Mercy International Association

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS FROM THE MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE!

- ***"Disturbance in the Deep," a reflection of the MGA co-sponsored UN Oceans Conference Side Event***

The third UN Oceans Conference took place from 9-14 June in Nice, France. As members of the NGO Mining Working Group Water Subcommittee, Mercy Global Action co-sponsored a virtual side event focusing on the issue of deep sea mining. The event featured Rev. James Bhagwan, the General Secretary of Pacific Council of Churches; Andrew Whitmore, the Finance Advocacy Officer of the Deep Sea Mining Campaign; and Bobbi-Jo Dobush, an Ocean Conservation Policy Consultant.

The speakers used a rights-based approach to evaluate concerns over unsustainable proposals to develop the deep seabed, including deep sea mining, and to posit more sustainable pathways forward. All of them have religious and scientific backgrounds that inform their values and actions.





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At the United Nations

THROUGH OUR ECOSOC LENS...

- ***"Disturbance in the Deep," a reflection of the MGA co-sponsored Oceans Side Event***

Sister Angela Reed, RSM, Head of Mercy Global Action attended the Mining Working Group's virtual side event at the 2025 Oceans Conference. Below is her reflection:

*"At today's powerful event, **Disturbance in the Deep**, voices rose in defense of one of Earth's last untouched frontiers — the deep sea.*

*Deep Sea Mining is **NOT** progressive. It threatens fragile ecosystems, Indigenous livelihoods, and our shared future.*

As people of faith, we are called to protect the sacred from commodification. The ocean is not a resource to be plundered — it is a living mystery, a divine gift.

We must be guardians, not exploiters.

'Deep Sea Mining is not needed, not wanted and not consented.' Rev. J Bhagwan

***NO** to Deep Sea Mining, **YES** to Life!*

*Mercy Global Action calls for a **TOTAL BAN** on Deep Sea Mining.*

For justice. For creation. For generations to come."

- ***MGA World Social Summit Task Force Launches***



In late May, the new Mercy Global Action World Social Summit Task Force began its work, convening a diverse group from all around the Mercy World that will offer their experience and expertise to review past accomplishments, identify gaps, and provide recommendations on issues of poverty eradication, decent work, and social inclusion. Their inputs will feed into the Second World Summit for Social Development (November 4–6, 2025). Task Force member Hilda Cruz (United States) reflects: "As people of faith, we are called to care for one another, to lift the vulnerable, to walk with the forgotten, and to build a world where everyone belongs."



All Images: MGA

At the United Nations

THROUGH OUR ECOSOC LENS...

- ***Conference of Mercy Higher Education Students Visit the MGA Office***

On May 20-21, students and staff from Carlow University, Gwynedd Mercy University, Misericordia University, Salve Regina University, and University of Detroit Mercy, all members of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education, traveled to New York in the biannual Mercy at the UN program. We were also joined by Jean Stokan and Angela Howard McFarland from the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team, who shared their advocacy work at the national and regional levels. During their two days at the MGA office, students learned about Mercy's global advocacy work, toured the United Nations, and examined the critical concern of Non-Violence. Students worked in groups to explore the global impact of different types of violence, including economic, environmental, and political violence, with attention to its root causes and its intersections MGA's priority justice issues, especially the degradation of Earth and the displacement of persons. We hope they will take their strengthened advocacy skills back to their campus communities and into justice work in their future careers. Reflecting on their experiences, students shared:

"One of the major impacts that this program had on me was demonstrating what the Sisters of Mercy do and the role that Mercy plays in advocacy. This program really opened my eyes to the community that I am now apart of."

"There is a lot more to nonviolence and the other critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy. Advocating for nonviolence doesn't have to take a village to change…even small changes can have a big impact."

Executive Director of CMHE Julia Cavallo reflected: "Our Mercy students were so impressive with how attentive and engaged they were in learning about how Mercy advocates at the United Nations and why Mercy intentionally has a presence at the UN. The students worked together to develop presentations about several issues related to nonviolence and the intersection with other Critical Concerns. In a very short amount of time, they prepared a presentation and showcased their thinking about how to take action on the issues they were assigned. The future is bright knowing that these Mercy students now have a better understanding of how they can be Mercy advocates in the world."








MELF TAKEOVER



Jewellyn Enemecio (Philippines)



MELF Cohort 4 at the UN



Jewellyn at Grand Central Station in NYC

During her time at the UN Commission on the Status of Women along with her own experience, Jewellyn Enemecio reflects on Mercy and its significance in responding to those experiencing abuse.

"Mercy is not a modern concept of being born out of humanitarian trends. It is an ancient virtue deeply embedded in the cultural, spiritual and moral fabric of societies across time. Long before formal disaster response systems or global aid institutions existed, mercy shaped how communities cared for one another in times of crisis. It has been exalted in sacred texts, championed by philosophers and manifested in countless acts of compassion through the centuries.

But how can we have mercy, especially to the eyes of the abused? I want to seek about a painful but important truth, one that many people often misunderstand. It's a question I've heard many many times. Why don't they just stop with the trade? Why does a woman stay with people who hurt her? Why does she endure the pain, the bruises, the fear?

