as the “Unheard Truth” human rights book by Irene Khan. In the afternoon, our Opening Ritual took place where we entered into a space of reflection and sharing, contextualising our theme for the week of ‘Peace and Reconciliation’.



Centrepiece of our opening ritual

Throughout the immersion, the Fellows took part in many activities including:

- *Exploring Degradation of Earth in Preah Vihear*

As part of a project called 'Harmony in the Forest', the group attended a tree-blessing and ordination ceremony led by Buddhist monks and followed with a ceremonial dressing of a central tree with a saffron colored flag to protect it from logging. The MELF Fellows assisted Fr. Jub S.J., Buddhist monks, and local leaders in planting a number of trees, after which we enjoyed local food and a tour of the new parish house in Preah Vihear. The whole project envisioned a center for earth harmony and community organization and leadership.



Elizabeth MacNeal and Buddhist Monks



Paula Anamani rsm

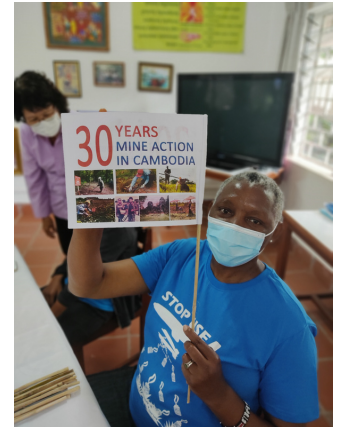
- *Advocacy for the Eradication of Landmines by 2025*

The Fellows joined an advocacy campaign with Sr Denise Coghlan and JRS staff to make Cambodia mine free and cluster bomb free by 2025!

Landmines laid during the ousting of the Khmer Rouge in 1979 and throughout the 80s and 90s have had a devastating impact on the people of Cambodia and continue to pose a great risk. MELF is committed to supporting Cambodia's 18th Sustainable Development Goal: a mine-free Cambodia by 2025.



Elizabeth MacNeal, Magdelene Masau rsm, Angela Reed rsm, Derby Mercado rsm



Magdelene Masau rsm

- *Participating in a Community Solidarity Project*

In collaboration with JRS staff, some of whom are landmine survivors and people with disabilities, Fellows assisted in assembling wheelchairs specifically designed for the Cambodian terrain. Five wheelchairs were donated by MGA to support those who cannot afford one, particularly those in remote areas. It was a great team effort, full of laughter and fun! This simple act of kindness will go a long way and make a huge difference to someone's life.

MELF Fellows and JRS Staff during the Wheelchair Building Activity



Sarah Browne and Stellah Maithe



- *Hearing from a Panel with Lived Experience of Forced Displacement and Migration*

Sr Denise and colleagues spoke to the Fellows about issues related to refugees and migration. In their presentations, they emphasized the need to approach migration and displacement from a people first approach, reminding us that numbers, cases, etc. are important; however, it is the people that truly matter. We focused our time together discussing areas of displacement from the mid 1980s and walking through how conflict, climate, and government play significant roles in the need for people to leave their homeland. This discussion laid the foundation for a round table with those on Sr. Denise's staff who have experienced forced migration. To end our night, we attended the Phare Circus, a local theater event started by four refugees in a camp in Thailand.

- *Visiting Kampong Phluk Floating Village*

Towards the end of the week, we embarked on a group trip to Kampong Phluk and the nearby flooded forest on the edge of Tonle Sap Lake to see the floating village where over 1,000 families live - mainly fishermen. Here we saw rows of stilt houses, a church, government buildings, schools – all situated 20 feet above the ground on concrete supports. Other houses and facilities there were designed to float with the changing water levels. It was evident how important the Tonle Sap lake and its aquatic resources are to the socioeconomics and livelihoods of the residents in the community.



Trip to Kampong Phluk Floating Village



To read more about the activities and learnings from our Cambodia immersion, [click here.](#)

Catherine McAuley had a deep trust and desire to develop women's skills and capabilities so that they could carry on the work of Mercy. As these ten women embark on this immense leadership journey over the next twelve months, we ask for prayers and blessings that their journey is inspired and led by the heart and charisma of Mercy.

Reflections by Fellows:

"I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the team in Cambodia and the MELF Team Leaders and their generosity, support, challenge, and love. And so thankful for my cohort - an incredible group of women - brave, open, caring and supportive. What a blessing!"

"This programme has helped me appreciate more deeply the beauty of interculturality and the privilege of being an advocate for Mercy and Justice in our world".

"By experiencing the grassroots and knowing the people of Cambodia by name, each of us is now empowered to walk in solidarity with them and lead collaboratively to seek just solutions for a future that belongs to all of us".

MELF 2022-2023 Collective Statement

We are a community rich in cultural diversity who, as women of Mercy, are passionate for advocacy for Justice.

We are enthusiastic leaders who hope to grow our spirituality and care for people and planet. We hope to grow in solidarity with people on the margins, and to develop as leaders who inspire positive impact in the world.

Mercy Global Action MELF

Leadership Generating Project

The Mercy Global Action office developed the MELF program due to the under-representation of women in leadership positions worldwide. The lack of women's voices and perspectives in decision making processes, along with the perpetuation of patriarchal systems, inhibits the full realization of women's potential.

MELF inherently promotes the dignity of women and the charism of the Sisters of Mercy into the future and supports the ongoing need for global justice policies and collective action that facilitates sustainable change. With the investment in Mercy women's leadership, the MELF program supports emerging leaders of integrity and spirituality to lead confidently with Mercy and compassion on issues of global injustice.

Introducing the Leadership Generating Project (LGP) -

The purpose of the MELF Leadership Generating Project is to build and secure the long-term sustainability of MELF and to promote the value of women's leadership, education and empowerment throughout Mercy world and beyond.

Over the next two years, project leaders Colleen Swain and Jemima Welsh will work to set up systems that enable Mercy Global Action to continue to run MELF into the future. This will allow MGA to support many more women from across the world to take up positions of Mercy leadership that advance peace and justice.

Follow along in the coming months as we begin our LGP Podcast series highlighting the voices and stories of incredible Mercy women leaders!

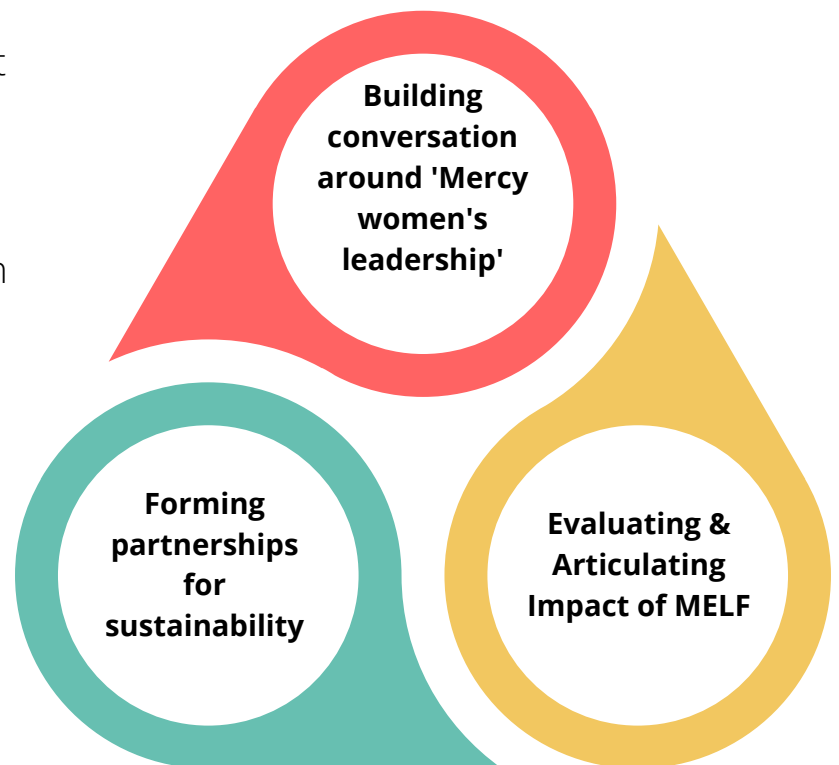
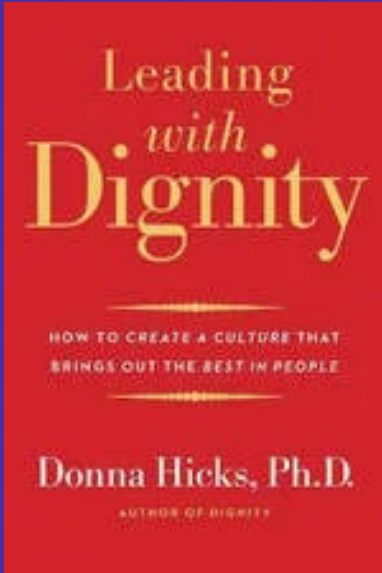


