

# MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

JULY - AUGUST 2023 | VOLUME 7 ISSUE 6



## GREETINGS FROM THE MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE!



### MERCY GLOBAL ACTION EMERGING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP GRADUATION

We are thrilled to invite you to the upcoming research presentations and graduation of the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF) Cohort 2. Please mark your calendar and join us for these inspiring events as we celebrate the achievements of our Fellows.

The Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship aims to provide a transformative experience for women dedicated to advancing Mercy and justice. This fully-funded international leadership program empowers fellows through creative and critical thinking, collaborative leadership, ethical discernment, and the exploration of oppressive systems to drive positive change.

Research Presentations:

Date: Thursday, July 13th

Time: 10:00 AM Dublin Time (GMT+1)

Registration: Please register to attend the research presentations online [here](#).

During the final immersion, the graduating Fellows will present their extensive research projects on various Mercy justice issues. Each presentation will last 30 minutes, followed by a Q&A session. The program schedule, the names of presenting Fellows, and a description of each research project can be found [here](#).

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS  
ISSUE:

ANGELA REED RSM  
CECILIE KERN  
COLLEEN SWAIN  
JEMIMA WELSH  
CATHERINE EDWARDS  
MARIETTA LATONIO

# MERCY GLOBAL ACTION EMERGING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP GRADUATION

JULY 17TH | 10:00 AM (DUBLIN TIME)

The graduation ceremony for the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leader Fellows will take place on Monday, July 17th at 10:00 AM Dublin Time (GMT+1). This year's ceremony will be held virtually, allowing participants from around the world to join. We are delighted to announce that Professor Azza Karam, the former Secretary General of Religions for Peace, will be the keynote speaker, sharing her expertise and insights with us.

Prof. Azza Karam is a renowned figure in the field of religion and development, holding a Professorship at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. She has an impressive background, having served in various capacities within the United Nations, including as a Coordinator of the Arab Human Development Reports and a Senior Advisor on Culture. Additionally, she founded the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development and the Multi-Faith Advisory Council.

For those unable to attend the live event, videos of the presentations and graduation will be made available on the Mercyworld.org website after July 17th, 2023. We encourage you to register for the ceremony and research presentations to show your support for the remarkable work of our Fellows. Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email with further instructions.

Join us on this momentous occasion as we celebrate the achievements of our Mercy Global Action Emerging Leader Fellows and gain inspiration from Professor Azza Karam's keynote address. We look forward to seeing you at the ceremony or the research presentations, or both!

[Click here to register for the research presentations](#)

[Click here to register for the graduation](#)



# THEMATIC AREAS

## DEGRADATION OF EARTH

- *Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty*

Pacific nations, led by Vanuatu and Tuvalu, are proposing a **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** to complement the Paris Agreement and **expedite the shift from fossil fuels to clean and affordable energy** worldwide. The current approach of setting emission targets and reducing demand for fossil fuels has proven ineffective, as oil, gas, and coal companies continue to expand production, resulting in excessive emissions.

The proposed treaty seeks international cooperation to achieve **three key goals: non-proliferation, a fair phase-out, and a just transition**. Non-proliferation involves halting the expansion of coal, oil, and gas production, while a fair phase-out entails a plan to wind down existing fossil fuel production and provide support based on capacity and historical responsibility for emissions. The just transition prioritizes clean energy adoption and economic diversification to ensure no one is left behind. The urgency to act is heightened by fossil fuel corporations impeding progress and exacerbating the problem. By endorsing the treaty, governments, organizations, and individuals demand immediate action to address the pollution, economic, climate, and security risks associated with coal, oil, and gas.

The treaty recognizes the availability of affordable and renewable energy sources in every region. Its purpose is to halt fossil fuel expansion and facilitate a just transition to clean energy. The expansion of fossil fuel production is problematic due to reserves exceeding what can be burned within the limits of 1.5°C global heating. The treaty draws on the success of previous international agreements on nuclear disarmament and landmines.

