

CATHERINE EDWARDS REFLECTS ON HER MGA INTERNSHIP



When I started my internship at Mercy Global Action at the United Nations last October, I was filled with anticipation and enthusiasm. Little did I know that my journey would not only be exciting but also transform into deep respect and admiration for the relentless dedication of the MGA team.

I was instantly welcomed into the MGA team, creating an environment of unwavering support. I was trusted with various responsibilities, such as document creation, attendance at crucial meetings, and conducting in-depth research on sustainable development and human rights. These tasks enriched my understanding of international justice and the complex mechanisms of the United Nations.

One of the most memorable experiences was the border immersion program arranged by the Mercy Justice Team in November 2022. It wasn't merely an immersion program but a revelation of the stark immigration realities of people at the US-Mexico border. This journey further opened my eyes to the pressing need for mercy and justice in our world today.

I was honoured to attend numerous meetings with NGOs, member states, and various commissions and forums. One of the highlights of my internship was being part of the organizing team for the Civil Society Forum for the Commission for Social Development.

Another moment that had a significant impact on me was when I had the opportunity to deliver an oral intervention on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy to member states at the Commission for Social Development. Initially, it was intimidating, but eventually, it turned out to be a learning experience that pushed me beyond my comfort zone.

As I look back, I'm amazed by the wealth of experiences and lessons I gathered during my tenure at MGA. It was an opportunity for me to grow both professionally and personally, and it also helped me hone my organizational skills, adaptability, and ability to work both alone and in a team. Having just graduated from university before starting, I am eternally grateful for the foundation this internship has provided for my future career.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has been a part of my journey. Your unwavering support and guidance made this experience enlightening and rewarding. I am in awe of the reach and support of the Mercy World, and it has been an honour to be a part of the Mercy community. The immense support I have received from ISMAPNG and Meredith Evans rsm has been invaluable.

I will forever cherish the memories and experiences from the past nine months. The lessons and narratives that emerged from this experience will always stay with me as I endeavour to uphold the Mercy values wherever I go.

Finally, I would like to give special appreciation to the members of the MGA team who guided me during my internship. Angela Reed, Cecilie Kern, Colleen Swain, Jemima Walsh, Marietta Latonio, Máire Cunningham, and Siobhán Golden have all shown exceptional patience, guidance, and mentorship. I'll miss being part of the action at the United Nations and will always appreciate your support.

Catherine Edwards
Outgoing Intern