Image:
Leadership Generating Project
Immediate Priorities

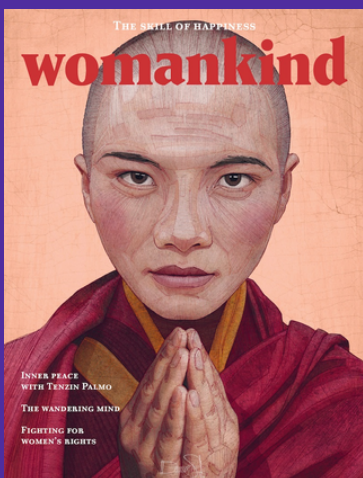
Leading with Dignity.



Every Woman's Guide to Saving the Planet



Womankind Magazine: Yak Edition



UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- Mercy Week 2022 - 20-24 September Catherine McAuley: Boundary Breaker - [More information and registration here.](#)

The Mercy Global Action Office will be seeking expression of interest for MELF Group 3 in December 2022



At the heart of the Fellowship is the aim to provide opportunities for women to develop and contribute to Mercy Leadership and in turn, extend their sphere of influence. This builds on and ensures that Mercy Global Leadership endures within our Mercy Institutions and beyond.



Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative fortnightly e-newsletter (MercyNews). Visit our website to discover more about MIA and our global activities: www.mercyworld.org
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www.mercyworld.org/subscribe

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

SEPT - OCT 2022 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 8



GREETINGS FROM THE MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE!

• *MGA welcomes Catherine Edwards to the team!*

Hello everyone! I am Catherine Edwards, the new Mercy Global Action Intern from Adelaide, Australia. I am so excited to be the new intern and continue my work with Mercy. At the start of the year, I loved being a part of the Mercy Global Action Migration Task Force, and I am excited to see more of the Mercy work happening globally. Also, in July, I have a Bachelor of Laws and International Relations with a minor in International Development, in addition to a Diploma in Languages in French.

I am a proud member of Young Mercy Links South Australia, a volunteer community service and advocacy network for secondary school leavers that aims to develop people's understanding of leadership from a Mercy perspective.

I have also just finished working as a research assistant at Flinders University, with the support of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH), to develop a course module for university students, identifying instances of modern slavery, with a particular focus on forced marriage.

Previously, I have also worked on a sustainable development project in Blantyre, Malawi. For this project, I engaged with key government stakeholders to work towards improving the health care system through technological solutions.

I would like to thank the support that I have received from the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea for being able to take up this position. Particularly Sr Meredith Evans RSM, who, without her continual support, I would not be the person I am today. I am excited to learn and grow throughout this internship, and I already feel very welcomed by the MGA team.

Catherine Edwards, MGA Intern, UN Head Quarters New York



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NEW PUBLICATION:

'**BREAKING
BOUNDARIES**'
SEE PAGE 2!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:
ANGELA REED RSM, CECILIE
KERN, COLLEEN SWAIN,
JEMIMA WELSH, CATHERINE
EDWARDS, SIOBHÁN GOLDEN



THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS

- *MGA celebrates Mercy Week 2022*

Greetings and happy Mercy Week to our sisters, associates and friends of Mercy around the world!

This year's theme, *Catherine McAuley: Boundary Breaker*, highlighted our global Mercy community's commitment to breaking boundaries in order to create a more just and merciful world for all. This year we celebrated Mercy Week by hosting three virtual gatherings which provided a space for important conversations centred around how Catherine broke boundaries, how we in Mercy continue to break boundaries today, and how we are called to break boundaries in the future. With over 160 participants registered, we hope the experience connected you with the Mercy world and inspired you to engage in new ways of expressing Mercy and justice as you continue on your journey in Mercy.

This Mercy Week, MGA is united with the Mercy World:

- In gratitude for our many blessings
- In solidarity with those marginalised
- In connection with Earth and all of Creation
- In strength and resilience in times of struggle
- In faithful pursuit of justice
- In hope for the future

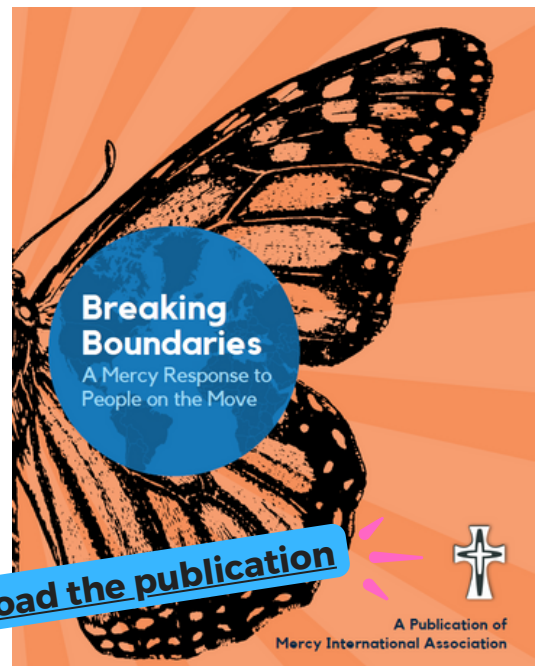
- *MGA launches new publication*

BREAKING BOUNDARIES: A MERCY RESPONSE TO PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

On the occasion of Mercy Day on 24 September and the World Day for Migrants and Refugees on 25 September, the Mercy Global Action Migration Task Force is pleased to launch a new publication, *Breaking Boundaries: A Mercy Response to People on the Move*.

Continued on next page.

[Click here to download the publication](#)



DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS (CONTINUED)

The MGA Migration Task Force is made up of Mercy Global Action staff, Sisters, and Partners in Ministry from Mercy Congregations and Institutes around the world. This document is the culmination of a year-long process that has offered the Mercy World an opportunity to reflect on, learn from, and celebrate Mercy's engagement with people on the move. Despite the many challenges people face on the migration journey, Mercy Sisters, Associates, and Partners embrace a culture of encounter that not only provides support and accompaniment but also enriches the lives of our communities.

“Breaking Boundaries” highlights Mercy's experiences and good practices from around the world. Mercy encounters with people on the move are deeply rooted in a charism and spiritual tradition characterized by hospitality and care for those most marginalized and guided by a human rights framework that focuses on people's dignity and wellbeing. Mercy individuals, ministries, and communities welcome the stranger, accompany people during difficult journeys, protect and uphold the rights of migrants and refugees, provide essential services, and create a sense of belonging and inclusion.



Mercy Welcome and Hospitality

“Our role as members of the circle of friends is to befriend individuals and families because we know how important being welcomed into a supportive community is for people who have experienced war, conflict, trauma...it's sometimes one of the pathways for wholeness and healing of their past experiences.”

