

# MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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## GREETINGS FROM THE MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE!

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Season of Creation 2024! We hope this sacred period draws you closer to nature and reaffirms your role as a steward of God's Creation.

This year's theme, *'Hope and Act with Creation'*, draws inspiration from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans (8:19-25). The symbol of the *firstfruits of hope* reflects the biblical image of Earth as a mother, groaning in labour. This serves as a reminder that we often view Creation not as a sacred gift from God, but as a resource to exploit. Yet, when we work *with* Creation and care for her needs, the firstfruits of hope emerge. As in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life emerges.

As Pope Francis reminds us, our faith is not passive; it is a creative force capable of healing and renewing the Earth. This season, let's embrace our role as caretakers, committed to hoping and acting with Creation.

We look forward to sharing prayer and reflection resources throughout the Season of Creation, as well as spotlighting pieces of research by our Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellows that have an environmental focus...

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# MELF SPOTLIGHT

**Jen Jen Alegado rsm**

MELF Cohort 3

**'Laudato Si': Claiming the Cultural Identity of the Subanen People in the Mount Malindang Ranges'**

Image: Canva licence

Images: Virgencita Alegado

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis highlights the deep connection between environmental degradation and cultural erosion, stating: "Many intensive forms of environmental exploitation not only exhaust the resources which provide local communities with their livelihood, but also undo the social structures which, for a long time, shaped cultural identity and their sense of the meaning of life and community" (45).

Inspired by this insight, Jen Jen Alegado's research delves into the experiences of the Subanen people, who are Indigenous to the Mount Malindang Ranges of the Philippines, revealing how ecological devastation has not only eroded their lands but also their cultural identity. Going beyond this analysis, Jen Jen explores meaningful ways for the local community to support the Subanen people in reclaiming and preserving their cultural heritage.

Click [here](#) to read her research!

## *A Prayer for the Season of Creation*

God of the universe, we thank you for Your many good gifts,  
For the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits,  
For clean water and fresh air for food and shelter, animals and plants.  
Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted.  
Transform our hearts and minds so that we would learn to care and share,  
To touch the earth with gentleness and with love, respecting all living things.  
We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste, greed and indifference.  
Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species.  
And help us to willingly share your gifts today and always.

Amen

[Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference]

Image: Canva licence

# SAVE THE DATE



## MIGRATION FOR THE FUTURE

Multi-stakeholder perspectives on the future of human mobility, international cooperation, and sustainable development

**DATE** Saturday 21st September  
**TIME** 9:00 - 10:30 AM EST  
**VENUE** 8th Floor Conference Room,  
Church Centre of the UN,  
New York City

[RSVP HERE](#)



### ORGANISING PARTNERS



## *Upcoming: Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event*

Mercy Global Action is actively preparing for the Summit of the Future on 22-23 September at UN Headquarters. The Summit is a high-level event, bringing world leaders together to adopt a new international consensus to accelerate efforts to meet our existing international commitments, and take concrete steps to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Mercy International Association is pleased to be co-organizing an official side event for the Summit of the Future Action Days, entitled "Migration for the Future," on Saturday, 21 September at 9:00 AM New York time ([Register here](#)). Migration and human mobility have shaped the world and international society throughout history, including being utilized as a key adaptation and resilience strategy for communities across the world in response to historical drivers and opportunities for development. This multi-stakeholder dialogue will explore the significant considerations for the future when it comes to human mobility, migration and migrant communities, as well as their relevance of human mobility and migration considerations in the Pact of the Future. We invite you to join us.



Images: MGA

## *Cohort 4 of MELF Embarks on First Overseas Immersion...*

We are glad to announce that the first immersion for Cohort 4 of the MGA Emerging Leaders Fellows will be taking place from September 16–25, 2024 in Siem Reap, Cambodia!

The Fellows will be staying at Metta Karuna, an interfaith reflection centre run by Jesuit Refugee Service Cambodia (JRS) and Sister Denise Coghlan RSM, where guests are welcomed to spend time seeing the challenges and history of Cambodia through the eyes of the poor.

