

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

(MGA UN)



Source: MGA UN

Contributors to this issue: Colleen Cloonan, Bridget Crisp RSM, Angela Reed RSM

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OFFICE NEWS

The office has been blessed with many visits throughout the last months.

Sr. Bridget Crisp from New Zealand arrived in the office in January. She has dedicated five months of her sabbatical to participate and reflect on many UN commissions, meetings and forums, including the Civil Society Forum, Commission on Social and Economic Development, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII). One of her biggest accomplishments has been the Water and Ocean Reflection Series in which she has highlighted many ecological issues present in our seas and oceans, and calls upon Pope Francis' encyclical, personal reflections, prayer, and UN Sustainable Development Goals for invoking critical thinking and action.

Ms. Marietta Latonio, a Registered Social Worker, friend, colleague, and anti-trafficking advocate from the Philippines, visited the office for the CSW. She presented her trafficking work a MGA co-sponsored event during the CSW and was presented with the UNANIMA Woman of Courage Award for her commitment to supporting women and girls. Congratulations Marietta--a wonderful tribute to your work! Hover cursor to watch our event!

Sr. Judith Moroney from New Zealand, stopped by the office on her way to Ireland and England. This visit permitted her to attend a few days of the PFII and see the workings of the UN office.

It was lovely being able to spend time with these women and we send them our blessings.

Source: MGA UN



L to R Ms. Marietta Latonio, Ms. Colleen Cloonan, Sr. Angela Reed, Sr. Bridget Crisp, and Sr. Judith Moroney

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THROUGH OUR ECOSOC* EYES...

*Reporting on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
16th Session (24th April to 5 May 2017)*

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is held annually at the UN in New York for two weeks and has been part of the Economic and Social Council processes since 2000.

Indigenous representatives from around the globe join with member states and other representatives of civil society to share ideas, discuss policy and present issues of concern. Its purpose is to report on and advise the Council on economic and social, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights relating to Indigenous people and communities. The Sixteenth Session took place from April 24th- 5 May 2017. The Special theme for this year's forum was 'Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration'. MGA at the UN was represented by Colleen Cloonan, Bridget Crisp RSM and Angela Reed RSM.

The Sisters of Mercy recognize that many issues facing Indigenous Peoples relate to land and water rights as well as sovereignty and self-determination. Our participation at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues involved observing the formal dialogues of the 16th session, attending side events and listening intently to the needs and concerns of indigenous people and informally meeting indigenous representatives from across the globe.

A significant event that MGA attended was one in which Indigenous Peoples' presented human rights cases from the Amazonian region and beyond. This side event was sponsored and organized by Pan Amazon Ecclesial network (REPAM) and the NGO Mining Working Group (MWG) of which Mercy Global Action is a member. Four Indigenous Peoples from the affected Amazon region spoke on issues related to mining company actions. They expressed their concern that these mining companies operated with virtual impunity given that they have government support.

Contaminated water and excessive deforestation by mining companies were two key areas of concern expressed by the indigenous speakers. They spoke of how this impacted their daily lives and the health and livelihood of the community. The impact of land degradation on the Amazonian Indigenous Peoples, like the Yanomani community, extends beyond the physical into the mental and spiritual regions of the body. The Yanomani consider themselves 'one with the forest' – they are unable to survive anywhere else. This is reflective of all the indigenous cultures within the Amazon.

Also during the forum was an event, to celebrate World Tuna Day (2nd May), sponsored and organized by Austria, Nauru (on behalf of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement) and the Marshall Islands. The focus was on the importance of the Tuna Fishing Industry which is a vital economic resource for many Small Island Developing States in the Pacific. Many of the Small Island Nation Indigenous Peoples' depend on fishing for an income source, but large fishing companies' operations in the world's oceans have impacted significantly on stock rates of many fish species that these countries rely on. One point that had an impact on listeners was that if the dollar value of Tuna caught in the region was transferred directly to the Small Island Nations, then they would be amongst the wealthiest nations on the planet...instead the majority of small island nations rely on aid.

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THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACED PERSONS



- *Towards a UN Global Impact on Migration*

During the September 2016 UN Summit in New York, Member States agreed on a powerful set of plans to address the issue of Migration. The outcome document is referred to as the New York Declaration and can be viewed here: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/L.1

A key initiative within this declaration for Refugees and Migrants was the commitment to undertake intergovernmental negotiations during 2017 in order to create a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration. This Global Impact is set to be adopted at an international migration conference in 2018.

Mercy Global Action at the UN will represent the Sisters of Mercy worldwide at these governmental negotiations which will consist of thematic sessions and multi-stakeholder sessions beginning in May 2017.

The themes for the sessions include the following:

- 1) Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution (May 2017).
- 2) International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration (June 2017).
- 3) Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits (July 2017).
- 4) Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims (September 2017).
- 5) Irregular migration and regular pathways including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant matters (October 2017).

THEMATIC AREAS

Continued

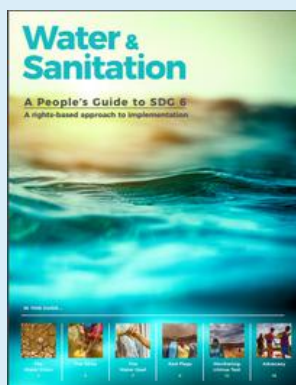
DEGRADATION OF THE EARTH



- ***Have you been following our Water and Ocean Reflection Series?***

-See http://mercyworld.org/mercy_global_action/view-post.cfm?id=875 to view parts 1-7

- ***Mercy Global Action at the UN, in collaboration with members of the NGO Mining Working Group, have produced a water justice guide titled 'Water and Sanitation: A peoples guide to SDG6, a rights based approach to implementation'. This guide is now available as an online resource.***



-See <https://miningwg.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/water-guide-final-pdf.pdf>

MERCY INTERNATIONAL REFLECTION PROCESS

Hover cursor on title to view the MIRP Review

In 2016, in line with Pope Francis call for 'The year of Mercy,' the leadership of Mercy International Association called for a Mercy international Reflection Process (MIRP). Engaging Sisters and associates all over the world, small groups were called to name the issues of our time and to discern together a shared response to the cry of the Earth and cry of the Poor, in the light of theological reflection and social analysis. In April, a report of this process was disseminated widely to Mercy Sisters, Associates and Colleagues. See link

An excerpt from the report states:

' Out of the Sacred listening and contemplative dialogue in which the groups engaged came a focus on two key themes (I) Displacement of Persons, and (II) Degradation of Earth'.

This report provides a clear mandate for Mercy Global Action at the UN. It is within this context that featured in this regular newsletter will be information as well as advocacy steps taken by MGA at the UN in regard to Displaced Persons and the Degradation of the Earth

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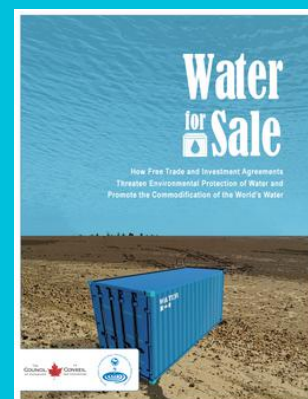
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USEFUL RESOURCES

2016 Report on the World Social Situation:



Maude Barlow's report on the sale of water in the age of free trade and investment agreements:



The International Organization for Migration's review on human trafficking and other forms of exploitation:



Update on the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- *For a comprehensive analysis of the SDG's, the 'Spotlight on Sustainable Development'.*

-This *Spotlight Report 2016* was a collaborative project produced by networks of civil society organizations to assess the policies framed within the 2030 Agenda from a human rights perspective and highlights the important actors and partnerships needed to achieve the goals. Key collaborators are MGA UN colleagues Meera Karunanathan from the Council of Canadians and Blue Planet Project, and Devin Tellatin, former MGA UN intern representing the NGO Mining Working Group.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Pay \$1 to watch *Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock*. "100% of the proceeds will go to an Indigenous Media Fund and a Pipeline Fighters Fund supervised by the film's creators and a council of indigenous leaders to support direct actions, indigenous filmmakers and journalists".
<https://awakethefilm.org/>
<https://awakethefilm.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

MGA at the UN will be attending

- **5 - 9 June: United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**
- **22 - 25 May: 2017 Financing for Development (FfD) Forum**
- **22 - 23 May: 2017 Thematic Consultations for the Global Compact on Migration**

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A Beacon of Hope

Mercy Global Action at the UN Intern, Colleen Cloonan, published an article in Salve Regina University's 'Report from Newport' on her experience at the UN office. Read the article below...

What is mercy? Some may define it by words such as forgiveness, compassion, love, grace, humility and kindness, but I think it depends on the day or moment. Everyone experiences mercy differently, but I believe it comes when you need it most. The more I try to define mercy, the more I realize the answer is in experiencing it.

No matter how you define mercy, in my own experience, I've realized the end result is hope. Our human connection teaches us to grow and learn through these experiences with others. Mercy is the reason I wholeheartedly believe people are inherently good, despite the evil, war and hatred in the world.

At Salve Regina, I discovered mercy all around me. In many ways, I could say mercy found me. Hope found me, light found me, trust found me and I began seeking out mercy as well. I realized that when I stop focusing on the negatives, I am truly happiest when I give myself to the service of others, and that is what I want to do.