Meredith Evans rsm

The document also includes advocacy recommendations for governments and civil society partners. Mercy Sisters, Associates, and Partners continue to work on changing migration and refugee governance systems so that they are more people-centered and human rights-based. From the local to the global level, people around the Mercy World raise their voices to make policies more inclusive, to ensure that migrants are welcomed and that they can access what they need to move and live with dignity. As people of Mercy, along with our faith-based and other civil society partners, we play an important role in influencing policymakers at all levels to protect the rights of people on the move and to address the systemic issues that affect migration and displacement around the world.

The MGA Migration Task Force hopes that “Breaking Boundaries” will encourage you to learn from and celebrate the many incredible people and ministries around the Mercy World who work with people on the move. The Task Force also hopes that this document informs and inspires action in the Mercy World and beyond - to continue to work to break boundaries in our interpersonal relationships, in our communities, in our countries, and in our world.

Supporting Migrants at Borders and in Detention

“Every Friday, we went to the deportation center to pray and work with the families of those being deported and also to talk to and listen to those being deported...we work out of the principle that every person is a child of God deserving to be treated with dignity and respect. Ours is a ministry of presence and accompaniment.”

Pat Murphy rsm & JoAnn Persch rsm





MELF Fellows in Preah Vihear, Cambodia August 2022

THEMATIC AREAS

DEGRADATION OF EARTH



Listen to the
Voice of creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

- *MGA reflects on the MELF Programme during the Season of Creation*

As the Season of Creation comes to an end, MGA reflects on how we have celebrated the beauty and generosity of nature and integrated creation related themes into the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship. Central to the MELF programme are the objectives to develop critical thinking about environmental destruction – both human and natural - through the lens of Mercy, and to take an integral ecological approach to understanding the intersections of social, economic, and environmental decline. Throughout the Fellowship, participants are educated on eco-spirituality and mindful and simple living while also being equipped with the skills, tools, and knowledge to lead advocacy movements for climate justice in their local, national, and international spheres.

In August 2022, our second cohort of MELF Fellows embarked on an international immersion trip to Cambodia to commence their leadership journeys and further their passion for Mercy and Justice. On a day trip to Preah Vihear, a northern province, the fellows joined Fr. Jub, SJ, and local parishioners at a tree restoration project called 'Harmony in the Forest'. The group were witness to a tree-blessing and ordination ceremony with local Buddhist monks who chanted sacred blessings and dressed a central tree in a saffron robe to protect it from logging. Following this, the MELF Fellows assisted Fr. Jub, the Buddhist monks, and local leaders to plant trees in the area and contribute to the vision of creating harmony in the forest. At the end of the trip, Fr. Jub planted soil from Assisi beneath the tree and bid the group farewell with a blessing of gratitude for the encounter.

As this Season of Creation concludes, we invite you to continue to support and learn about sustainable solutions to the climate emergency that place the well-being of people and planet at the centre including: traditional knowledge, carbon reducing programs, energy efficient initiatives, renewable energy, zero waste efforts and more. MGA has made strides towards running a carbon neutral MELF programme. In 2021, the inaugural group made a significant contribution to the Glor Na Mara Bundoran Community Garden in County Donegal, Ireland.

To continue reading, [click here](#).

*"For we know that things can change!"
(Laudato Si', 13)*



Tree planting with MELF Fellow Michelle Gorman RSM, Fr Jub SJ, and a Buddhist Monk

Season of Creation 2022 Resources:

- [Tree Planting Resource](#)
- [Practical Actions](#)
- [Celebration Guide](#)
- [Prayer and Reflection with Brother Fire. Crafted by Sr. Beatrice Hernandez, OSF](#)
- [Photosynthetic Visions: 7 day Reflective Process \(Anastasia Freeman MELF Group 1\)](#)



MELF LEADERSHIP GENERATING PROJECT

- *MGA attends the Generation Equality Accountability Moment*

During the 77th Session of the General Assembly, UN Women hosted the Generation Equality Accountability Moment. This event was organized to highlight one year of accountability and the journey of Generation Equality. The Generation Equality Forum – a year-long global consultative process led by UN Women – signalled renewed commitment across states, civil society, and the private sector to advance global gender equity and ensure it is backed by political and financial commitments. Generation Equality strives for commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals to transform the lives of women and girls in generations to come.

Sima Bahous, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, stated in her opening remarks that "we must succeed. Our ambitions are urgent...UN Women data show that—at the current rate of progress—it may take close to 300 years to achieve full gender equality. And I don't think that any one of us here today, listening in, or in the world around us, would want to wait another 300 years."

How will governments respond to this urgent need? With the newly established UNGA Platform of Women Leaders! It is the goal of the UNGA Platform of Women Leaders to bring visibility to women in prominent political leadership positions and through this, bring about transformational solutions targeting communities most in need.

Through the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF), Mercy Global Action has made a commitment to the Generational Equality Forum. Seeking to promote women's leadership through a transformational immersive experience that gives women the space to have their voices heard and make meaningful contributions to global justice. The MELF Program empowers women to become transformative feminist leaders who share power with others, enabling creativity and mobilization around collective goals. At a micro-level, participants experience a sense of empowerment, capacity to create change and a flair for critical thinking. They are encouraged to realise their own strengths as leaders for peace and justice in their own communities and the global arena. At a mezzo level, participants realise their interconnection with each other and the planet and experience solidarity with a range of visionary organisations working for women's rights and positive change. At a macro level, participants reach a global awareness of social and environmental issues. Ultimately, a MELF participant has the capacity to actively respond to social justice issues in her own context for a more peaceful and merciful world.

Read the latest!

PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2022



“

USEFUL RESOURCES

Challenge your understanding of the SDGs with:

[The Gapminder Global Goals Test](#)



[World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2022: Building the future together](#)
[JRS Photo Essay](#)



[SDG Action Zone](#)
[Climate](#)



[World Homeless Day 2022 Webinar: Definition & Measurement](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- 15 Oct - International Day of Rural Women
- 17 Oct - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 24 Oct - United Nations Day
- 31 Oct - World Cities Day
- 6 - 18 Nov - United Nations Climate Change Conference 2022 (COP27)
- 11 Nov - Catherine McAuley Remembrance Day

Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative fortnightly e-newsletter (MercyNews). Visit our website to discover more about MIA and our global activities:

www.mercyworld.org

Subscribe to our e-newsletter to learn about our vision in action and the ministries carried out by our member congregations: www.mercyworld.org/subscribe

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

OCT - NOV 2022 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 9



GREETINGS FROM THE MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE!

MGA Welcomes Berneice Loch rsm!

In late October, the Mercy Global Action Team welcomed Sr Berneice Loch, CEO of Mercy International Association to the MGA office, located at the Church Centre New York. Berneice had hoped to visit the MGA office much earlier in her tenure as CEO, however, due to the COVID pandemic this was the first opportunity she had. Berneice spent time meeting and working with the MGA team and attended the Special UN Event marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Thank you for visiting Berneice!



Berneice Loch RSM at UN HQ, New York. Photo Courtesy: MGA

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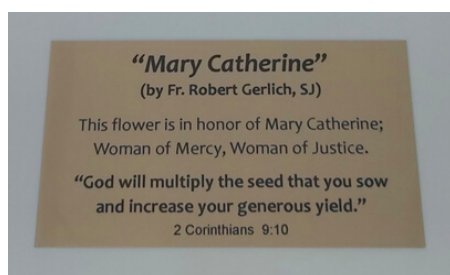
**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

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JEMIMA WELSH, CATHERINE
EDWARDS, SIOBHÁN GOLDEN

- *Mercy International Association expresses their gratitude to Mary Catherine Bunting!*



While in the US, Sisters Berneice Loch and Angela Reed visited the home of Mary Catherine Bunting, who has generously provided funding to enable the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF) to operate. In recognition of her generous contribution, Mary Catherine was presented with a framed picture of a tropical Hibiscus that has been named in her honor. This flower was propagated by Fr. Robert Gerlich, SJ and will become available to purchase from fancyhibiscus.com in the near future. Thank you to Winn Soldani from Fancy Hibiscus for enabling MIA to name this flower in honor of Mary Catherine.