It has gained significant support from stakeholders, including the World Health Organization, the Vatican, the European Parliament, major cities, and numerous NGOs, including Mercy International Association. This widespread backing demonstrates the growing momentum and recognition of the treaty as a crucial measure to address the climate crisis.

**The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty represents an urgent step in tackling the climate crisis.** Supported by global entities and governments, it aims to halt fossil fuel expansion, ensure a just transition, and secure a sustainable future. With widespread support, it has the potential to make a powerful and lasting impact in accelerating the transition to affordable and renewable energy sources. Let us embrace this treaty and pave the way for a greener and brighter future for all.



[Click here to learn how to commit](https://www.fossilfueltreaty.org)



# Global Forum on MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

Mercy Global Action is proud to share that our very own Cecilie Kern was selected to participate in a panel the last week of June at The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The GFMD is a pivotal platform where governments, civil society organizations, and stakeholders come together to explore the intricate relationship between migration and development. Cecilie's participation and inspiring panel at the GFMD Culture Workshop in Paris demonstrated the importance of recognizing migration as a hopeful experience. Her remarks highlighted the need for inclusive narratives, collective responsibility, and cultural shifts that promote social cohesion and eliminate discrimination.

As we navigate the complex landscape of migration and development, forums like the GFMD provide invaluable platforms for dialogue and collaboration. By embracing the values of hope, courage, and inclusivity, we can create societies that value and celebrate the contributions of migrants, fostering a brighter future for all. Cecilie encapsulated this sentiment by stating, "We all have the power to make changes in small, but meaningful ways. We have important responsibilities to ensure that the language we use and the information we share about who migrants are, why they move, and what they contribute to their communities upholds the dignity and identities of migrants, strengthens social cohesion, and works to eliminate xenophobia and discrimination against people on the move."

Her words remind us of the significance of recognizing the dignity of migrants and shaping narratives that promote inclusivity. Cecilie's call to action urges stakeholders and governments to collectively influence cultural shifts and make societies more inclusive. With a shared commitment to upholding the dignity and identities of migrants, we can foster social cohesion, eliminate xenophobia, and build brighter futures for all individuals and communities.

**[Access the recording here](#)**





# WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 30 JULY



- *July 30th - World Day against Trafficking in Persons*

On July 30, the world observes World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, with the 2023 theme being **"Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind."** This important occasion aims to raise awareness about the concerning trends and developments in trafficking as identified by UNODC. It urges governments, law enforcement, public services, and civil society to take more decisive action in preventing trafficking, identifying and supporting victims, and apprehending the criminals responsible.

These pervasive issues have been further compounded by factors such as armed conflicts, the climate crisis, and socioeconomic disparities. Traffickers specifically target vulnerable individuals who lack legal protections, endure poverty, lack educational and healthcare opportunities, and suffer from discrimination or abuse.

In observance of this day, we want to acknowledge two upcoming Fellows of Cohort 3 of the **Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship**, who are deeply committed to combating trafficking.

**Jo Thompson** currently serves as the **Head of Advocacy and Relationships for women@thewell**, an NGO based in London. This organization provides comprehensive services to women involved in prostitution and the broader sex trade. Built upon a decade of experience by its founder, Lynda Dearlove rsm, women@thewell is grounded in the Sisters of Mercy's history of working with and for women during challenging times.



In her role, Jo oversees policy development, communications, fundraising, HR, training programs, and the amplification of all communication strands. She also leads marketing efforts and projects aimed at supporting individuals in exiting prostitution. Through the Mercy Global Emerging Leaders Fellowship, Jo seeks to broaden her understanding of different cultures and networks while enhancing her leadership skills. Her ultimate goal is to strengthen her abilities to contribute to the abolition of prostitution.