My Salve Regina education helped me discover my true passion. After being selected to attend the Young Mercy Leaders Conference in Dublin in 2014, I recognized that my passion for social and environmental justice, sustainable development and human rights would become my life's work.

Three months after I graduated with degrees in Global Studies and Spanish, I accepted an internship with the Sisters of Mercy in their Global Action Office at the United Nations in New York City.

My internship began last September, just as the U.N.'s Global Summit of 2016 was underway, drawing heads of state from around the world to discuss the themes of refugees and migrants. This high-level summit begged for leaders to take a humane approach to the large movements of migrants and refugees in our ever-changing world. Keynote speakers such as Yazidi genocide survivor Nadia Murad emphasized that we must put human dignity first; or in other words, be merciful.

I believe my Salve Regina education led me to this moment – the opportunity to put humanity first on a global scale. That is why we are all here.

While working with the Sisters of Mercy over the past six months, I've been exposed to remarkable people. The Sisters are extremely active at the U.N., from advocating for the right to universal access to clean drinking water to actively working against human trafficking. We are involved in various subcommittees such as Religious at the U.N., the Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons, and the NGO Mining Working Group, where we collaborate with other nongovernmental organizations to increase our impact within the greater United Nations.

One of the most influential projects I've worked on thus far has been with the U.N.'s 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, where I helped develop our own global campaign, “#16Days16Stories: Trafficked Women and Girls in Their Own Words.” This series of 16 videos was based on a publication by Angela Reed, RSM, and Marietta Latonio – “I Have a Voice: Trafficked Women in their Own Words” – which discloses the stories of women and girls who have been trafficked and proposes steps for action. Such narratives from survivor advocates teach us so much and have the power to influence global policies. The campaign was extremely successful, reaching over 40 countries around the world.

Each day the opportunities to make a difference have been endless, and I am proud of the work I am doing with the Sisters of Mercy. Mercy allows us to recognize both the humanity and the divine existing in each of us. Look into the face of a friend or stranger and you might feel an instant connection or realize you are both unique and beautiful and here to serve each other by sharing your gifts. When wondering what you can do, know that comforting someone, giving a poncho to a homeless man sitting in the pouring rain, donating clothes, volunteering at a shelter, singing at church or simply holding the door for someone are all small expressions of mercy. But mercy is to be distinguished from charity; it's too personal for that. Mercy runs deeper, and while it comes from charity, it's also a special virtue that allows us to connect with others and be beacons of hope. It is through mercy that we can come to a greater understanding of humankind.

– Colleen Cloonan '16

Editor's Note: Colleen Cloonan '16 is enrolled in Salve Regina's fast-track master's degree program in international relations. Visit <http://16days16stories.online/> to see the videos she co-produced at the U.N.

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L to R: Claudia Brock, Olivia Hamilton, Anna Johnson (Jesuit Volunteer), Luz Guerra, Sr. Mary Galeone and Yuritza Arroyo Sanchez

Once again, we have welcomed numerous visitors to the Mercy Global Action Office at the UN. On May 8th, we warmly welcomed Dr Robyn Miller who had just completed the Mercy Ethos Program at Mercy International Centre in Dublin. Robyn is the CEO of McKillop Family Services in Melbourne, Australia. She will be collaborating with the office on our human trafficking work.

On Friday, May 19th, volunteers of Mercy Volunteer Corps U.S, accompanied by Sr Mary Galeone RSM visited the office in order to learn more about the work of Mercy Global Action at the United Nations. These dedicated women spent the day immersed in the key concerns of our MGA office and learning about the different ways we advocate within the UN system. Although a small office, we managed to create a cozy gathering space! We wish these women all the very best in the future as they complete their roles as Mercy Volunteers at the end of June 2017.

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THROUGH OUR ECOSOC* EYES...

*Reporting on the Second Thematic Session for a Global Compact on Migration
May 22-23rd*

On the 22nd and 23rd of May, the Second Thematic Session towards a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This session focused on addressing the drivers of international migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution. Prior to the Second Session in New York, an issue brief was released, discussing what member states perceive the drivers of migration to be (economic, environmental, and human made crises), as well as challenges, best practices, and ways to move forward by utilizing the commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals. Some commitments outlined by Member States and other stakeholders were developed into a four-pronged approach focusing on 1) sustainable development and poverty eradication, 2) conflict prevention, 3) protection and assistance in crisis situations, and 4) the improvement of data collection and analysis as a means towards effective and informed policies. (To read Issue Brief #2, click [here](#)).

The NGO Committee on Migration responded to Issue Brief #2 detailing some of the important focal points that were lacking or in need of strengthening. Their response also called upon the collective actions and obligations of Member States in order to mitigate and reduce the adverse factors driving individuals into unsafe and disorderly patterns of migration. Government policies and choices "affect whether migration takes place through 'regular', authorized channels or through 'irregular,' unauthorized channels, and these choices influence the vulnerabilities associated with migration". Member States need to act with urgency and care whilst working towards reducing the drivers of migration. With particular attention to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, addressing women, conflict, poverty and discrimination, in addition Targets 10.7 and 8.8 to affirm safety and protection of individuals throughout the process, it can be assured that no one is left behind. To read the NGO Committee on Migration's response in entirety, see the link below!

Mexico and Switzerland, co-facilitators for the preparatory process leading to a global compact on migration, believe that the best way to engage and move forward to address the drivers of migration is to understand the experiences from those on the ground. If you are interested in following the outcomes of the session, please find the video below. The conclusions and summary of the Second Thematic Session can be viewed at this (link). Colleen Cloonan, Mercy Global Action at the UN Intern, will be attending the Third Thematic Session on international cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration in Geneva from June 19-20th.



Watch Concluding Session



Read NGO Committee on Migration's Response to Issue Brief #2

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THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACED PERSONS



- **UN Event "Amplifying Women's Voices from the Global Displacement Crisis"**

At the United Nations in New York, representatives from the Mercy Global Action office recently attended an event entitled, 'Amplifying Women's Voices from the Global Displacement Crisis'. Co-sponsored by the Diplomatic missions of the USA and Philippines and also by the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM), this event provided member states, UN agencies, academia and civil society with the opportunity to:

- Consider the ways and challenges that the global displacement crisis particularly affects women and girls
- Highlight the importance of women's participation to affect change in international policy and programming
- Discuss the international policy opportunities that seek to tackle global displacement, including the Global Compacts on Refugees and Safe Orderly and Regular Migration and the entry points for including women's voice

Significantly, at this event, a number of formerly displaced women gave testimony to their experiences of displacement. Purita Cuzme, a displaced community representative who was affected by the earthquake that struck Ecuador in April 2016, shared the following:

'My house collapsed in the earthquake. I came to a camp. We were living under corrugated iron. Life in the camp was very difficult indeed. We did not know many people. We were together but we didn't know each other. We did what we could to forge ahead. It's very difficult in temporary structures to forge ahead with life. You have to share bathrooms, there is no opportunity for employment... We needed to recognize the value of women. We needed to see that we could contribute. We women, began to organize ourselves, we undertook many activities together... these activities gave us a flame of hope... People asked ME for help!... I was able to give them advice and they were asking favors of me... Being in a camp and being a woman did not mean that I had to keep my mouth closed. Now the army has its ranks, but I have a voice and I have a great many things to say with that voice... I learnt that I deserve respect (Purita Cuzme).

In summary, this event raised many issues and called for member states and humanitarian organizations to; increase the levels of financial support to women's groups during humanitarian crisis and recognize that refugee women are resilient and when they are empowered to advocate for themselves it can be transformative.



Watch this
UN Event

- **NGO Committee on Migration**

Mercy Global Action at the UN recently joined the NGO Committee on Migration. In accordance with the United Nations Charter, the NGO Committee on Migration seeks to protect and promote the human rights of migrants.

The NGO Committee on Migration is comprised of NGO member organizations that focus on sub-themes in relation to migration such as: Follow-Up on the New York Declaration, Climate-Induced Displacement, Refugee Children, and Campaign Against Xenophobia and for Social Integration. These committees have been active in the thematic sessions and negotiations while the United Nations works towards a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; for example, UN Mission visits to Member States, oral and written statements and interventions during sessions, advocacy letters to Ambassadors, responding to issue briefs, and hosting events at the UN.



To read more about the activities of the NGO Committee on Migration. Visit this link!

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THEMATIC AREAS

Continued

DEGRADATION OF THE EARTH



• *Oceans Conference- June 5th - 9th*

The first Ocean Conference at the United Nations is currently convening to discuss imperative themes in order to reverse the decline of our world's oceans. The final draft "Call for Action" was published on May 26th and outlines state obligations and commitments for implementing SDG 14 on Oceans.



Read "Call for Action"



Watch the Oceans Conference

• *Mining Working Group Thematic Areas*

Mercy Global Action at the UN has been actively involved in the workings of the NGO Mining Working Group for the past five years. The NGO Mining Working Group acts as a coalition of NGO's working in collaboration with affected local communities. With advocacy at and through the United Nations, members address unjust and unsustainable practices of environmental and human rights as it pertains to extractive industries and other environmental degradation. In addition, they promote the usage of transparent international policies, national laws that heed international standards and obligations, as well as intervention as a means of addressing such injustices and violations.