Framed "Mary Catherine" Hibiscus

THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS

- *MGA Priority Focus on Migration!*

Breaking Boundaries: A Mercy Response to People on the Move

Issue Spotlight #1 - Supporting Migrants at Borders and in Detention

The Mercy Global Action Migration Task Force's report 'Breaking Boundaries: A Mercy Response to People on the Move' was born from a collection of stories and experiences of Mercy work with migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers around the world, tied together by human rights-based critical analysis and Catholic social teaching.

Assistance to Migrants in Transit and at Borders

For many people on the move, particularly those who are in irregular situations, the process of immigrating is often undignified and perilous. At land, sea and air borders around the world, migrants can experience discrimination, violence, loss of freedom, or even death. Mercy Sisters, Associates and Partners encounter migrants throughout every aspect of their journey and many support migrants who have recently crossed borders. For some, that means providing companionship and immediate assistance, including medical care, adequate food and water, blankets, clothing, sanitary items and an opportunity to rest.

This type of assistance is not always welcomed by governments. There is a worrying and growing trend of "criminalization of solidarity" in recent years, as individuals and organizations who have helped refugees and migrants by providing humanitarian support have been threatened and prosecuted in courts simply for helping migrants in need. As the increased militarization and externalization of borders has made migration more dangerous for people on the move, individuals and organizations who provide life-saving support to migrants are needed more than ever.

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS

(CONTINUED)

Assistance to Migrants in Detention

In some countries, migrants can end up in prolonged or arbitrary detention to prevent and control migration. Detention causes physical and mental health impacts that are often felt long-term, it tears families apart, and instills fear in communities. Through their advocacy and friendship with migrants, people around the Mercy World have been able to provide migrants comfort, companionship, and access to housing, employment, and legal assistance.

The Mercy world continues to advocate for non-custodial, community-based alternatives to detention, which better respect the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. These alternatives are more cost-effective than custodial detention. An end to immigration detention is not only possible, it is beneficial to states, and necessary to ensure the dignity and rights of people on the move.

What are we being called to?

Examine the relationship between racism and migration policies in your country

Raise your voice to make sure policies and practices are human-rights based and non-discriminatory. Call on governments to:

- Decriminalize irregular migration
- Demilitarize border enforcement against migrants & asylum seekers
- Stop and reverse border externalization
- Decriminalize humanitarian assistance to migrants & asylum seekers
- Prioritize alternatives to detention, end child immigration detention, and use detention of adults only as a measure of last resort

Spread the word across your own social media platforms by sharing Breaking Boundaries: A Mercy Response to People on the Move and Mercy Global Action's infographic on Supporting Migrants at Borders and in Detention on social media. Please engage with us on Twitter @MIAGlobalAction and @MercyWorldwide.

[Read the full article online here](#)

MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Breaking Boundaries: A Mercy Response to People on the Move

Supporting Migrants at Borders and in Detention

Assistance in Transit and at Borders

Many migrants lose their lives when they board unseaworthy boats, moving trains or sweltering trucks, when smugglers leave them to die at sea or in the desert, or when border guards are given orders to deter irregular migration. At land, sea and air borders around the world, migrants can experience discrimination, violence, and prolonged or arbitrary detention. People around the Mercy World encounter migrants throughout every aspect of their journey and many support migrants who have recently crossed borders. For some, that means providing companionship and immediate assistance, including medical care, adequate food and water, blankets, clothing, sanitary items and an opportunity to rest.

Criminalization of Solidarity

There is a worrying and growing trend of 'criminalization of solidarity' in recent years, as individuals and organizations who have helped refugees and migrants by providing food and water, temporary shelter, or rescue at sea, have been threatened, smeared, intimidated, harassed, and prosecuted in courts simply for helping migrants in need. These tactics have been used by some governments to dissuade others from showing solidarity with people on the move and in order to deter refugees and migrants from attempting to enter their territories.

Assistance to Migrants in Detention

For migrants and asylum seekers, the experience of immigration detention has many damaging and enduring effects, including physical and mental health impacts, separation from family members, and instilling fear in communities. Detention and strict immigration laws are presented as means of safeguarding countries from threat, but they harm migrants and countries as a whole by furthering and legitimizing systematic intolerance, xenophobia, and racism. Through their advocacy and friendship with migrants, people around the Mercy World have been able to create a 'ministry of presence' that provides migrants comfort, companionship, and access to housing, employment, and legal assistance in times of uncertainty.

Alternatives to Detention

Non-custodial, community-based alternatives to detention (ATD) better respect the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, not only by preventing unlawful or arbitrary detention practices, but also by protecting civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights. ATD programs prove that detention is not necessary during the immigration process, and cases can be resolved while people are free in communities. An end to immigration detention is not only possible, it is beneficial to states, and necessary to ensure the dignity and rights of people on the move.

Take Action!

- Examine the relationship between racism and migration policies
- Raise your voice to make sure policies and practices are human-rights based and non-discriminatory. Call on governments to:
 - Decriminalize irregular migration
 - Demilitarize border enforcement against migrants & asylum seekers
 - Stop and reverse border externalization
 - Decriminalize humanitarian assistance to migrants & asylum seekers
 - Prioritize alternatives to detention, end child immigration detention, and use detention of adults only as a measure of last resort



THEMATIC AREAS

DEGRADATION OF EARTH



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

• *Water Stakeholder Consultation*

Ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference, MGA attended the stakeholder consultation on the preparation of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018–2028. The consultation allowed civil society, economic sector actors and scientific community members to share insights around the best ways to organize and mobilize the acceleration – and scaling – towards achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets.

The two days of discussions centered around water and sustainability, feeding into the Water Action Agenda, inviting stakeholders and Member States to provide comments, suggestions and inputs on the five proposed themes for the interactive dialogues of next year's conference. Stakeholders' priorities included amplifying global research on water related issues, strengthening resilience to climate events, ensuring the human right to water and sanitation is at the center of responses, and creating partnerships to transform siloed operations towards more inclusive and collective actions.

The 2023 Water Conference will be the first of its kind since 1977 and must mark a turning point mobilizing transformative commitments that build resilience and scale up preparedness to water crises. To learn more about the 2023 Water Conference, click [here](#).

THEMES

1. Health
2. Development
3. Climate, Resilience, & Environment
4. Cooperation
5. Water Action Decade

• *In preparation for the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference*

MGA will be sending a delegation to the [2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference](#)! More commonly referred to as COP27, the conference will be held from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. In preparation for the conference, we have coordinated a Climate Justice Task Force made up of MGA staff, Mercy Sisters, Associates, and staff from Mercy ministries around the world. The Task Force has compiled experiences and resources related to climate impacts and we have focused our advocacy on Loss and Damage. In order to ensure a future that enables all to thrive, we call on the official negotiators at this COP to recognize Loss and Damage as a third pillar of the Paris Agreement framework and to provide a clear and substantive financial mechanism for adequately responding to climate change induced losses and damages: those already sustained and those impending. We are advocating for a more just world amidst ongoing pandemic recovery efforts, a global energy crisis, the threat of financial recession, and a series of extreme climate-related events, all of which challenge the future viability of entire communities. We aim to call on multilateral development banks and other global financial institutions to provide more support for Loss and Damage, to redress the injustice of the climate emergency, fostering global harmony instead of disunity and exploitation.

- Read our COP27 Position Statement available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Stay tuned to our Twitter to keep up to date with MGA at COP27 @MIAGlobalAction
- To download our Prayer and Reflection Resource on Page 5, [click here](#).