The answer is not simple. And it's not because she's weak. It's not because she enjoys suffering. It's because abuse is complex, and leaving is far more difficult than we often realize. Abuse is not only physical. It is psychological, emotional, financial, and sometimes spiritual. It breaks the person down slowly. It convinces her that the abuse is her fault. That no one else would want her. **That she cannot survive on her own.**

All Images: MGA

MELF TAKEOVER
(CONTINUED)

Many women are trapped in a bonding where abuse and affection are mixed in a cycle of hope and hurt. The apologizing, the promising to change, the confusion creates a powerful emotional grip. Then there is fear. Real, paralyzing fear. Many women fear that if they leave, the violence will get worse. Some fear for their lives, for their children and for their families. Some don't have the money to leave. They have no job because they made sure of that. No safe place to go. No one to turn to, and even if they did, society often shames them. They are judged, blamed, and told to 'keep the family together'.

In many parts of the world, the pain endured by abused women and children often goes unseen, unheard, and unacknowledged. Hidden behind closed doors or silenced by fear and shame, the suffering becomes a quiet crisis. Yet, when we choose to view these lives through the eyes of love and mercy, something powerful happens. We begin to see not only their pain, but also the strength, their worth, and the capacity to heal. When we look at the abused women and children through the lens of love and mercy, we affirm dignity. **We declare that they are not defined by what was done to them, but by their resilience, their courage and their unbreakable spirit.**

Love and mercy play a transformative role in the lives of survivors. It is not a pity. It is a compassionate response that offers refuge, healing and hope. Where love offers affirmation, mercy offers renewal. It listens without judgement, supports without condition, and creates space for survivors to begin again. In a world that often condemns or forget the abused, mercy insists on the value.

Viewing abuse through the eyes of love and mercy changes everything. It shifts the narrative from victimhood to survivorship. It challenges the communities, government and institutions to protect the vulnerable and support their recovery, not just in words but through concrete actions. Without judgement and condemnation. But more than that, this perspective demands something personal from each of us. Love and mercy are not distant ideals. They are choices we make every day. To see with love is to refuse to look away. In the faces of abused women and children, we see survivors who deserve not only justice but also joy and happiness. In their eyes, we see not brokenness but potential. And in our response, may we offer not justprotection, but also the chance to thrive.

All Images: MGA

Abused women and children need love and mercy. They need us. They need a community that listens, not just the look of merciful eyes. They need someone to believe in them. That offers safe space, support systems, financial help, and legal protection. They need voices, your voice, my voice, to say, '**You are not alone.' You are not to blame. And you deserve to be safe, to be free, to be whole.**

So, the next time you find yourself asking, with love and mercy, 'Why doesn't she just leave?', ask instead, '**What can I do to help her feel safe enough to leave?'**

Because when we shift that question, we begin to build a world where no woman must choose between staying in pain and stepping into the unknown alone.

Join us. Stand with the survivors. Speak to those who cannot. Not just the look and feeling of being merciful. Together we can break the chains of trafficking and build a world where freedom is a right, not a privilege. **Let us be the generation that sees through the eyes of love and mercy, and chooses every time, to restore what violence tried to destroy**."

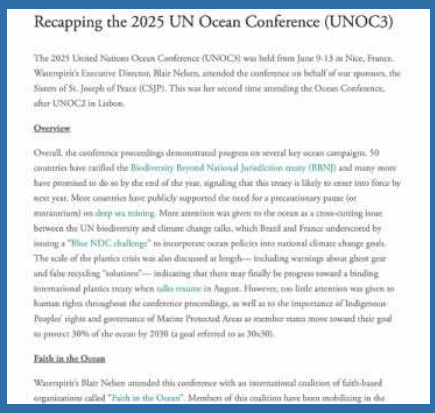
- ***Joint Appeal to Uphold the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Landmines and the Convention on Cluster Munitions***

Sr Denise Coghlan rsm, a tireless advocate for the ban of land mines, has called upon the Mercy World to support the following statement from Nobel Laureates on Landmines and to take whatever action you can to support all efforts to ban landmines. Click **here** to read the statement and share the appeal.



All Images: MGA & the International Campaign to Ban Landmines / Cluster Munition Coalition Website

USEFUL RESOURCES:


Recapping the 2025 UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3)

The 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) was held from June 9-13 in Nice, France. Waterspirit's Executive Director, Blair Nelsen, attended the conference on behalf of our sponsors, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace (CSJP). This was her second time attending the Ocean Conference, after UNOC2 in Lisbon.

Overview

Overall, the conference proceedings demonstrated progress on several key ocean campaigns. 50 countries have ratified the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty (BBNJ) and many more have promised to do so by the end of the year, signaling that this treaty is likely to enter into force by next year. More countries have publicly supported the need for a precautionary pause (or moratorium) on deep sea mining. More attention was given to the ocean as a cross-cutting issue between the UN biodiversity and climate change talks, which Brazil and France underscored by issuing a "Blue NDC challenge" to incorporate ocean policies into national climate change goals. The scale of the plastics crisis was also discussed at length— including warnings about ghost gear and false recycling "solutions"— indicating that there may finally be progress toward a binding international plastics treaty when talks resume in August. However, too little attention was given to human rights throughout the conference proceedings, as well as to the importance of Indigenous Peoples' rights and governance of Marine Protected Areas as member states move toward their goal to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030 (a goal referred to as 30x30).

Faith in the Ocean

Waterspirit's Blair Nelsen attended this conference with an international coalition of faith-based organizations called "Faith in the Ocean". Members of this coalition have been mobilising in the

[Recapping the 2025 Oceans Conference]



[MWG Oceans Conference Side Event - Video Recording]



[Joint Appeal to Uphold the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Landmines and the Convention on Cluster Munitions]


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UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATIONS

- **June 24**: International Day of Women in Diplomacy
- **June 26**: United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- **June 30-July 3**: Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development
- **July 11**: International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica
- **July 14-23**: High-Level Political Forum 2025
- **July 18**: Nelson Mandela International Day

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