This past month, the NGO Mining Working Group enhanced its strategic plan and will continue to focus on key issues such as the human right to water and sanitation, SDG implementation and monitoring, fracking, corporate accountability, and the gendered impact of environmental issues.

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USEFUL RESOURCES

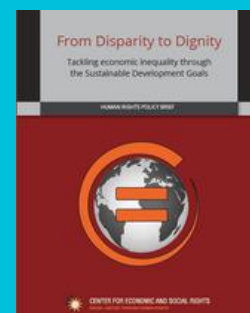
MGA at the UN Water and Ocean Reflection Series



UNICEF's Report "A Child is a Child: Protecting children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation"



Center for Economic and Social Rights "From Disparity to Dignity"



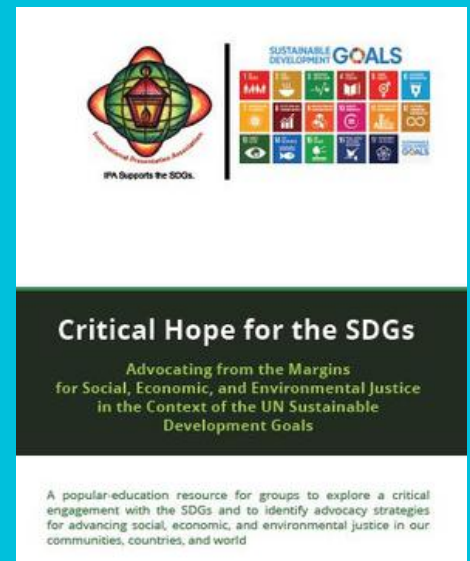
MIA Global Action's SDG 13 Pamphlet on Climate Action produced for World Environment Day



Update on the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- *This new justice publication is a must read! It explores the SDGs and strategies for effective economic, social, and environmental advocacy.*

-The International Presentation Association, in partnership with other NGO's at the UN, recently released "Critical Hope for the SDGs: Advocating from the Margins for Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice in the Context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals". This guide "is an instrument of justice...[and will] enable critical engagement with root cause analysis and rights-based advocacy at the local and national level" (pg. 4). Within this guide, readers will be endowed and enabled with the tools for empowerment and agency whilst working towards informed action and analysis of systemic development issues.



USEFUL RESOURCES

- The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), in collaboration with CARITAS International, produced a short informative video detailing ways civil society and other faith based organizations can incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals into their daily agenda, how to put them into action, and how to monitor their progress on a local, national, and global scale. To watch, just hover your cursor!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MGA at the UN will be attending

- **5 - 9 June: Ocean Conference.** United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- **June 19-20: Third Thematic Session For the Global Compact on Migration**
- **July 10-19: High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

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OFFICE NEWS

We also had a surprise visit from three Mercy Sisters from the Western province of Ireland.

Sisters Attracta Canny, Dolores Dugan and Attracta Tighe were in New York for another event and were curious to see our work here.

This chance meeting was an opportunity to share Mercy passion and we all enjoyed a comfortable cup of tea! (See image on the right)



L to R: Attracta Canny rsm, Bridget Crisp rsm, Attracta Tighe, Angela Reed rsm, Dolores Duggan rsm



Sr Rita Valade rsm spent May 22nd immersed in the work of Mercy Global Action at the UN. Although

Rita was aware of the presence of the Sisters of Mercy at the UN she had never had the opportunity to visit the Mercy Global Action Office. Rita will continue to collaborate with the office into the future. (Pictured on left).



L to R: Fr Joe Caddy and Fr Brendan Reed

On May 23rd, Fr Joe Caddy and Fr Brendan Reed, Diocesan priests from Melbourne, Australia, visited the MGA office in New York in order to gain a greater understanding of the advocacy work we undertake here on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy worldwide. Fr Joe is Episcopal Vicar for Social Services in the Melbourne Archdiocese. Fr Brendan is Parish Priest of Deepdene/Balwyn and Camberwell Parishes in Melbourne (Pictured on right).

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Greetings from the MGA office at the UN. Once again we have had a busy month preparing for and attending relevant meetings. Along with our day to day interaction with UN processes, this month we welcomed numerous international visitors. It was lovely to meet with Ms Catherine O’Kane, who is the Principal of All Hallows’ School, a large Mercy School in Brisbane, Australia. Catherine shared with us the vision and hopes for their school and likewise was able to hear about our Mercy Mission here at the UN. We discussed possible collaborations into the future.



L to R: Ms. Catherine
O’Kane and Ms Colleen
Cloonan

Source MGA UN



Source: MGA UN

L to R: Ms. Nicole Christensen, Sr. Angela Reed, Mr. Stephen
Walsh, Ms. Marie Wood, and Ms. Jacquie Magurren

We were also delighted to welcome other Mercy leaders from Australia including Principal, Mr. Stephen Walsh and Deputy Principal, Ms. Marie Wood who are from Our Lady of Mercy College in Parramatta, Australia. Joining them were Principal, Ms. Nicole Christensen from Monte Sant Angelo, North Sydney, Australia and Deputy Principal, Ms. Jacquie Magurren. Once again we had a robust conversation about our Mercy International Justice pursuits and the wonderful opportunities we have to collaborate with Mercy schools throughout the world. Our office looks forward to further networking into the future.

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THROUGH OUR ECOSOC* EYES...

MGA at the UN Participates in Review of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking

At the 64th Session of the General Assembly July of 2010, the United Nations adopted the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. This action plan stated the commitments of UN Member Delegations to end human trafficking in all of its forms through the implementation of measures to prevent, protect, prosecute, and promote strong partnerships for creating effective anti-trafficking obligations and legislation in their own country.

Within the Global Plan of Action resolution 70/179, the United Nations General Assembly agreed to convene a high-level meeting in September of 2017 in order to review the progress made on these commitments and address the gaps and challenges that countries have witnessed with implementation and construction of legal instruments. This year, Member Delegations have been convening to produce an outcome document, drafting both modalities and political declarations, which will be adopted at the opening plenary meeting in September.

On Friday, June 23rd 2017, the UN had a Multi-Stakeholder meeting with members of Civil Society regarding the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. This meeting marked an imperative segment of the review process with the engagement of Civil Society members; it gave an opportunity for NGO's to offer vast input from grassroots experiences working with survivors and also offer practical steps to move forward in the review process. Ambassador of Fiji Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly, remarked "Today's meeting is an important opportunity for the international community to hear directly from experts working across our world to prevent, address and respond to trafficking in persons".

Mercy Global Action at the UN is an active member of the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (CSTIP), which, with other members of Civil Society organizations, created an advocacy document detailing specific points that Member States should include within the review process of the Global Plan of Action. Advocacy points were presented on behalf of the NGO Committee by Sr. Winifred Doherty of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd. They include:

- **Adopt** an action oriented outcome document committing to the full implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically adhering to the requirements of Targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2.
- **Adhere** to the recommendations of the United Nations Global Plan of Action, specifically the universal ratification of the UN TIP Protocol.
- **Actualize** by December 2018 a robust review mechanism for the UN TIP Protocol, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- **Allocate** significant resources at the national and international levels towards prevention strategies and exit services to reverse what "constitutes a serious threat to human dignity, human rights, and development.
- **Address** demand. Without demand there is no trafficking of persons. Addressing this root cause is essential. Demand for high profits, cheap goods and labor, and commercialized sex is the driving force behind human trafficking.



Watch Session



Advocacy
Points



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DISPLACED PERSONS



- *Colleen Cloonan (MGA Intern) makes joint statement on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy (MIA) at important migration meeting in Geneva*



MGA at the UN's representative Colleen Cloonan (Intern) attended the Third Thematic Session on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration in Geneva June 19-20. The theme for the meeting was “international cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration”. The two-day session consisted of a variety of panels that presented an overview of best practices, policy gaps, and offered potential solutions to Member States on the subject of migration; an interactive exchange with criticisms, report between the Member States and Civil Society Stakeholders followed each panel. It is in the hopes of these discussions, Member States can come to a deeper understanding of the issues at hand from both a human rights and economic perspective in order to develop a stronger consensus on international migration.

Colleen Cloonan, along with Cecilie Kern of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, delivered a joint statement on behalf of both organizations at an informal dialogue with the Co-Facilitators of the Session, the Ambassadors of Mexico and Switzerland ([Read Here](#)). Some key components within their statement included: the “human rights of all must be upheld throughout the migration process, regardless of status”; “border management policies must be human right-based and gender and age-sensitive”; “authorities, including border agents, police, military and other security forces, must be held accountable for human rights violations, including exploitation and corruption”; and that “families should never be separated by policy enforcement, and children, including unaccompanied and separated children, should never be placed into detention or criminalized for their migratory status or that of their parents”.

In conclusion, some key outcomes of conversion, consensus and challenges from the Member States at the end of the Thematic Session were that more international cooperation is needed on a basis of borders, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration, and that the Global Compact on Migration must: uphold national sovereignty; support human rights; build upon existing frameworks; learn and develop best practices; consist of stronger data, monitoring, and evaluation; and use the International Organization on Migration (IOM) as a critical actor throughout the process.



L to R: Ms. Cecilie Kern and Ms. Colleen Cloonan

Three more Thematic Sessions remain this year before the Co-Facilitators will draft the Global Compact on Migration. Mercy Global Action at the UN stands committed to following and participating in these negotiations.