MAKE MERCY COUNT AT COP27

It's time to imagine a just and inclusive world where people and Earth can flourish



CONTEXT

- COP27 meets at a time of pandemic recovery efforts, geopolitical rivalry, a global energy crisis, a threat of financial recession, and a series of extreme climate-related events
- We need to challenge the 'growth at any cost' model and the lifestyle of overconsumption often based on an extractive relationship with countries of the Global South
- Those who have benefitted the least from industrialization and neo-liberal economic policies, are impacted first and worst by climate change
- Highly vulnerable communities are particularly prone to experiencing Loss and Damage due to a lack of finance to implement adaptation measures or because there are no measures that are feasible to implement
- When mitigation and adaptation fall short, climate-related Loss and Damage prevents communities' from enjoying their human rights. As climate change worsens, this will be exacerbated
- Many countries of the Global South, and especially Indigenous Peoples, face the ongoing structures of colonialism, free-market capitalism, extractivism, and industrialization. For many, this creates barriers to the realization of their cultural, social, and political self-determination

PRAYER & REFLECTION

- As our MGA delegation travels to COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, we ask for prayers and blessings that their journey is inspired and led by the heart and charisma of Mercy
- Pray for a future in which earth and all peoples flourish
- Pray for those who have lost their family, friends, and communities through devastating climate events
- Listen and reflect on the voices of the Mercy World calling for action for the health and sustainability of the world's oceans
- Pray for those in Small Island Developing States who are often on the frontlines of devastating climate events
- Read and reflect on the Water, Women, and Wisdom Guide
- Reflect on Laudato Si' monthly prayer resources
- Pray that we can work together for the good of Earth, our common home; and the good of all creation
- Pray for those in our Mercy World who are experiencing climate-related impacts in Argentina, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Guam, Guyana, Honduras, Ireland, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Panama, Philippines, Samoa, South Africa, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States

WHERE DO WE STAND?

- Our call for the inclusion of Loss and Damage in COP27 commitments comes from the vision that inspires the Mercy World, based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching
- We believe in restorative justice whereby the polluter pays for sustained and impending Loss and Damage
- We reject economic models and neo-colonial practices and ideologies that exploit land and communities
- We stand in solidarity with those most impacted by climate-related Loss and Damage and recognize the Global North's moral responsibility for ecological debt
- We believe that special and urgent attention needs to be given to the economic and non-economic consequences of climate change, some of which are irrecoverable. These include loss of lives, heritage, cultural and spiritual identity, and social cohesion
- We stand for social, economic, and environmental conditions that support equal access to the goods of the Earth, with a special focus on empowering those who face poverty and other situations of disadvantage
- We stand in solidarity with those disproportionately impacted by climate-related events, especially women, girls, and Indigenous Peoples

ADVOCACY AND ACTION



Advocate for:

- The recognition of Loss and Damage as a third pillar of the Paris Agreement framework
- An interest-free moratorium and forgiveness of debt for countries in the Global South who are experiencing more frequent and devastating climate disasters and which need resources for these emergencies
- Governments to engage, collaborate, and be generous at the COP27 negotiations
- Governments to uphold their commitments to the Paris Agreement
- Financial institutions to facilitate and accelerate support for Loss and Damage
- Countries of the Global North to step up and make bold contributions toward climate justice
- Governments to put human rights at the centre of climate action!

Read our COP27 Position Statement available in [English & Spanish](#)
 Stay tuned to our Twitter to keep up to date with MGA at COP27
[@MIAGlobalAction](#)

To learn more about COP27, [click here](#).



At the United Nations **THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES...**

- *Day for the Eradication of Poverty*

October 17 marked the 30th anniversary of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This Day highlights the need for global unity, the shared responsibility required to end poverty, and the discrimination people face in poverty. Additionally, the Day aims to honor and support the millions of people living in poverty.

The overarching theme of The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty for 2022–2023 is Dignity for All in Practice. In addition to being a fundamental right, dignity for all in practice serves as the basis for all other fundamental rights.

In recognition of this international day, MGA attended an event organized by UN DESA to affirm the commitments we make together for social justice, peace, and the planet. General Assembly President Csaba Kőrösi, highlighted that for 25 years, the number of people living in poverty was steadily declining. However, the number of people living in poverty is now increasing due to climate change, COVID-19, and conflict.

Our findings in “Hope In A Time of Pandemic” reveal the effects that COVID-19 has had on poverty, exacerbating inequalities and exposing social protection system gaps and failures.

The current climate emergency also amounts to new forms of hardship for those in poverty. These new forms of violence include increased natural disasters and environmental degradation resulting in livelihoods being destroyed, including crops and homes, for people living in poverty.

Today, the millions of people living in extreme poverty is a moral outrage in a world with unprecedented economic progress, financial resources, and technical advancement. In order to achieve SDG 1, “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”, Mercy Global Action calls for the recognition of human rights that prioritise the elimination of poverty and enhance people's livelihoods.



UN DESA Event on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
Photo courtesy: MGA





MELF LEADERSHIP GENERATING PROJECT

- *Capturing the impact of the MGA Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF)*

Over the last few months, Colleen and Jemima have been working on putting together an Impact Report for the MELF Program. This report brings to light the experience of participating in the Fellowship, and anticipates the flow-on effects when Fellows return to their communities and workplaces equipped with greater understanding of their own leadership styles as well as new networks and practical tools to address priority global justice concerns in the spirit of Mercy.

One of the reasons this report is so special is that it includes reflections provided by numerous members of Mercy World on the theme of Mercy women's leadership. Back in July and August 2022, we facilitated a series of impact workshops to invite reflections from a diverse cross-section of religious and lay Mercy communities, including graduates of the Program, on why MELF is so important, what it means to the future of Mercy, and what is different about this kind of leadership training. We were blown away by the generosity of people's responses, and wanted to do them justice. Consequently, this Impact Report will include numerous quotes and reflections from our global community, as well as a Theory of Change and framework of how MGA intends to measure the impact of MELF against the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We hope this document will prepare us well for growing the impact of MELF into the future.

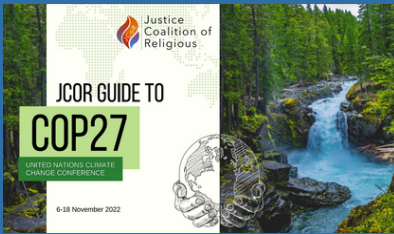
The report is currently in the process of graphic design, but we hope it will be released before the end of the year. Be sure to look out for next month's newsletter for an update and potentially, a link to the finished document!

- *Podcast & Position Paper Planning*

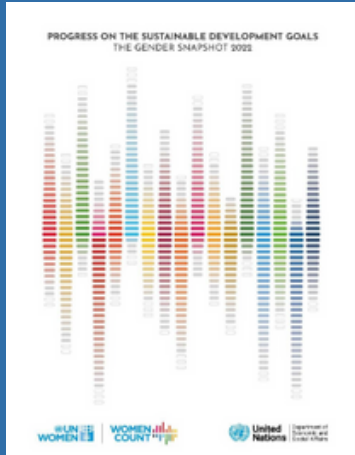
We are turning our attention to the development of some exciting new Mercy leadership resources. Colleen and Jemima are in the early stages of putting together a position paper on Mercy women's leadership, and we encourage you to reach out with stories/examples of contemporary women who you think embody Mercy leadership and why. Please email us at: jemimawelsh@mercyinternational.ie and/or colleenswain@mercyinternational.ie.

Similarly, we are on the lookout for potential guest speakers on our forthcoming podcast. More details will be revealed soon, but if you know of Mercy women who are great storytellers and leaders, please let us know. Stay tuned!

“USEFUL RESOURCES



[JCOR Guide to COP27](#)



[Progress Towards the SDGs
The Gender Snapshot 2022](#)



[UN 2023 Water Conference
Stakeholder Summary Report](#)



[UN Special Rapporteur Report:
Banning discrimination on grounds of
socioeconomic disadvantage / poverty](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- **6-18 Nov COP27**
- **11 Nov Remembrance Day: Catherine McAuley**
- **25 Nov International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**
- **25 Nov-10 Dec 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**
- **27 Nov First Sunday of Advent**
- **8 Dec Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative fortnightly e-newsletter (MercyNews). Visit our website to discover more about MIA and our global activities:

www.mercyworld.org

Subscribe to our e-newsletter to learn about our vision in action and the ministries carried out by our member congregations: www.mercyworld.org/subscribe

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

NOV - DEC 2022 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 10



GREETINGS FROM THE MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE!



