Mercy International Association

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS FROM THE MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE!

- ***Save the Date - MELF Cohort 4 Research Presentations & Graduation***

We are delighted to announce the details for the Research Presentations by Cohort Four of the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship.

MELF Cohort Four will present their research on Monday 1st September and Tuesday 2nd September 2025. The presentations will be made in person at Mercy International Centre in Dublin and will also be available for people to tune in to online via Zoom. The formal Graduation Ceremony for MELF Cohort 4 will take place online and in person on Wednesday 3rd September from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

If you would like to attend in person please email **info@mercyinternational.ie** to book your place and let us know if you want Day One, Day Two and/or the Graduation. Find the Zoom links to each day below.

Research Day 1

Research Day 2

Graduation



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MELF Cohort 4 Research Presentations



Dr. Fozia Gulab

(Pakistan)

Enactment of Social Justice Practices for a Peaceful Society: A Study of Public and Private Schools in Karachi South



Sarah Terry

(South Africa)

Mercy Ambassadors' Programme - Creating Global Citizens for the 21st Century



Sr. Mai Nguyen, rsm

(Australia)

I wish I was at school - will you help me get there?

Save the Date: Monday 1 September 2025



MELF Cohort 4 Research Presentations



Jewellyn Enemecio

(Philippines)

Sustainability of Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: Challenges and Support Systems



McKenna Smith

(United States)

Mercy in the Mirror



Elizabeth Blom

(Australia)

Where Mercy Dwells: Responding with Courage and Compassion to the Homelessness of Women and Children

Save the Date: Monday 1 September 2025



MELF Cohort 4 Research Presentations



Luciah Njogu

(Kenya)

Traumatic Effects of Homelessness on Women and Children in Mukuru Slum



Jessica Marshall

(Australia)

Living Laudato Si: Integrating Ecological Consciousness in Education



Charlotte Cumming

(Aotearoa New Zealand)

Guidance for Mercy Governance Boards on the 8th Work of Mercy - Care For Our Common Home

Save the Date: Monday 1 September 2025



MELF Cohort 4 Research Presentations



Teresa Vaughan
(Aotearoa New Zealand)

New Issues, same Mercy values



Maria Pearson
(Argentina, Cohort 3)

Dignified Development

Save the Date: Monday 1 September 2025



Image: Canva

At the United Nations

THROUGH OUR ECOSOC LENS...

- ***High-Level Political Forum 2025 undertakes annual review of the SDGs***

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is ongoing, running from 14-23 July, for the annual follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, 10 years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the HLPF is addressing the theme "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind."

Each year, the HLPF brings together high-level representatives of governments and a wide range of stakeholders. Over the next two weeks, we will take an in-depth look at SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). In addition, 37 countries will present a Voluntary National Review (VNR), including countries with Mercy presence: Guatemala (link to VNR), Papua New Guinea (link to VNR), the Philippines (link to VNR), and South Africa (link to VNR).

Persistent and emerging challenges, including rising conflicts and geopolitical tensions, climate crises, deepening inequalities, and inadequate finance, continue to impact the implementation of the SDGs, which require renewed multilateralism and cooperation, based on shared commitments and solidarity. In a time when democratic values are increasingly under threat, human rights and people-centered policies are more important than ever. For more information about the 2025 HLPF, visit https://hlpf.un.org/2025



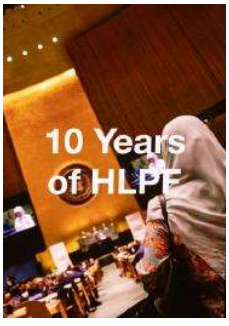






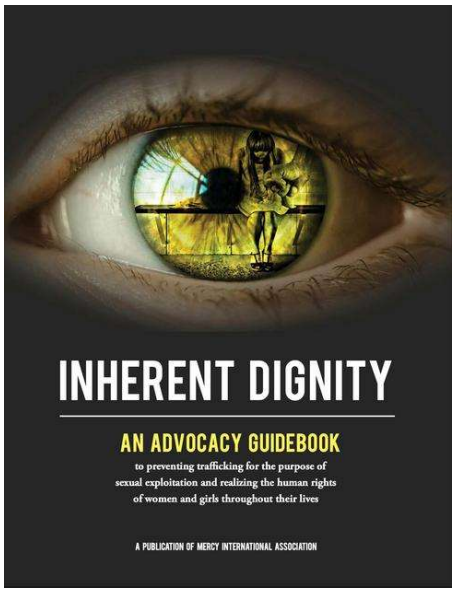
Image: Canva

- ***World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - 30 July 2025***

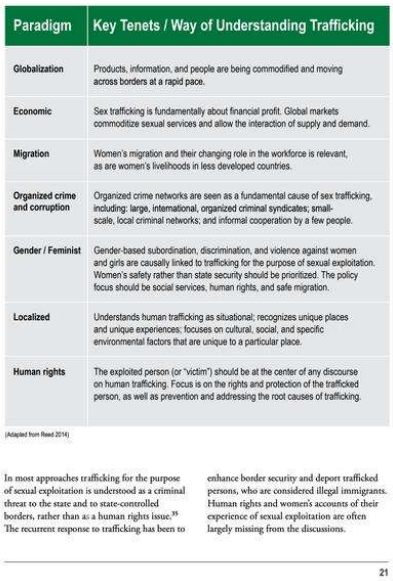
On July 30, 2025, MGA will observe the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. This year's theme, ***"Human Trafficking is Organized Crime - End the Exploitation,"*** emphasizes that organized criminal networks utilize global supply chains, legal and economic loopholes, and digital platforms to facilitate trafficking in persons. From 2020 to 2023, there were more than **200,000** reported trafficking victims globally. This number is believed to be even higher, as trafficking goes largely underreported.