- *MercyFirst exhibition at the United Nations*

MGA at the UN attended an exhibition featuring the artwork of two MercyFirst projects "About Me" and "Hope Holds No Borders" within the halls of the United Nations. MercyFirst is a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy in New York that inspires hope and promotes healing for children and families ([link to website](#)). The images on display detailed a collection of drawings created by children refugees, migrants, and U.S. citizens participating in art therapy programs. The exhibition was well attended and was supported by the Permanent Mission of Mexico and Switzerland (co-facilitators of the negotiations on migration) and the UN TOGETHER campaign. Such beautiful work done by the children; and congratulations to all participating in this ministry!



Source MGA UN

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Continued



- *MGA at the UN attends first UN World Oceans Conference*

The speakers shared impactful experiences and wisdom. Quotes include:

- It is a **"heartbreak to be a witness of this degradation...we are up against some monumental challenges"**- Fabian Cousteau, Ocean Conservationist, and Documentary Filmmaker
- **"We are all connected to the sea and tied to its fate; listen to the ocean and hear what it's saying to us"**-Brian Skerry, National Geographic Photographer
- We must ask ourselves, **"Do we have the courage to face the realities of our time and allow ourselves to feel deeply enough that it transforms us and our future?"**-Chris Jordan, Artist, Photographer, Filmmaker "Midway"
- **"Reasons for hope? I am looking at it right now...now is the time to make a difference"**-Sylvia Earle, Marine Biologist, Explorer, Author, and Lecturer



Watch the Oceans Conference Plenary Meeting



- Inside the Oceans Conference Plenary Meeting in the General Assembly



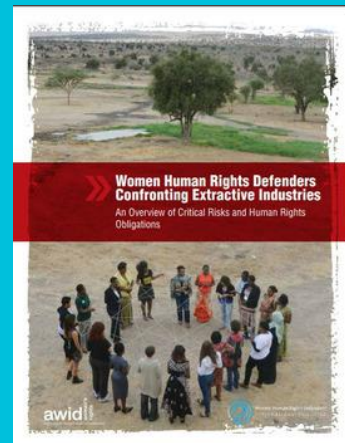
- An Exhibition at the UN was the whale tail made of beach plastic by the non-profit organization "Washed Ashore"

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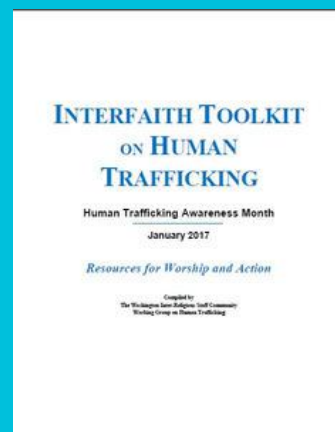
USEFUL RESOURCES

***MGA at the UN highly
Recommends***

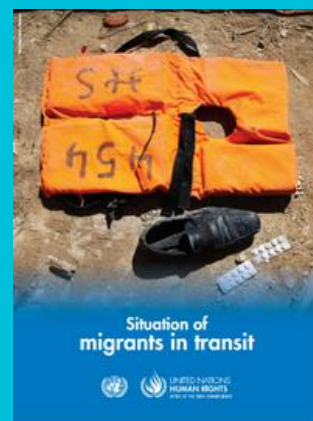
Women Human Rights Defenders confronting extractive industries



"Interfaith Toolkit on Human Trafficking"



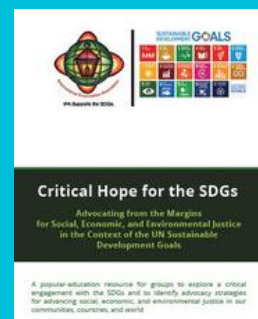
UNHCR's Report on the "Situation of migrants in transit"



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Update on the

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- **"Critical Hope for the SDG's": Unraveling Step 1. Imagine**

Since you have received the guide in the last newsletter, we will delve into the first tool for justice and advocacy of the Sustainable Development Goals--Imagine. When beginning advocacy for social, economic and environmental justice, it is imperative to truly understand the context in which it will be done. Therefore, when seeking to achieve action with the SDG's we need to understand development, understand the goals put forth by the United Nations, understand how various social movements have reacted to the SDG's, and understand how your vision and passion fits within these processes. Through reflecting and contemplating on this guide, notice the challenges and gaps that have already arisen in the development process either at a local, national or global level. Imagine what could be your next steps. Through discussion with other individuals, gather key insights, common themes, and differences. Learn from their own understanding of development and its challenges and seek to make the connections with the SDG's and its targets. "A risk of the format of goals and targets is that we may be distracted or become myopic focusing only on specific outcomes in one dimension of development or the other. This would keep us from identifying, exposing, and addressing the deep, structural changes that are necessary to eradicate the root causes of poverty, inequality, and violence." Stay focused and motivated on what you want to achieve. Stay tuned for a break down of "Step 2: See" in our next issue.



USEFUL RESOURCES

The "What is it?" series was produced by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as an informational tool to educate the public on human rights, the human rights council, and human rights treaty bodies. These important platforms can be used to teach and empower others to advocate for their own rights and know the mechanisms by which they are used. To view, click here to visit their YouTube channel and subsequent short videos.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MGA at the UN will be attending

- **July 10-19: High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: Reviewing Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, and 17**
- **July 24-25: Fourth Thematic Session For the Global Compact on Migration**

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Office News and Visits

CONTINUED...

It was a delight to welcome Mercy Sisters from the Philippines to the Mercy UN office. Sisters Virgencita (Jen Jen)Alegado RSM, Hilda Montecillo Jimenez RSM, and Rosie Maulas RSM were participants at the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Chapter in June and were in New York before departing home for the Philippines. In many ways it was a reunion, as Angela Reed RSM had lived with two of these sisters in Cebu, Philippines in 2008. The sisters enjoyed lunch together and then relished taking pictures at the UN office and sharing ideas about joining the dots and making links with their ministries. It was a wonderful afternoon and we send our blessings to all the sisters in the Philippines as we stand in solidarity with them during these difficult times.



Source: MGA at the UN
L to R: Sr. Virgencita, Sr. Hilda, and Sr. Rosie

INSIGHTS

CLAUDIA BROCK REFLECTS ON HER VISIT TO MGA AT THE UN

Throughout our year with the Mercy Volunteer Corps, my community and I have been involved in a variety of direct services. Whether it's providing information about college to a foster care youth, starting an immigrant's naturalization paperwork, or escorting children to a dance recital downtown, all six of us have been immersed into the realm of social services. So in May when my community and I had a chance to visit the Mercy Global Action office at the United Nations, it was interesting to learn about a different ministry the Sisters of Mercy are engaged in.

Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, certainly did plenty of both direct service and advocacy in her lifetime. She created a home for vulnerable women and children taking measures to care for and educate them. At the same time, she brought the plight of the poor to the forefront of the minds of Ireland's elite. I enjoyed hearing more about the modern day advocacy that the Sisters of Mercy undertake on behalf of people experiencing poverty. It was also interesting to hear how they work with United Nation diplomats to influence policy.

I was first introduced to the Sisters of Mercy when I attended a Mercy High School in Omaha, Nebraska. After a year with the Mercy Volunteer Corps I became aware of the many ministries of the Sisters of Mercy. The vast international scope of Mercy ministries only really began to sink in when I was looking at the map on the wall inside the Mercy Global Action office. This displays the international network of Mercy ministries. The name "Mercy Global Action" certainly makes sense with Sisters of Mercy working for human rights in 46 different countries around the world.

After our introduction in the Church Center we went across the street for an official United Nations tour. We visited different council chambers and learned more about the history of the United Nations and the role it plays in current global diplomacy. My favorite tidbit of the day was learning that the icon for the United Nations is the world drawn from the point of view of the North Pole, symbolizing that no country in particular is in the center and therefore no country is more or less important than others. Each country in the General Assembly gets one vote, regardless of size or wealth of the nation, making for a truly global community.

I think that this vision of all having equal say and equal importance is God's Kingdom on Earth. So often it is those with the most money or the most privileged that are given the most power and influence. But we are all God's children called to create a just world for one another, called to relinquish our privilege so that others may too have a voice. I've seen this through my work this year at a community center in the South Bronx and it was incredible to see the same idea being played out in an international arena.

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MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION AT THE UN



MERCY GLOBAL ACTION

Source: MIA at the UN

Contributors to this issue: Angela Reed RSM and Colleen Cloonan

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OFFICE NEWS

VISITORS FROM CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

Once again, the Mercy International Association (MIA), Global Action at the UN has had a busy month filled with preparing for and attending meetings, but also welcoming international visitors. Colleen Cloonan, Fellow at the MGA UN office, presented to students, teachers, and parents that arrived from Villa Maria College, a Mercy school in Christchurch, New Zealand. Colleen shared a background of Catherine McAuley's commitment to social justice and how this vision, intrinsically tied with the work being done at the grassroots level, guides the advocacy at the UN office every day. The group later had an opportunity to tour the United Nations building to learn more about the history of the international organization. We wish them the best as they continue their travels and studies and look forward to future collaborations! Look out for a reflection from one of the students in our upcoming issue!