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EDWARDS, SIOBHÁN GOLDEN

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

- *Are you passionate about advancing
Mercy and Justice?*

The Mercy Global Action Office is seeking expressions of interest for the MGA Emerging Leaders Fellowship 2023-2024!

This international leadership program is fully funded, and unique in the ways in which it provides an opportunity for ten women to establish strong links and networking across the Mercy World through international encounters, webinars and modules, mentorship and more. The fellowship program has been designed to stimulate creative and critical thinking, promote collaborative leadership and personal reflection leading to a compassionate and communal response to current concerns of our world.

Download further information about the programme [here](#).

▶ Deadline: 31 December
2022



12 Month Leadership
& Justice Program



Send expressions of interest to mariettalatonio@mercyinternational.ie
to receive the application and more details!



The Border Wall, El Paso, Texas.

THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS

MGA Participates in Border Immersion Experience at the US/Mexico Border

Siobhán and Catherine from Mercy Global Action recently participated in the Border Immersion Experience hosted by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Institute Justice Team in El Paso, Texas, United States, and Juárez, CI, Mexico.

El Paso is a border town next to Juárez, Mexico and is regularly highlighted in the media as the center for the 'invasion of migrants at the border.' However, the reality that we experienced was far from it.

El Paso is one of the safest cities in the United States, with a low crime rate. However, El Paso is still a heartbreaking stopover for thousands of asylum seekers each year and a required crossing for farmworkers and migrants who cross the border regularly to be used for their low wages.

El Paso has historically always been a place for people on the move. According to Dylan Corbett, whom we spoke to from the Hope Border Institute, El Paso and Juárez have been part of a trading route for centuries. People used to cross over El Paso and Juárez and go from Colorado, Arizona, and Utah down to Mexico City.

People trying to cross the border today are often treated as criminals, with the media referring to asylum seekers as dangerous people invading the border. Instead, the reality is that they are people seeking a better life in the face of great adversity.

According to Maria Torres, whom we spoke to from the Jesuit Refugee Service, people trying to cross the border regularly experience horrendous conditions on their journey. Men, women, and children are often kidnapped, raped, trafficked, and assaulted.

Understanding why people flee their countries before arriving at the border is important. Maria spoke of the many structural inequalities and dangerous conditions that have forced people to flee for safety. Maria has worked with people from many countries, including Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Haití, México, and Nicaragua. Although nationalities may change over different years, people will continue to seek safety.

Maria spoke of how the gangs have been able to thrive in Central America due to decades of civil unrest. People are constantly extorted by gangs to make payments, and when people cannot make payments, they have had their shops burned down and themselves and their families threatened. An example Maria spoke of is a man who stopped to watch a community soccer game. During that game, the man witnessed a murder, resulting in being forced to flee due to gang threats.



Care packages from the American Red Cross at St. Charles Seminary Martyrs Hall



'A little bit of Mercy makes the world less cold and more just'

Artwork by an asylum seeker child at St. Charles Seminary Martyrs Hall



Prayer table to remember Marlee Jaurez, Age 1, Darlyn Cristabel Cordova Valle, Age 10, and Carlos Hernandez Vasquez, Age 16.

Just some of the children who died after being separated from their families in detention in May 2019. Taken at the Columban Mission Center.



Most people Maria has spoken to during her work at the border have not wanted to leave their country. These people do not want to leave their country where they have their families, favorite places, and communities, instead, they are forced to leave due to the dangerous living conditions.

Even today, Venezuelans are still entering the jungle to seek safety from their country, with no way to return. Those beginning the journey have had to sell everything they have for the journey and do not have a way to go back.

As the root causes of migration still need to be addressed, Maria believes that it is impossible to prevent people from migrating as the conditions in the countries of origin continue to worsen.

These people do not deserve to be treated as criminals for trying to seek safety. According to Maria, people may judge why they are coming, but until we live in those conditions, we will not know what it is like.

We need a remedy for the root causes of migration. However, there is still the challenge of what we do in the meantime. If people cannot seek safety, they risk violence, especially from the cartels, which have thrived from the opportunity to exploit these vulnerable people.

What we are calling for

Throughout the visit, there was a continuing call for more people around the U.S. to help support asylum seekers who have recently crossed the border. We must acknowledge that human movement is not a crisis. It is a call for solidarity.

Many members of our Mercy community have responded to the call for solidarity. For example, The Sanctuary Working Group of the Chicago Religious Leadership Network became aware of a family needing support. As a response, the Mercy Justice Committee in Chicago has been able to sponsor this family. Sisters and Associates of the Committee have committed to caring for the costs and accompanying the family as they settle in.

Additionally, the JRS/USA Migrant Accompaniment Network engages volunteers across the U.S. and collaborates with partners in Mexico border cities and throughout Mexico and Central America. It seeks to secure support and assistance for recently arrived asylum seekers, refugees, and immigrants in their integration into receiving communities across the U.S.

The JRS Migrant Accompaniment Network invites Jesuit-affiliated organizations and individuals, as well as other religious congregations, churches, or migrant serving organizations, groups, individuals, or ministries, to participate in welcoming and accompanying recently arrived individuals in their transition to living in a new environment. Involved individuals and groups will become Community Based Companions (CBCs) or points of contact in the area where they live. CBCs will be a human connection for recently arrived refugees and asylum-seeking families to guide them to local services and resources that meet their housing, employment, legal, medical, pastoral care, and other needs. The goals of CBCs are to accompany individuals, help create community and achieve a sense of stability for newcomers, assist in meeting their more pressing needs, and facilitate friendship and support.

To learn more and to help support incoming families, visit:
<https://www.jrsusa.org/jrs-usa-migrant-accompaniment-network/>



'Little Venezuela' Migrant Camp in Juárez. The camp was a safe haven for Venezuelans who were unable to cross the border. Two weeks after this photo was taken, migrants were forcibly evicted from the camp and their tents were torched by police.



Sr Betty Campbell rsm showing our group some of the names of people who have died while attempting to cross the border in Juárez. More than 1,000 people have died attempting to cross the border in 2022—an increase from previous years.



THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS


BREAKING BOUNDARIES: A MERCY RESPONSE TO PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Thursday, 15 December | 4:00-6:00 pm New York Time
A publication launch event on the occasion of International Migrants Day 2022
Register online at: bit.ly/BreakingBoundariesZoom


Breaking Boundaries: A Mercy Response to People on the Move Issue Spotlight #2 - Mercy Welcome and Hospitality

The MGA Migration Task Force report 'Breaking Boundaries: A Mercy Response to People on the Move' offers a collection of experiences, research and analysis on justice issues related to human mobility, policy making, and service provision in response to migration. The report shares stories of Mercy Sisters, Associates, and Partners in ministry reflecting on a theology of mission amongst migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Since Catherine McAuley opened the first House of Mercy in 1827 in Dublin, creating a warm and welcoming spirit of hospitality that upholds the dignity of each person has been a priority of the Mercy community and a constant and steadfast commitment to God's mission. This mission, in keeping with the Gospel vision of inclusivity of all, welcomes the stranger, provides hospitality, supports migrants at borders, attempts to uphold the rights of migrants and creates a sense of belonging and inclusion. Rejecting monochrome portrayals of people on the move as vulnerable and helpless, the Mercy World recognises the inherent dignity of each person and embraces this uniqueness, acknowledging that each person's journey has its own distinct meaning and characteristics.