The immersion will be centred on MGA’s primary areas of concern – Degradation of Earth, Displacement of People, and Women’s Leadership. It will also be grounded in the values of the Sisters of Mercy, which include compassion, justice, and respect for the inherent dignity of people and earth. Keep an eye on our socials for updates throughout the immersion!



**CHARLOTTE CUMMINGS**  
NEW ZEALAND



**MAI NGUYEN DOAN RSM**  
AUSTRALIA



**LUCIAH NJOGU**  
KENYA



**MCKENNA SMITH**  
UNITED STATES



**JEWELLYN ENEMECIO**  
PHILIPPINES



**TERESA VAUGHAN**  
NEW ZEALAND



**ELIZABETH BLOM**  
AUSTRALIA



**FOZIA GULAB**  
PAKISTAN



**SARAH TERRY**  
SOUTH AFRICA



**JESSICA MARSHALL**  
AUSTRALIA

## *Updates on the Mercy Water Justice Coalition Task Force...*

The inaugural task force of the Mercy Water Justice Coalition is in full swing! Comprising 18 members from across the Mercy World, the task force has been convening every three weeks since May to develop a position statement on water justice (which will soon be available), discuss and contrast the water justice issues in their regions, and begin formulating their own Water Action Agendas for implementation in their local communities.

At our August meeting, we had the privilege of hearing from Rachel Ryan, Programs Officer at Vita – an Irish NGO focused on providing fuel-efficient stoves and repairing broken water wells in Eritrea and Ethiopia. The Sisters of Mercy have enjoyed a longstanding relationship with Vita, having collaborated with them and invested in their impact fund for many years.

As the world's only circular carbon investment fund, Vita is truly unique in its approach. Through the wood saved by their stove and water projects, Vita earns carbon credits, which are then reinvested into their initiatives. These projects are community-led, with local residents leading the well repairs and long-term maintenance. Not only do the repairs improve access to clean water, they free up time for women and children who would otherwise spend hours collecting it. We are so grateful to Vita for sharing their inspiring work and giving us new motivation for our own projects! *You can read more about Vita [here](#).*

### HEARING FROM VITA

Vita – Delivering Gender Equality, Social Impact and Climate Justice in alignment with Laudato Si' & the Sustainable Development Goals

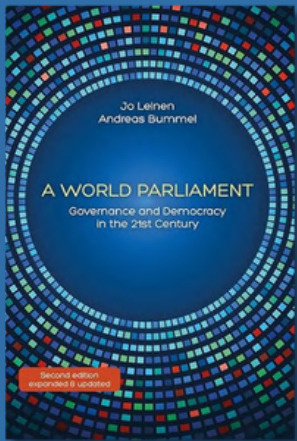


Image: VITA

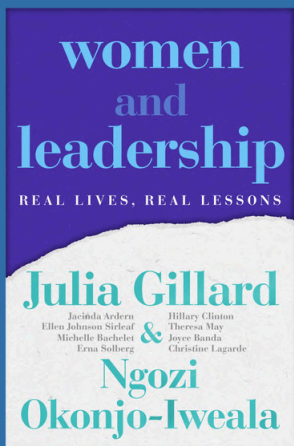
# “USEFUL RESOURCES



Season of Creation 2024  
Advocacy Guide



A World Parliament:  
Governance & Democracy  
in the 21st Century



Women and Leadership: Real  
Lives, Real Lessons



## UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- September 12: UN Day for South–South cooperation
- September 15: International Day of Democracy
- **September 16–25: MELF Cohort 4 attends Cambodia immersion**
- September 18: International Equal Pay Day
- September 20: World Cleanup Day
- September 21: International Day of Peace
- **September 21–23: UN Summit of the Future**
- **September 22-30: UN General Assembly**
- **September 24: Mercy Day**
- September 26: International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- October 1: International Day of Older Persons
- October 2: International Day of Non-Violence
- October 7: World Habitat Day
- October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty



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:

[\[Link\]](#)