Work at the UN is a ministry

- Work within the structures and processes of the United Nations System.
- Represent those rendered vulnerable
- Present facts, figures, experiences
- Build up relationships with Diplomatic Missions
- Influence Public Policy- UN Charter & UDHR.
- Gospel Vision

Source MIA at the UN

MIA AT THE UN COORDINATOR, ANGELA REED RSM DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO YOUNG MERCY LEADERS PROGRAM IN DUBLIN



Source: MIA



Click to read
Keynote here!

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THROUGH OUR ECOSOC* EYES...

The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The High-Level Political Forum is the primary platform for Member State Delegations and members of Civil Society to review their commitments and progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Each year, the HLPF will act as a follow-up mechanism for specific Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth in order to provide guidance and leadership, as well as discuss challenges and recommendations associated with achieving the goals. In addition, as per Paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States agreed to conduct Voluntary National Reviews each year; this year, 43 countries presented their outcomes (click here for more information). It is in the hope that through extensive reviews of the goals, both broad and on a national level, in addition to creating an inclusive setting for stakeholders to contribute their input, countries will be able to better facilitate the integration of social, environmental, and economic factors into their own agendas.

The theme the forum was "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". Delegates and relevant stakeholders convened from July 10th-19th at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to review:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

In addition to the Voluntary National Reviews and reviews of the SDG's, there were many side events conducted by Member State Delegations and members of Civil Society that honed in on the work being done at the grassroots level in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Many shared best practices, areas of collaboration, community participation and challenges they've faced. Others described whether or not NGOs across the world were aware of the SDG's or if their own countries were seeking to actualize the goals. As some of the responses to those questions were scattered, where do we stand two years after the implementation of Agenda 2030? It is evident that some progress has been made and countries continue to pledge their commitments, "internalizing SDG's into their strategies and planning processes, coordinating internally and among ministries...At the same time, there was broad recognition that challenges and risks ahead are daunting [environmental stressors, lack of social inclusion, inequality, as well as a lack of sufficient resources and funding], giving added weight to the need for strengthened solidarity, collaboration and coordinated action to ensure that no one is left behind" (President's Summary). With continued collaboration between UN Member States and Civil Society Organizations we can empower those to advocate for their human rights, demonstrate where there is need, what has been working, and what can be done.



2017 Spotlight
on the SDG's



Watch Sessions
from HLPF 2017



Read President's of the
General Assembly's
Summary of HLPF

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THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACED PERSONS



- *MIA at the UN, Global Action, Attends Fourth Thematic Session on Migration*

The Fourth Thematic Session aimed at establishing a Global Compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration was held from July 24-25th at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The theme for this session was the "Contributions of migrants and Diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits". Each panel at the session introduced imperative aspects of migration including topics such as contributions of migrants to sustainable development and remittances.



It is imperative that UN Member States commit to the actions stated in Issue Brief #4 ([click here](#)), maximizing the benefits and impact of migration especially with contributions to sustainable development and capacity building by means of social and cultural wealth, in addition to economic. Furthermore, remittances for migrants, as assumed, was subject of contention among Member States. Remittances should be cost effective and not considered as social

protection for migrants. Members of migration and diasporas, regardless of gender, should be included in financial inclusion and development within the host country.

- *First Multi-Stakeholder Meeting towards a Global Compact on Migration*

The first informal interactive multi-stakeholder meeting on migration brought new insights to the floor that were a benefit to the preparatory process for the Global Compact on Migration. This meeting gave civil society and other relevant stakeholders time to address issues and add insights and best practices that needed emphasis or weren't already mentioned during the previous thematic sessions.



Opening the meeting, Louise Arbour, the Secretary General of the intergovernmental conference on international migration, expressed the imperative role that Civil Society has on decision making but "most importantly, we need political support for the commitments made in the compact if we don't want to fail people on the move and the millions of others who depend on them. As we have learned from past experiences, ambitious frameworks, and even legally binding instruments, do not have any effect at targeting those in need if they are poorly ratified or lack implementation". While progress has been made, it is crucial that Civil Society calls upon Member States' commitments and bring forth the experiences of others as key determinants for policy.

- *Mercy International Association at the UN, Global Action, signs onto letter commending the Secretary General on Efforts to Stop Sexual Exploitation caused by UN Peacekeepers*



Over the past ten years, controversy has arisen regarding allegations against UN Peacekeepers and other personnel committing crimes of sexual exploitation and abuse - which have been known to be forms of human trafficking. Secretary General Antonio Guterres has remained committed to the UN's zero tolerance policy and has made intensive efforts to combat sexual exploitation, especially in these divisions. To commend his efforts, the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons wrote to the Secretary General and also offered some recommendations and ways to improve existing legislation on the subject. [Click to the left to read this letter.](#)

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Continued

July 20th marked the Third Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters entitled "Adaptation to Climate Change, Boosting Financing and Investment, and Advancing Science and Technology". This session was convened under resolution A/RES/71/222 of the General Assembly marking an International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 and recalls and reaffirms commitments of UN Member States to take steps to achieve internationally agreed goals in relation to water including the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

Solving water related issues is critical for sustainable development, as "lack of access to safe drinking water sources, basic sanitation and sound hygiene, water-related disasters, water scarcity and water pollution will be further exacerbated by urbanization, population growth, desertification, drought and other extreme weather events and climate change" (A/RES/71/222). Within the opening session of the meeting, Mr Wu Hongbo, the Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs stated "I am convinced that these initiatives, combined with other ongoing actions by the UN system, the business and civil society, will help induce and multiply innovative solutions to the water and disaster challenge. Water is life. Water is livelihood. Water is the bloodline of the ecosystem and water is future. Let us value and treasure it, as we value and treasure our children." It is imperative that we take these statements to heart, not lose hope, and use them as tools for advocacy to hold governments accountable.



Source UN Web TV



UN Women's Recommendations for addressing women's human rights in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration



Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene 2017 update, and SDG baseline

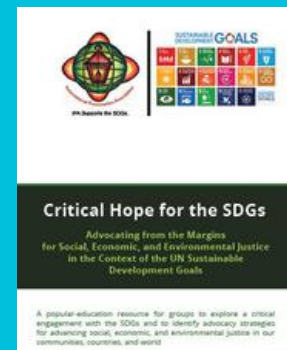


APT's Position paper on the global compact on migration: preventing torture of migrants



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Update on the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



• "Critical Hope for the SDG's": Unraveling Step 2: See

If you recall from the last newsletter, we analyzed the first step within "Critical Hope for the SDG's" --Imagine--as a tool for justice and advocacy. This issue will focus on the second step--See. To see and address the situation at the margins is critical before conducting advocacy work. Seeing helps "ground our analysis, priorities and action in lived experiences, gather information and assessments within a human-rights framework, identify the most marginalized or excluded, and empower those suffering injustices to identify as rights-holders and agents of change" (pg. 22). While we could always assume what we think is happening in an area, it is not always wise. Gather specific information and questions from those experiencing the situation at hand but also ensure that you have a basic understanding of certain public policy solutions already in place, in addition to the government's legal obligations, this can help guide your advocacy. Through seeing, individuals have the ability to register the current situation of human rights, the "level of disparities between groups, and whether things are getting better or worse" (pg. 23) within a particular community or country as a means to directly address them through international advocacy. We will continue on to "Step 3. Judge" in our next issue! Stay tuned!



USEFUL RESOURCES-'HEALING EARTH'

Our office highly recommends this very informative and challenging online resource that a colleague working within the NGO sector at the UN has brought our attention. Produced by the International Jesuit Ecology Project, Loyola University, Chicago, Healing Earth explores key concerns for our time through four critical lenses; Science, Ethics, Spirituality and Action. Divided into various chapters, this resource explores biodiversity, natural resources, energy, water, food and climate change through facts and reflection from a human rights, spiritual and ethical lens. This resource would be useful in secondary schools, tertiary institutions, community advocacy groups and for individuals seeking to understand more about the challenges facing our earth community. The Co-directors of the project state, 'The overall goal of Healing Earth is to help all of us grow into integral ecologists, people from every walk of life and region of the world who dare to imagine a healed Earth and are willing to put their hands, hearts and minds to the task'. (Click here!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MGA at the UN will be attending

- 4th-5th September - Fifth Informal Thematic Session for Global Compact on Migration
- 12th-25th September - 72 Session of the UN General Assembly
- 18th-24th September - Climate Week
- 27th-28th September - UNGA High Level Meeting on Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons

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ANGELA REED RSM DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and The Centre for Civil and Human Rights, Notre Dame University co-convoked a workshop on July 11, 2017. The one day workshop held at CRS headquarters in Baltimore, was aimed at formulating a comprehensive action-framework to prevent human trafficking.

The workshop entitled 'Taking a Step Back: Working Together to Prevent Human Trafficking' was webcast through Facebook Live enabling a wide and more diverse audience to participate. The keynote address by Sr Angela spoke to five areas:

- The importance of listening to Survivor Advocates,
- Challenging the dominant discourse on human trafficking,
- Exploring vulnerabilities to Human Trafficking over the Life Course,
- Exploring the Optimal Life Course Conditions
- An overview on why we must focus on prevention.

Following this address there were three initial respondents, who reflected on what they had heard and how it is relevant to their particular work and approach to human trafficking.

