

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 2024 | VOLUME 8 ISSUE 6



Image: Shutterstock

GREETINGS FROM THE MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE!

Dear friends,

We are delighted to bring you this exciting edition of the MGA Newsletter! Yesterday, Cohort 3 of the MGA Emerging Leaders Fellowship graduated after presenting their great gifts of research to the Mercy World. Read on to hear about their experiences in Dublin so far!

We also celebrate the re-election of Cecilie Kern, MGA's Global Policy and Research Advocate, as chair of the NGO Committee on Migration for another two years. We are extremely proud of Cecilie for the contributions she has made to the Committee so far and look forward to seeing its achievements under her continued leadership.

Currently, at UN Headquarters in New York, the UN High Level Political Forum is underway. Cecilie shares insights about the countries which are presenting Voluntary National Reviews on their SDG progress.

As always, we hope you find inspiration in these articles and feel motivated to take action on justice issues in your own communities!

IN THIS ISSUE:

**COHORT 3 OF MGA
EMERGING LEADERS
FELLOWS IN DUBLIN
FOR THEIR FINAL
IMMERSION**

**UN HIGH-LEVEL
POLITICAL FORUM
COMMENCES**

**MGA'S CECILIE KERN
RENEWS FOR
SECOND TERM AS
CHAIR OF NGO
COMMITTEE ON
MIGRATION**

**USEFUL
RESOURCES &
UPCOMING EVENTS**

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS
ISSUE:

ANGELA REED RSM
CECILIE KERN
MARIETTA LATONIO
ISABEL SALTER



Final Immersion of Cohort Three of the MGA Emerging Leaders Fellows

The third and final overseas immersion of Cohort Three of the MGA Emerging Leaders Fellows is drawing to a close in Dublin, Ireland! The Fellows have had the pleasure of staying at Catherine's House – now Mercy International Centre – the first house of Mercy built by Catherine McAuley to address the needs of Dublin's poor. Upon their arrival, the Fellows enjoyed a historical tour of the house, as well as a day trip to the beautiful landscape of Glendalough, an early monastic settlement founded by St Kevin in the 6th century.

This week, the Fellows have attended a mesmerising Riverdance performance, enjoyed many traditional Irish pub meals together, visited Irish development organisation, VITA, and listened to an insightful presentation about Catherine McAuley's leadership style by Patricia O'Donovan rsm, CEO of MIA. They also visited Coolock House, where Catherine experienced a formative period of her life, living with and caring for the Callaghan family for over twenty years.

The Fellows also presented their research projects on Mercy justice issues, developed over the course of the 12-month program. **These presentations, as well as the Fellows' reports and resources, will be available [here](#) on the MIA website shortly!** We invite the Mercy World to dig into these rich presentations and put the Fellows' hard work into action in your communities.

Yesterday, the Fellows enjoyed a beautiful graduation ceremony! Susan Pascoe, a distinguished leader renowned for her significant contributions to the non-profit sector, Catholic education, and public administration in Australia, was the keynote speaker. **A recording of the ceremony will be available [here](#) shortly.**

Reflections from the Fellows so far...



Day 1 – Sarah Dwan

“To put us in the context of where we would be located for the next ten days, Sr Margaret took us on the tour of Baggot Street, starting from the foyer to the parlour with all of the stories, history and inside info. We spent time in the beautiful chapel. The bell that was used to call the sisters was rung, the staircase was traversed.

We explored the international room where the first schoolroom was located, as well as the Doyle room. Then there was the opportunity for some quiet time in the room where Catherine passed in 1841.

Then it was outside to Catherine’s tomb and garden. A sneak peak was had at the Heritage room where an exhibition portrays the story of Catherine, the Sisters in Dublin and the expansion of the congregation across the world.

From those who had been here before, to those of us who were experiencing it for the first time, to be walking in the steps of Catherine McAuley is a wonderful opportunity.”



Day 2 – Hilda Cruz

“Nine women, hailing from different corners of the world and led by the Sisters of Mercy embarked on a spiritual journey to the serene valley of Glendalough in Laragh, County Wicklow. In the company of the Sacred One, they found themselves in perfect harmony with nature, guided by the Sister’s Peggy and Ruth’s profound spiritual wisdom and devotion for St. Kevin and St. Brigit.

They assembled by the serene lake, their spirits intertwining with the ethereal. The majestic mountains enveloped them, the gentle caress of the wind and the warm embrace of the sun stirring their souls.

Through the monastic ruins, they embraced the symbol of St. Kevin’s Cross and were bestowed with a special blessing at the Gateway. With their spirits nurtured and blessed, they set off to immerse themselves in their projects, work, and lives, hoping that their efforts would yield the fruits of peace, healing, justice, and transformation.”