Breaking Boundaries: A Mercy Response to People on the Move




MERCY WELCOME & HOSPITALITY

THROUGHOUT OUR PUBLICATION, THE THEMES OF 'WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY' ARE INTEGRAL AND REFLECT THE SPIRIT OF OPENNESS, WARMTH, AND ENCOUNTER EXTENDED TO PEOPLE ON THE MOVE THROUGHOUT THE MERCY WORLD

A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER WITH PEOPLE ON THE MOVE


- Pope Francis call us to **create inclusive communities** that embrace migrants and refugees and foster unity and a sense of belonging
- We are **inspired by Catherine McAuley** to welcome the stranger and provide hospitality and support to people on the move and those at borders
- We envision a world where **human rights are a reality** for everyone, everywhere



HOSPITALITY AND CARE PROVIDED TO MIGRANTS DEMONSTRATES A WILLINGNESS TO KEEP DOORS OPEN TO THOSE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO CALL HOME

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP & HUMAN CONNECTION

- **Building supportive relationships and friendships** with migrants and refugees can be transformational to support newcomers settle into communities and cultivate hope for the future
- **Fostering positive interactions** with people on the move applies a **whole-of-society approach** that promotes equality, belonging, and a **culture of encounter**
- Many members of the Mercy community have provided **accompaniment and support to those detained** while others have organised **social and leisure activities, provided support with language learning, and arranged befriending schemes**



THE MERCY WORLD RECOGNISES THE INHERENT DIGNITY OF EACH PERSON AND EMBRACES THIS UNIQUENESS, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT EACH PERSON'S JOURNEY HAS ITS OWN DISTINCT MEANING AND CHARACTERISTICS

BREAKING BOUNDARIES: A MERCY RESPONSE TO PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Thursday, 15 December | 4:00-6:00 pm New York Time

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THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS (CONT.)

Too often people on the move are faced with discrimination, exclusion, and xenophobic hostility across communities. As noted by Ms Gabriela Rodriguez Pizarro, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants "people whose colour, physical appearances, dress, accent or religion are different from those of the majority are often subjected to physical violence and other violations of their rights, independently of their legal status. A sense of alienation is part of being a migrant." For this reason, Mercy Sisters and Partners around the globe aim to build supportive relationships and friendships with migrants and refugees to promote integration and help newcomers settle into communities and cultivate hope for the future.

Fostering positive interactions with people on the move applies a holistic approach that promotes equality, belonging, and a culture of encounter. Across the Mercy World, this has included organising social and leisure activities, providing support with language learning, and arranging befriending schemes. For Irish Mercy Sister, Nora Burke rsm, the important aspects of encounter with people on the move are: "To listen to their needs and to respond in any way possible, helping them evaluate the context of their needs and responding with Mercy and compassion."

Throughout our publication, the themes of 'welcome and hospitality' are integral and reflect the spirit of openness, warmth, and encounter extended throughout the Mercy World. Deeply rooted in our Mercy charism, hospitality and care provided to migrants demonstrates a willingness to keep doors open to people who are looking for a place to call home. This reduces inequalities and strengthens the welfare of all members of society, with the acknowledgment that fully-integrated migrants are better positioned to contribute to prosperity for themselves, their families, and communities of origin and destination.

Take Action!

- Welcome the Stranger: Extend a warm welcome to help immigrants, migrants, refugees and people on the move. Build paths of solidarity and respect and create safe spaces of encounter, listening, and understanding
- Pray for people who are leaving their homes in search of new beginnings and safety
- Share gratitude and appreciation for staff and volunteers ministering to people on the move
- Reframe attitudes to migration by emphasising what we have in common and promoting positive, inclusive and hopeful messages that can challenge racism, xenophobia, and negative narratives of migration
- Call on policy makers to condemn harmful and dehumanising narratives of fear and exclusion about migrants and migration
- Take action for change using the UN #StandUpForMigrants Toolkit

EVERY PERSON DESERVES TO BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY, RESPECT, COMPASSION AND MERCY!

COP 27

THEMATIC AREAS DEGRADATION OF EARTH

Source: UN Climate Action

Mercy Delegation Returns from COP27 in Egypt

The 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 6-20 November 2022. The climate COP is an annual meeting of delegates from governments that are State Parties to the UNFCCC to negotiate global goals for tackling climate change, present their individual countries' plans for contributing to those goals, and report on their progress. After COP26 in Glasgow resulted in some new goals, the Egyptian Presidency promoted this year's meeting as an "implementation COP," with their slogan, "Together for Implementation." Countries came together to work out how they are going to accomplish the goals they have set—including how to pay for climate action.

Ana Maria Siufi rsm (Argentina), Angela Reed rsm (Mercy Global Action), Cecilie Kern (Mercy Global Action) and Magdalene Musau rsm (Kenya) made up the Mercy delegation to COP27. The Mercy Global Action Climate Justice Taskforce, composed of Mercy Sisters, Associates and Partners around the world, collaborated over the months preceding COP27 to develop a [Position Statement](#), [advocacy materials](#), and [social media toolkit](#) that were shared throughout the Mercy World and with government and civil society delegates present in Sharm El-Sheikh.

There are three main pillars of climate change policy discussions, which address mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. Mitigation policies attempt to prevent further climate change, by reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. This is done either by reducing sources of these gasses (particularly the burning of fossil fuels for electricity, heat, or transport), or enhancing the "sinks" that accumulate and store these gases, especially oceans, forests, and soil. Adaptation policies involve adjusting to actual or expected future climate change by reducing our risks from the harmful effects of climate change (like sea-level rise, more intense extreme weather events, or food insecurity). When the adverse impacts of climate change, including sudden- and slow-onset events, push nature and people beyond their ability to adapt, this leads to irreversible losses and damages.

While there were many important and urgent issues on the COP27 agenda, including the financing of just transition in terms of alternative energies, and the urgent need to phase out fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas), including through the adoption of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, Mercy advocacy efforts during COP27 centered around the issue of Loss and Damage caused by the adverse effects of climate change. It is evident that climate change is no longer a future crisis that we can prevent, but a crisis now, causing irreversible injury to the planet and its people, especially communities already marginalized by the global economic system. Dominant discourses from developed countries continue to privilege material goods and wealth over human dignity, failing to address the fact that people are already suffering.



Magdalene Musau rsm, Cecilie Kern, Angela Reed rsm, and Ana Maria Siufi rsm in front of COP27

Mercy delegates in Egypt participated in events and discussions related to losses and damages, both economic and non-economic. Throughout COP27, indigenous peoples, representatives from local communities, academics, and high-level government delegates from climate-vulnerable countries described economic losses and damages to crops, homes or infrastructure, as well as non-economic losses and damages including harm to human health and mobility; loss of access to territory, of cultural heritage and of indigenous and local knowledge; and loss of and damage to biodiversity and habitats. After decades of work and advocacy by civil society and climate-vulnerable developing countries, it was clear that at COP27 finance for loss and damage would not be sidelined further and would be a key issue in the Sharm el-Sheikh negotiations.

While Mercy delegates did not have direct access to the negotiation spaces, they were able to follow the progress of the negotiations and engage with some delegations as the draft outcome was developed. While many climate activists were excluded from decision-making spaces, hundreds of delegates from fossil fuel-related corporations were active at COP27, influencing governments to water down their commitments. Amid this difficult environment for advocacy, and significant concern that certain governments and private sector interests were diluting the ambition of the conference outcomes, it could often be frustrating or disheartening to participate.

The negotiations faced some serious challenges, including the threat of possible backsliding on the commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, avoidance of “phasing out” rather than “phasing down” of fossil fuels, and reluctance to commit to new financing mechanisms for loss and damage. Fearing a failure to achieve an outcome to this COP, as climate impacts are accelerating, the Egyptian presidency extended the negotiations until the morning of Sunday, November 20, more than a day and a half longer than originally planned.