CRS/Protection, Lucy Y Steinitz

U.S Department of State, Office of Trafficking in Persons , Julie Short Echalar,

CRS/ From the field, Sanjana Das from India via Skype

The keynote and respondents can be viewed here:



Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative weekly 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: www.mercyworld.org/subscribe

MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



MERCY GLOBAL ACTION

Source: MIA GA UN

Contributors to this issue: Angela Reed RSM, Colleen Cloonan, Denise Boyle fmdm, and Grace Blackler

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NEWS FROM THE MIA GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE UN

As August is the height of summer in New York, the MIA Global Action Office at the United Nations had few visitors. This provided the opportunity to reflect on future directions and make preparations for the coming United Nations Calendar year. Many NGO committees took summer holidays in August, and once September arrived, faith-based organizations and other NGOs alike returned refreshed and ready to advocate for justice once again.

GRACE BLACKLER OF VILLA MARIA COLLEGE IN NEW ZEALAND REFLECTS ON HER VISIT TO THE MIA GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE AT THE UN

In the July school holidays a group of girls from Villa Maria College travelled to United States to get an insight on American commerce. A couple of days into the trip we were able to visit the Mercy Sisters work at the United Nations.

We had a presentation from Colleen Cloonan (Fellow, MIA) who discussed the works that the Mercy Sisters do with the United Nations. The presentation included a discussion about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These goals were adopted in 2015 in order to reduce and end the issue of global poverty, as well as, to protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. These goals involved social, environmental and economic implications for our world. As a group, we really enjoyed learning about these goals since this may impact our future, particularly the fifth goal on gender equality. Another part of the presentation included information on the global issue of human trafficking. We learnt about different ways of tackling this issue including through a human rights approach, law enforcement, and prevention. This was a great learning experience for us as we were able to learn what the Mercy Sisters do globally. We would really like to thank Colleen for giving us this amazing learning experience.

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THROUGH OUR ECOSOC* EYES...

MIA Global Action at the UN attends the Culture of Peace Forum

In September of 1999, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 53/243 the Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace. Along with other resolutions, this declaration became the motivation behind the UN-declared International Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010). Over the decades, through annual resolutions, the General Assembly emphasizes the universal implementation of this agenda.

On September 7th, the UN held its second High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace with a theme “Sowing the Seeds of the Culture of Peace: Early Childhood Development is the Beginning”.



To begin this year's forum, President of the General Assembly, H.E. Peter Thomson highlighted a quote by Mahatma Gandhi stating, “If we are to teach real peace in this world, we shall have to begin with children”. While it is important to have peace begin with children, it is also imperative that those children are able to grow up in a state free from violence. We need to first see our nation's leaders as champions and models of peace so that we can teach the children of the world “values of peace, tolerance, equality and respect” by example, not as an imaginary concept. Thomson emphasized that “to meet these challenges and sustain peace will require the very best of humanity. Fostering a culture of peace requires all of us

—individuals, nations and international organisations—to work together to promote understanding of our common humanity. We must promote intercultural respect, strengthen interreligious understanding, and inspire people's hopes for the future. Above all we must unite for peace.” In addition to his statement, Thomson encouraged the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a key model for promoting and sustaining peace in the world.

Keynote speaker, Betty Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate in 1976 and advocate for children, gave a heart rendering account of how she began her work towards promoting a world of peace for children. Reminiscing on a time in Northern Ireland with the "Troubles" and witnessing the death of three children in Belfast, she wanted to ensure that those children did not die in vain—she committed herself to a life advocating for peace and justice. Williams highlighted the importance of encouraging education for children's rights as well as the right for children to have a voice. With this, we can build future generations, cities, and a global culture of peace.

To view the September 7th High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace sessions at the United Nations, click the links below!

Watch Opening Session
& Plenary Discussion



Watch Panel Discussion
on "Sowing the Seeds of
the Culture of Peace:
Early Childhood
Development is the
beginning"



References: <http://www.un.org/pga/71/event-latest/high-level-forum-on-the-culture-of-peace/> & <http://www.un.org/pga/71/2017/09/07/opening-of-high-level-forum-on-the-culture-of-peace/>

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DISPLACED PERSONS



- *Angela Reed rsm attends the 5th Thematic Session on Migration in Vienna, Austria*

The 5th intergovernmental session working towards the 2018 Global Compact on Migration took place at UN Vienna on 4-5 September 2017. The focus of the two day session was smuggling and trafficking of migrants. Numerous NGOs and faith based organizations, including MIA at the UN, participated in the sessions.

The **issues brief** highlighted that in the absence of regular migration pathways, many migrants are subject to often perilous journeys and forced to engage a smuggler whilst seeking peace and safety. This can also result in migrants being trafficked. Reaffirming the New York Declaration, the issues brief highlights the importance of existing international instruments on preventing and combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of persons; two distinct but often interrelated problems. The brief also draws attention to the abuse and exploitation that many migrants face and calls for identification and support of victims of trafficking.

Over the two days, three panels explored particular issues related to the brief.

- Panel 1 – Smuggling of Migrants
- Panel 2 – Trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery
- Panel 3 – Appropriate Identification, protection, assistance to migrants and trafficking victims

Consisting of experts in the field, academics and long term policy advocates, the panelists provided information and perspectives that challenged often long held myths about smuggling, smugglers, traffickers and those experiencing trafficking. Key to the ongoing dialogue was an understanding of the nexus between trafficking and smuggling. Significantly, there was a strong call for better information and inter linkages about both phenomena, whilst at the same time recognizing the need to differentiate between the two.

Several member state delegations in responding to the panels called for a holistic response to the issue, with respect to human rights and attention to the 2030 agenda. Many maintained that migrants who are smuggled should not be criminalized and that there is a need to address the root causes of migration. Some States underlined the right to manage their borders and migration flows. This was often accompanied by a discussion on the need to realize the rights and protect the lives of migrants.

In the final session, thematic expert, Ms Joy Ngozi Ezeilo provided a synopsis of the main conclusions and outcomes. Key points made by Ms Ngozi Ezeilo included;

- The two crimes whilst distinct, often overlap
- States have a sovereign right to manage entry into their country but must respect human rights and international law
- We need more data to better understand the how and who is involved in both people smuggling and human trafficking
- Trafficking prosecutions remain very low, while the number of trafficking victims is high
- There must be a commitment to victim centered approaches
- We must confront the demand for goods produced through exploitation
- Using the term ‘modern slavery’ may detract from what we have enshrined in law i.e. human trafficking
- All policy actions must be guided by the international legal framework
- There is a need to look at how exploitation is an outcome of existing economic models
- State anti-trafficking policies must not impinge on the human rights of victims
- There should be more opportunities for safe migration

Finally, Ms Joy Ngozi Ezelo encouraged all stakeholders to be clear in their absolute rejection of exploitation in migration. Statements from the floor including member states and other stakeholders can be **accessed here**. A summary document with related outcome will be issued by the UN in the coming week.

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THEMATIC AREAS

Continued



DEGRADATION OF THE EARTH

• *Special Rapporteur calls for a Human Rights Framework for Water and Sanitation in the SDG's*

UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Mr Leo Heller, mandated the implementation and necessity of a human rights monitoring framework in a statement at a meeting with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Heller was asked to address the two organization's Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) for their recent publication titled "Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2017 update and SDG baselines". Heller conveyed his deep disappointment that in this latest report on water, sanitation and hygiene, no human rights language was incorporated. Sustainable Development Goal targets relating to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) must be guided by a human rights framework which is currently lacking in language and the agenda. As this was the first report on WASH and the SDGs, he expressed his hope that future editions will support and incorporate a human rights framework within their reporting and monitoring process.

Within his statement, Heller details that "the human rights to water and sanitation are one set among few rights mentioned in 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'" and "the adoption of the SDGs on WASH was a great achievement for those committed to the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation"; however, he "personally advocated for the Agenda to be aligned with the normative content of the human rights to water and sanitation and the principles of the human rights". While he wants to continue to coordinate and work with these influential organizations, Heller wants to ensure that they work collaboratively to "reach our common aim of providing universal, affordable, and safe access to water and sanitation to all". It is in the hopes that, in addition to the SDG's of water and sanitation, that all SDG's will be guided by similar human rights mechanisms. MIA GA at the UN advocated strongly for the human right to water to be named during the intergovernmental negotiations for the 2030 Agenda.