Day 3 – Andrea Haller

“Our Saturday was blessed with beautiful weather! We began the day with a walk through Dublin to visit the staff of VITA. They shared their innovative community-led, women-centered, and sustainable development model. With hearts full of inspiration, we returned to Baggot Street for a session on Catherine McAuley’s leadership style. Sr Patricia, CEO of Mercy International Association, shared stories of Catherine’s many leadership skills and invited us to reflect on our own.

In the afternoon, we visited Coolock House, where the spirit of Catherine was still palpable. To walk the rooms and stairs where she cared for the Callaghans and others in need of support was a true gift. We are most grateful for the warm Mercy hospitality provided by the Sisters who live there and shared afternoon tea with us.”



Watch the Fellows’ adventures...



See their research presentations:



Watch their graduation ceremony:





Image: Canva licence

At the United Nations THROUGH OUR ECOSOC LENS...

- 2024 High-Level Political Forum convenes annual review of the 2030 Agenda

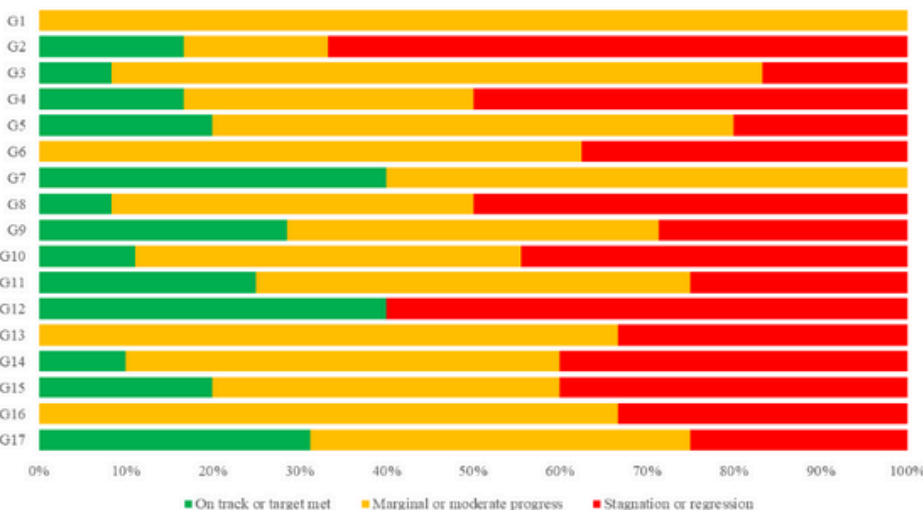
The 2024 High-Level Political Forum, the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is underway and will continue until 17 July.

Discussions this year will focus on the theme "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions", and will take an in-depth look at progress and gaps related to SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 2 (Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice & Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

Figure 1. Overall progress assessment across targets with, (2015-2024 trend data)



Figure 2. Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, by Goal, (2015-2024 trend data)



Source: "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General"

This year, six countries with Mercy presence will present Voluntary National Reviews to share the progress and challenges they are experiencing at the national level: Belize, Honduras, Kenya, Peru, Samoa, and South Africa.

According to the Secretary-General's report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the world is "severely off-track to achieve the 2030 Agenda." Only 17% of SDG targets are on track to be achieved by 2030, most have only limited progress, and some have regressed.



Multiple and intersecting crises are driving humanity further from solutions to achieve the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, and opportunities for reversing this trajectory have narrowed. Against the backdrop of these immense and persistent challenges, civil society organizations play a key role in the implementation, monitoring, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, not only in multilateral spaces, but also at the national, regional and local levels. Mercy projects and ministries are key partners for meeting the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and delivering transformation.

Mercy Global Action is engaged in the HLPF this week and next, attending meetings, events and discussions with Member States and stakeholder partnerships and urging transformative and bold policy action for the future of people and the planet.



Thematic Areas

DISPLACEMENT OF PEOPLE

- *Cecilie Kern re-elected Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration*



Cecilie Kern, MGA’s Global Policy and Research Advocate, was re-elected as Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration. She will serve a second two-year term, from June 2024 - June 2026. Cecilie will continue to raise the experiences of Mercy Sisters, Associates, partners and the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers they accompany in policy-making spaces like the Global Forum for Migration and Development and the International Migration Review Forum. Cecilie is looking forward to working with the new Executive Committee to guide the work of the NGO Committee on Migration as it engages in advocacy on a wide range of migrant and refugee issues with governments, UN agencies, and other stakeholder partners for practical, rights-based policy- and program- building.

“USEFUL RESOURCES



[MELF Cohort 3 Research Presentations](#)



[‘See No Stranger’ by Valarie Kaur](#)



[OHCHR Guide - Building Human Rights-Based Migration Narratives: the Story of #DariDapur and #MyGreatStory](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

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

[\[Link\]](#)