**Cynthia Mulholland** resides in the Hunter Valley, Australia, and currently works in communications for the Institute of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG). With a background in communications and community development, **Cynthia is passionate about finding solutions to injustice and raising awareness about human trafficking.**



An active member of the **Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)**, Cynthia is eager to further develop her advocacy skills and promote awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery. She looks forward to delving deeper into Mercy spirituality and exploring how it intersects with justice and the care of vulnerable and marginalized individuals.



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Mercy Global Action is pleased to be part of the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), where global leaders, policymakers, and change-makers unite to address the urgent challenges of our time. We will be especially focused on issues of water (SDG6) and housing (SDG11), and the Voluntary National Reviews of countries with a Mercy presence, including Cambodia, Canada, Guyana, and Ireland.

The HLPF serves as the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on a global scale. It convenes leaders from around the world to discuss and take action on sustainable development.

The HLPF 2023, held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will take place this week from July 10-19 2023, in New York. This year's forum revolves around the theme "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels." The HLPF in 2023 will conduct an in-depth review of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17.

We are committed to being part of this global effort, amplifying voices, driving positive change, and fostering collaboration to build a more equitable and sustainable world.



Opening of the High Level Political Forum



ATD Fourth World's HLPF workshop "Paradigm shift: tools to ensure best practice when engaging marginalized communities and youth"

# “USEFUL RESOURCES



[Sister Libby featured on The Kelly Clarkson Show](#)

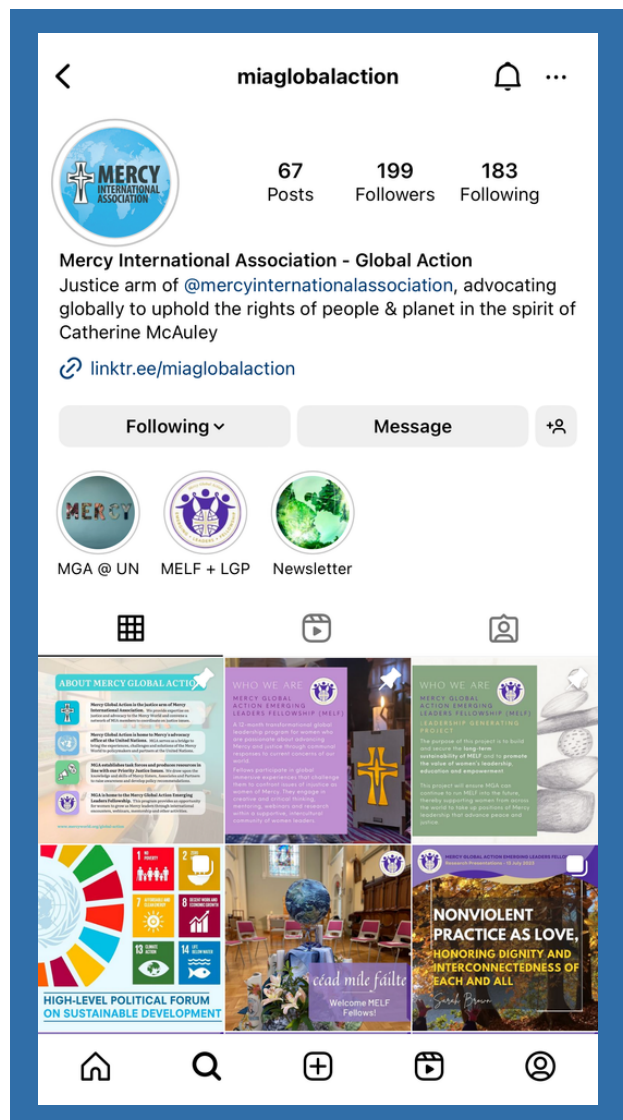


[Prepare for Season of Creation 2023: Let Justice and Peace Flow](#)



[It's time for First Nations Voices to be heard](#)

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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](http://www.mercyworld.org)

Subscribe to our e-newsletter to learn about our vision in action and the ministries carried out by our member congregations: [\[Link\]](#)