Read SR Leo Heller's statement made at the WHO/UNICEF Meeting



WHO/UNICEF's Publication "Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2017 update and SDG baselines"



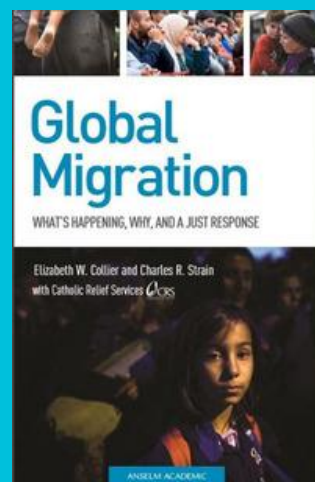
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USEFUL RESOURCES

Women's Earth & Climate Action Network International publication of "Women's Climate Action Agenda"



Catholic Relief Service's publication of "Global Migration: What's happening, why, and a just response"



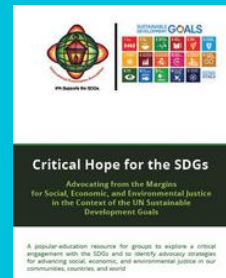
In light of the 'Season of Creation', MIA Mercy Global Action have published a pamphlet on "SDG 12"



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



• *"Critical Hope for the SDG's": Unraveling Step 3: Judge*

Last month's edition highlighted "Step 2: See". This honed in on ways to determine the specifics of an issue and disparities between groups as a means of grounding priorities for advocacy. "Step 3: Judge" calls upon our abilities of determining root causes as well as the risks and opportunities related to the Sustainable Development Goals. "You'll remember the focus of this guide is to promote advocacy before the State to improve public policy and practice. In this section, we want to assist your group to explore how the State is doing in terms of transforming the structural causes of the injustices we have observed." (Pg. 29). To ensure that we "judge" accurately, it is important to "address structural causes and not just symptoms [and] be aware of power imbalances influencing a situation" (pg. 26). Without these focal points, it is easy to lose sight of key factors which might be impacting a specific community or country. These factors include: economic, political, social, legal, ideological, historical, ecological, and theological/religious. But we must not forget that we are seeking out how states have put forth their own efforts. Therefore we may ask the following: Is the country proceeding through the proper processes or are there certain constraints beyond the states' control? Are there clear laws, policies, practices and resources in place? If this is not the case, there are benefits to using the international framework of human rights that has defined instruments to measure accountability, as well as requirements and objectives to expose inequalities. To analyze a state's actions, "Step 3: Judge" introduces a tool to help do so called a "Rights-based Litmus Test". This test utilizes an international human rights framework for "communities and policymakers to assess possible gaps and unintended consequences of sustainable development policies [while also integrating] environmental concerns and the rights of future generations" (Pg. 30). The test can be found on page 31; thoroughly examine each segment. Once completed, this tool operates as the final caveat for "Step 4: Act".



USEFUL RESOURCES

As Civil Society is an integral part of the work of the United Nations, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner releases weekly updates for Civil Society participation and inclusion in the processes. Included within the weekly updates are segments regarding invitations to webinars and events, meetings of treaty bodies, where special procedures experts are traveling and reports from these experts, Human Rights Council updates from UN Member States, news, and further resources! To subscribe and/or view the website, [click here!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIA at the UN will be attending

- 12th-25th September - 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly
- 18th-24th September - Climate Week
- 25th September - Side event titled "Children on the Move" co-sponsored by MIA Global Action at the UN
- 27th-28th September - UNGA High Level Meeting on Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons

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NEWS FROM MIA GLOBAL ACTION (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE)

August was a productive month for Sr. Denise Boyle fmdm (Leader of the Global Action Team) and Betty Lacey (Researcher, part-time). Denise ran sessions with the Mercy Ethos Pilgrimage Group from Australia and New Zealand, which evoked good discussion and interest in the Global Action (GA) programme. As there are few meetings during August, it was a good opportunity to catch up with reading, do some writing and prepare for upcoming events, as the following reflects:

- 1. Regular communication with Global Mercy Family** especially with members working in the areas of ‘Opposing Human Trafficking / Modern Slavery’; and ‘Cosmology / Eco-Justice’ Through this network ideas are exchanged, resources and programme reports shared, urgent issues of concern addressed and ‘meetings’ held via conference calls.
- 2. Issued UN SDG Pamphlet number 12:** ‘Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns’, to coincide with the beginning of the ‘Season of Creation’ on September 1st. This is number six of the series the MIA-GA Team are doing on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the central plank of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. (See "Useful Resources" on Page 4)
- 3. Submission to the Irish Citizen’s Assembly** who consider important issues facing Ireland’s future. During two weekends, the Assembly will discuss: ‘How the State can make Ireland a Leader in Tackling Climate Change.’ Conscious that many scientists and academics are making submissions, we focused on one specific issue related to Climate Change i.e. Plastic Pollution, recommending actions that are achievable at both personal and government level. ([Click here](#))
- 4. Season of Creation, September 1st – October 4th.** We are participating in this important season and sharing the valuable resources available on the MIA website: www.mercyworld.org. In 2015 Pope Francis invited everyone to join the Orthodox Church in celebrating this ‘Season’, as it focuses on the gift of creation and the urgent need for us individually and collectively to protect, respect, work and pray together, to preserve our ‘wounded’ world. Pope Francis and the Patriarch Bartholomew released a strong message on September 1st: *‘We urgently appeal to those in positions of social and economic, as well as political and cultural, responsibility, to hear the cry of the earth and to attend to the needs of the marginalized.....and to support the consensus of the world for the healing of our wounded creation.’*
- 5. Field Visits in the Western and South Central Provinces of Ireland in October.** Sr. Angela Reed from the NY office and Sr. Denise will visit these two Provinces using the opportunity to: a) Meet members of the Mercy Family; b) See their work for justice firsthand; c) Share the global GA Programme; d) Exchange ideas, strengthen collaboration and broaden justice networks.
- 6. Upcoming events:** Participate in meetings and conferences with the Irish coalitions focusing on: a) Migrants and Asylum Seekers; and 2) The Sustainable Development Goals.

MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



MERCY GLOBAL ACTION

Source: MIA MGA UN

Contributors to this issue: Angela Reed rsm, Colleen Cloonan, Denise Boyle fmdm, and Betty Lacey

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COLLEEN CLOONAN PRESENTS AT SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND AND FEATURES IN VIDEO

Colleen Cloonan, current Fellow at the MIA Global Action Office at the UN and '16 & '17 graduate of Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, returned to her Alma Mater October 11th and 12th to share about the work of the Sisters of Mercy at the United Nations and her experiences since starting last September.

The Mercy Center for Spiritual Life at the University invited Cloonan to speak the evening of October 11th on the work that the Sisters of Mercy do to defend the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees at the United Nations, in lieu of Pope Francis's week of prayer for refugees and migrants. She shared about the Sisters of Mercy's focus on addressing situations of the displacement of persons, the participation of MIA's Global Action office at the UN in the current processes for the Global Compact on Migration, and ways in which the University community can stay involved.

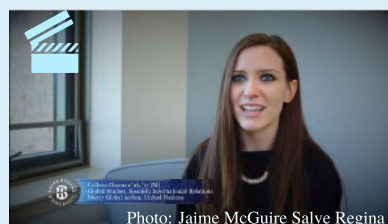


Photo: Jaime McGuire Salve Regina

Cloonan was also invited to address two of Dr. Jayme Hennessy's classes, "The Quest for the Ultimate" and

"University Seminar: Broken Halos". While she discussed her background at Salve Regina University and involvement in the work that the Sisters of Mercy at the United Nations, she also described the founding of the Sisters of Mercy and Catherine's teachings of poverty and how this has shaped the mission and ministry of their position at the United Nations. In addition, she guided the students on advocacy at the UN and its dimensions—first and foremost representing the experience of the most disadvantaged.

The two days ended on an encouraging note for students to continue their engagement with the social justice issues that the Sisters of Mercy advocate for at the UN and be an example for others. Congratulations Colleen!



Photo: Jaime McGuire Salve Regina

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THROUGH OUR ECOSOC* EYES...

UN Celebration for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

On October 17th, the MIA Global Action Office at the UN attended an event for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This year, marked an especially important year as it was the 25th anniversary since the General Assembly passed resolution 47/196 calling for an International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The event was organized by the International Movement ATD Fourth World who's founder, Fr. Joseph Wresinski, inspired the observance of the international day 30 years ago with a celebration of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty. On October 17th of 1987, Fr Wresinski gathered one hundred thousand people in Paris to witness this call to action of ending poverty, which has been recorded on the Commemorative Stone. He stated, "Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty." This year's theme reminded us all of the call to action that was pledged 30 years ago in addition to ensuring that a "Call of October 17 to end poverty: [is also] A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies".

Sponsored by the Member States of Burkina Faso and France, ATD Fourth World commemorated the day with a two fold program. Paramount to the program were the accounts of activists and human rights defenders from across the world sharing their own experiences of poverty, exclusion, humiliation, disrespect and marginalization within their own communities. While they shared stories of their trials, they also shared how their experiences were humbling. For example, one activist, Alex Begay detailed "the little we had, we offered to share". Their testimonies broke the silence of poverty and demonstrated the importance of upholding the dignity and human rights of each and every person.



Photo: MIA GA at the UN



Photo: MIA GA at the UN

The celebration for the day ended with musical accompaniment and a visit to the Commemorative Stone which now is located on the grounds of the UN. Members of the NGO community, delegations and secretariat alike gathered to share in the commitments made 30 years ago to end poverty and exclusion. In the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, we call upon respecting the human rights and dignity of each and every person as a means to ensure no one gets left behind.