In the end, on issues of mitigation, while many worked for an advanced agreement on fossil fuel phase-out, what was agreed upon was a copy and paste of the COP26 Glasgow accord, which had been the first time fossil fuels were included in such commitments. In this sense, the outcome of COP27 is deeply disappointing, as governments could not agree on more ambitious and urgent action to eliminate fossil fuels, in the face of undeniable climate science and intensifying losses and damages. Instead, they included the same loopholes and inaccuracies that make accountability difficult and open the door for greenwashing and reliance on unproven and possibly harmful technologies. Although in the end everything remained the same as in the Glasgow agreement, there was an important difference: 80 countries requested that the elimination of fossil fuels be formally included. This growing critical mass of countries is a sign of hope.

On adaptation, COP27 saw some progress, with governments agreeing on the way to move forward on the Global Goal on Adaptation, which will conclude at COP28, hosted by the United Arab Emirates, and inform the first Global Stocktake, improving resilience amongst the most vulnerable. New pledges, totaling more than USD 230 million, were made to the Adaptation Fund at COP27. These pledges, if fulfilled, will help many more vulnerable communities adapt to climate change through concrete adaptation solutions.

COP27 marked the first time that loss and damage was added to the official agenda of the UNFCCC negotiations. The outcome on loss and damage was considered a “breakthrough agreement,” as States decided to establish new funding arrangements, as well as a dedicated fund, to assist developing countries in responding to loss and damage. Governments also agreed to establish a ‘transitional committee’ to make recommendations on how to operationalize both the new funding arrangements and the fund at COP28 next year. States also agreed on the institutional arrangements to operationalize the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, to catalyze technical assistance to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.



Although COP27 was unsatisfactory in delivering the urgent action and commitments needed to reach the targets from the Paris Agreement, there were some positive outcomes, including long-needed progress on loss and damage financing. While significant momentum is building behind the proposal for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, action is needed now, not years down the road. In the lead-up to COP28 in the United Arab Emirates, Mercy Sisters, Associates and Partners have an important role to play in advocating their national governments to endorse a legally-binding treaty, and to follow through with the commitments and pledges they have made, especially to ensure that funding for adaptation and loss and damage reaches those most vulnerable to climate impacts. People around the Mercy World have to keep holding national governments accountable for their promises, urge them to raise their ambitions, and remind each other of our responsibilities to care for Earth and inspire collective climate action as a matter of justice. Despite the significant challenges we face, we remain people of hope. We have a moral imperative to care for the most vulnerable and marginalized and future generations, and this remains central to our work for climate justice.



At the United Nations

THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES...

“UNITE: Activism to End Violence against Women & Girls!”

Women and girls, in all their diversity, must be able to live their lives free of violence. Realising women's and girls' human rights is an important part of securing the future of our planet and a better future for us all. - DFAT, 27 June 2022

November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, also marks the launch of the [16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence](#). Gender oppression is intricately linked to the climate crisis. Women are disproportionately at risk from climate-related disasters yet barred from spaces of power that seek a solution. In the context of environmental disaster and gender-blind climate policies, women are increasingly vulnerable to domestic violence and trafficking.

Grace Redpath, Sustainability Chair at Gonzaga University, acknowledges there is a connection between women and the environment as common victims to the capitalist-patriarchal system currently facing our world. Women, especially Indigenous women or those living in the Pacific, are some of the least responsible for climate change, yet are most vulnerable to the physical, economic and socio-cultural consequences. Greater climate instability and conflict over resources exacerbates pre-existing patterns of unequal labor division and intersecting forms of discrimination, while further undermining women's adaptive capacity. With a rise in forced migration and displacement, food insecurity, water pollution, natural disasters and land degradation, we see increasing violation of the rights of women as well as of 'Mother Earth'.

Mercy Sisters, Associates and Partners stand with other #UNITE feminists in advocating for the protection of the rights of women and our planet and continuing to raise awareness of issues of violence, abuse, GBV and human trafficking. “We strive to eliminate these issues by addressing the lack of prevention, access to essential services and other social protections. We seek to empower women and to strengthen their capacities to claim their rights. Through individual, local, national and global mobilization, we can challenge harmful gender narratives that justify violence against women and stigmatize survivors. Like Catherine McAuley, we will continue to work with women and girls to form a just and inclusive world.” ([Hope in a time of Pandemic](#), pg 21).

To learn more about the intersection between climate change and women's rights, see the resources below:

- [‘The Crucial Intersection of Feminism and Climate Justice’](#) - Grace Redpath, 17 November 2020
- [‘Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in the context of Climate Change’](#) - UN Women & IUCN, 2022
- [‘The Climate, Gender and Conflict Nexus’](#) - Kvinna till Kvinna, Position Paper, 2022
- [‘Climate change heightens threats of violence against women and girls’](#) - UN News, 5 October 2022



REFLECTIONS BY MELF PARTICIPANTS

• *Dominique Marendy, MELF Fellow, attended the NewKind Conference in Melbourne, Australia*

"As Part of the MELF program we have the opportunity to attend a conference of our choosing. I recently attended the Newkind Social Justice Conference in Melbourne, Australia. It was a great two days of thought provoking presentations and panel discussions as well as an opportunity to connect with likeminded individuals.

The main topics discussed throughout this year's program centred around race and gender. Specifically issues such as:

- *First nations sovereignty,*
- *The racialism of gender-based violence,*
- *Representation, visibility and equality for women,*
- *Why racism persists in society,*
- *Employment, equity; the evolution of the workplace*
- *Connecting economics, race; ecology*



These topics were discussed by a broad range of experts, approaching things from different walks of life and experiences. Particularly evident throughout these conversations was the re-enforcement of creating psychologically safe space to hold these conversations.

Attending the Newkind conference, was yet another opportunity that challenged my perceptions, helped me define my role as an advocate and informed how I can hold conversations moving forward. It was a space that allowed each delegate an opportunity to be their authentic selves in these important conversations. These conversations can often leave you feeling emotionally raw yet the conference offered a chance to build connections with people, to hold each other, allowing you the energy and enthusiasm to continue striving for the issues we're advocating for. What struck me was how common it was for the intersect between displacement of people and degradation of the earth to come up in conversation, particularly displacement of first nations people.

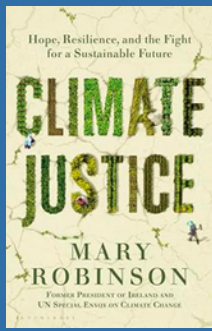
As part of the MELF program we're asked to complete a project on one of these topics, but the reality is these two spheres of social justice are heavily intertwined. This re-enforced for me the importance, not only of representation but also holding space for the voices of these groups to be heard as I approach my project.

I walk away with much gained, and so much more I want to delve into."

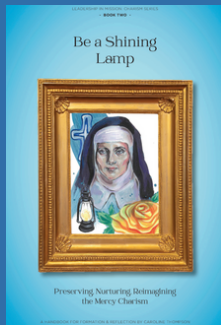


Dominique Marendy at Angkor Wat
MELF Cambodia Immersion - August, 2022

“USEFUL RESOURCES



[Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future](#) by [Mary Robinson](#)



[“We Should Be Shining Lamps”](#) by [Caroline Thompson](#) - newly released handbook for formation and reflection to preserve the Mercy Charism into the future



[Read the COP 27 Implementation Plan](#)



[Follow Mercy International Association on Instagram](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- **8 Dec Feast of the Immaculate Conception**
- **10 Dec Human Rights Day**
- **12 Dec Foundation Day: 190 years!**
- **18 Dec International Migrants Day**
- **25 Dec Christmas Day**
- **31 Dec New Years Eve**



International Migrants Day 18 December

Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative fortnightly e-newsletter (MercyNews). Visit our website to discover more about MIA and our global activities:

www.mercyworld.org

Subscribe to our e-newsletter to learn about our vision in action and the ministries carried out by our member congregations: www.mercyworld.org/subscribe