You are invited to attend the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's special event for World Day against Trafficking in Persons entitled ***"Emerging Issues in Trafficking in Persons by Organized Criminal Networks: Trafficking for Forced Criminality Online."*** The event will be live-streamed on Wednesday, July 30th, from 10:30-11:30 NY time. After presentations from panelists working on this issue on the frontline, there will be an interactive segment, welcoming reflections and discussion on this important topic from participants in-person and online. Register here.

This year, MGA urges the Mercy World to contact their local and national governments and press public officials to strengthen their efforts to prevent human trafficking and support survivors. In addition to contacting your local and national officials, the Mercy World is encouraged to read Mercy International Association's ***Inherent Dignity***, which is an advocacy guidebook aimed to help prevent trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and realizing the human rights of women and girls throughout their lives.







MELF TAKEOVER



Sr Mai Nguyen Doan, rsm (Australia)



MELF Cohort 4 at the UN



MELF Cohort 4 in Cambodia

"Since I joined the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF), I have become more attuned with the social justice issues around me, in my country and in our world. I have become more aware that each one of us needs
to be responsible and take part in these concerning issues, instead of thinking it is someone else's responsibility.

One of the social justice issues that has taken much of my attention is the displacement of people, especially children and young people. The terms refugees, internally displaced people, asylum seekers and people who need international protection were familiar to me. However, during my first immersion in Cambodia, I learnt about the stateless people and their situations. The stateless people are included in the statistics of forcibly displaced people worldwide. However, they are not often clearly classified like the other groups. The number recorded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is 4.4 million people, however, the actual number is predicted to be higher. The other group that I also was not aware of are the repatriated people.

As of mid-2024, there have been about 122.6 million forcibly displaced people worldwide because of persecution, conflict, violence and human rights violations. 40 percent are children under 18 years old. 37.3 million refugees, 68.3 million internally displaced people, 8 million asylum seekers and 5.8 million people are in need of international protection.

All Images: MGA

MELF TAKEOVER
(CONTINUED)

The five countries that take up to 73 percent of all displaced people are Afghanistan, Syria, Venezuela, Ukraine and Sudan.

As we can imagine, when people forcibly flee from their home and country, they leave their loved ones, family, friends, work and everything else behind with the hope for a safer life and better future. In reality, they are faced with the unknown future and their lives may even be in more danger. Not everyone who flees their home is considered as a refugee and is under UNHCR mandate or international protection. Beside the refugees, the other groups that are also very vulnerable include asylum seekers, stateless people, internally displaced people and repatriated people.

I thought I would have had good understanding of the plight of displaced people, as I once lived as a refugee. However, I changed my perspective when working with asylum seekers a few years ago. Today forcibly displaced people live in various settings. About 71 percent of refugees are hosted in low-and middle-income countries. These countries are struggling to provide adequate needs for their own citizens. Therefore, refugees live in open camps having inadequate conditions; such as housing, sanitation, water, food, medical care, security and education. Others may live among the local citizens but they are very disadvantaged, working with low paid labour and have less access to services like the local citizens. Many others live among us in the big cities of well-developed countries, however, they do not have the privileges that we have. Many of them only receive short-term assistance from the migration services and support agencies. Once they are no longer eligible for assistance, they still need basic necessities such as food, shelter and health care for survival. However, they are not allowed to work and to access education, in some places even the children.

Many of us would ask the question, how do they survive? They have to seek help from charitable organisations for food, rent assistance, financial assistance for medical care, social support, legal assistance and other needs. These organisations rely on the support of generous donors in the community to enable them to support the people in need. However, the need is always greater than what the charitable organisations can support, therefore, the support is very limited and can be short-term.

All Images: MGA

MELF TAKEOVER (CONTINUED)

The limited rights and short-term assistance for refugees need to be reviewed. Everyone has equal rights to access basic needs, especially education for children, to equip them with knowledge to have better lives and futures. The late Pope Francis addressed the situation by saying that education opens the doors to a better future, 'migrants and refugees can contribute to society, either in their new country or in their country of origin, should they decide to return.' If children have no access to education, this will not only impact on their lives and futures but also on the future of our world.

Each one of us, international governments and institutions are called to be witness of God's mercy by carrying out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy for our forcibly displaced people worldwide. Jesus taught us, 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me' (Mt 25: 35-36)."



Sr. Mai (Right) & Jewellyn Enemecio (Left) in NYC

All Images: MGA

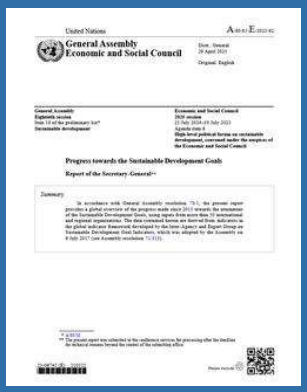
USEFUL RESOURCES:





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[Climate Action: Special Address by UN Chief | United Nations]



United Nations A/79/[illegible]

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General*

[UN Secretary-General's Report: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals]



United Nations A/79/L.[illegible]

General Assembly

Themes of the interactive dialogues of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

[Themes of the 2026 UN Water Conference - Adopted on 9 July]

UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATIONS

- **July 30:** World Day against Trafficking in Persons
- **August 9:** International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- **August 19:** World Humanitarian Day
- **August 21:** International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
- **August 22:** International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- **August 23:** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition



Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative monthly e-newsletter (MercyeNews). 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]