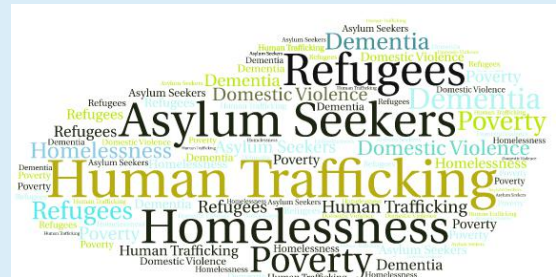
Watch ATD Fourth World's Event
Celebrating the International Day for the
Eradication of Poverty

Source: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty-homepage/idep2017.html>

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THEMATIC AREAS DISPLACED PERSONS



• *An Update on the Global Compact on Migration*

On October 12th and 13th, the United Nations office in Geneva held the last thematic session towards a Global Compact on Migration. This last session focused on "irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualification and other relevant measures".

In preparation for the session, the **Issues Brief**, produced by Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative for International Migration, with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), described the nature of irregular pathways of migration and ways in which Member States can work towards mitigating the challenges. Together, they sought to expose the interplay between the informal economy and irregular migration patterns and how specific labor migration policies can best address this overlap. Ms. Louise Arbour emphasized this in her **statement** during the opening session, along with the stark realities that full implementation requires multiple layers of cooperation between Member States at various levels.



Many faith based organizations and other NGO's were present to provide input for this last session, including members of the NGO Committee on Migration, in which MIA GA at the UN is a member. The NGO Committee on Migration submitted a **response to the Issues Brief** noting concrete examples for a human rights based approach to migration, as well as ways in which UN Member States must respond to enhance existing pathways of migration and labor mobility schemes. The response urged Member States to "protect the human rights of migrant workers... Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers...

Develop a Global Compact through which they commit to require that all employers institute ethical recruitment processes aligned with the ILO's International Recruitment Integration System... Keep in mind that the primary aim of readmission and reintegration processes should not be to deter re-migration... Implement non-discrimination policies... [and] Establish strong protections for all migrant workers". We aim that the compact directly responds to issues of human rights, sustainable development, the transit and destination of migrants, and the mobility of labor in a way that is both "actionable and accountable".

What are the next steps towards a Global Compact on Migration? As the consultations phase with thematic sessions have now come to an end, the Global Compact on Migration has now entered a stocktaking phase to take stock of the inputs of Member States and Civil Society that have been received during the consultation phase. The co-facilitators of the process, Ambassadors of Mexico and Switzerland, will then create a zero draft of the global compact which will be released in February of 2018. It is during this time that we hope to discuss our input and recommendations for the commitments detailed within the compact, as well as its implementation, directly with UN Member States to ensure their inclusion in the draft.



Watch Panel 1



Watch Panel 2



Watch Closing
Remarks

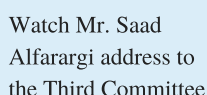
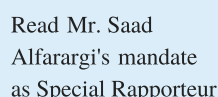
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Continued

- *MIA GA Office at the UN Meets with Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development*

Many members of Civil Society that were present expressed their concern of the power of the market and private sector in issues of development as well as the politicization of development. Angela Reed rsm addressed the Special Rapporteur detailing the mission of the Sisters of Mercy and how we must focus on people over profit. In addition, Sr. Angela offered the NGO Mining Working Group's "Water and Sanitation: A People's Guide to SDG 6" as a best practice to adhere to.



- *Keeping Our Eye on Extractives*

We highly recommend that you read this **linked dossier** produced by CIDSE, an international alliance of Catholic Development agencies working together for global justice. This **report** provides a comprehensive and compelling story on the impacts of extractives industries. This is a story that must be told.

At Mercy Global Action at the UN, we continue to work toward bringing these cases to the global table and working to ensure that multinational corporations are accountable for their actions. See also, Pax Christi's Position Paper on Extractives.



Photo: MIA GA at the UN

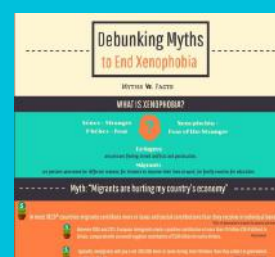
OXFAM's "An Economy for the 99%"



**UN Women & Center for
Economic and Social Rights:
Seeking Accountability for
Women's Rights through the
Sustainable Development Goals**



NGO Committee on Migration's "Debunking Myths to End Xenophobia"



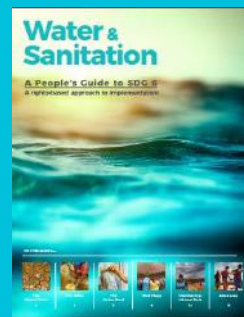
Pax Christi International Position Paper on Extractives in Latin America



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- ***Taking a Closer Look at SDG 6 "Water and Sanitation for All"***

For the next four issues of the newsletter the SDG focus will be on our recent publication “Water and Sanitation: A People’s Guide to SDG 6 – A Rights –based approach to Implementation. This guide was produced to enable readers to ‘dig deep’ into the significant global issue of water and sanitation with a particular focus on SDG 6 : Water and Sanitation for All. Interpretation of SDG 6 is guided by the Preamble to the 2030 Agenda which explicitly recognizes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. Former UN Deputy Secretary General, Jan Eliasson congratulated Member States for acknowledging water as a human right. He claims, ‘Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation are not only essential human rights, but are integrally linked to broader efforts to provide well-being and dignity to all people. I commend Member States for recognizing the right to water and to sanitation in the 2030 Agenda and for adopting Sustainable Development Goal 6 to realize it’.

The Guide begins by reminding the reader that in order to be true to the global pledge of ‘leaving no-one behind’, SDG 6 must have a rights based implementation. This means: Preventing the commodification of water, Increasing public finance and Promoting commons- based Water Resource Management. The Guide is divided into six sections which include: The Water Crisis, The SDG’s, The Water Goal, Red Flags, Monitoring through the use of a Litmus Test and Advocacy. Each of these sections explores the above issues in some detail.

The issue we will focus on for this edition of the newsletter is the section entitled “The Water Crisis” (P.3). In this section, the reader is given an overview of current water issues and policy decisions that have led to the unsustainable use of water, the unjust distribution of water and inequitable access to water. Attention is drawn to the interests of powerful private interests to the detriment of human rights. A Case Study in which the human right to water and sanitation is violated is cited. There is also a discussion of the implications of trade deals and investment treaties which ‘restrict state sovereignty and policy space to make decisions and uphold their human rights obligations. See Spotlight on Investor-State Dispute Settlements: El Salvador. This section concludes with a clear call for correcting systemic policy failures and focusing on water justice. Click above to read the guide.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Do you want to learn more about ways to address climate justice, finance and development, just food, business and human rights, and ways to rethink development from a Catholic Social Teaching perspective? Follow CIDSE, the International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity, an international alliance of Catholic development agencies. [Click here for more information!](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MIA at the UN will be attending

- **14th November- Sr. Angela presenting to the Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons**
- **25th November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**
- **25th November - 10th December -16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence**

NEWS FROM THE

MIA GLOBAL ACTION (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE)

It was a busy yet productive month as outlined below. Betty Lacey was on leave for two weeks during this period.

1. 'Field Visits' to Western and South Central Provinces in Ireland

The Global Action Team conducts a 'field visit' in different parts of the MIA world each year. This visit has a threefold aim: to meet the Sisters and Co-workers; to hear about and see firsthand their work for justice; and to share the Global Action programme, which includes highlighting the justice issues being addressed at the UN, on behalf of the Mercy Family. In October Sr. Denise Boyle fmdm, MIA-Global Action office in Dublin, was joined by Sr. Angela Reed rsm from our office in NY, for two field visits in Ireland, the first was to the Western Province and the second to the South Central Province. Both visits proved to be inspiring, informative and most enjoyable. Download the report that was recently published in Mercy E-News **here**.

2. Meeting with John Weakliam and Ciara Feehely of 'VITA' Fighting Hunger and Climate Change in Africa'

On behalf of MIA-GA Denise Boyle had a productive meeting with John Weakliam, CEO, VITA and Ciara Feehely, Head of Communications on 26th October. VITA is a development NGO that works to address food and energy security, plus agricultural development and climate change in the Horn of Africa. The programme is developed one village at a time, with villagers committing to share their newly acquired skills with the next village and so on, proving to be an effective and sustainable development model. Simultaneously VITA has established strong partnerships in a number of countries, facilitating exchange of best practice and the sourcing of financial support for the project. The Mercy Sisters of the Western Province in Ireland are working in partnership with VITA in Ethiopia. Following the meeting Denise agreed to work with the VITA Team, to develop significant partnerships that could assist in extending the VITA programme into other African countries. <http://www.vita.ie/>

3. 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, November 25th – December 10th.

In preparation for this important international event, we have been working on preparing a focus for each day of the campaign. With our colleagues in the 'Future We Need' (an Inter-Congregational justice group) we have prepared drafts that start on the first day with 'The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women' and ends on December 10th with 'The UN International Human Rights Day'. The resources will be uploaded prior to Nov 25th to www.mercyworld.org

NEWS FROM THE MIA GLOBAL ACTION (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE)

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

On October 17th, the ‘UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty’, Betty Lacey on behalf of Mercy Global Action, attended an event in Dublin to mark this day. Participants gathered at the Poverty Stone on Custom House Quay where in 2008 a commemorative stone was unveiled here in Dublin. This coincided with the worldwide initiative to end poverty, which was inspired by Fr. Joseph Wresinski 30 years previously in Paris.



This year the theme of the Eradication of Poverty event focused primarily on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Goal 1 “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”. Mercy Global Action were keen to participate in this event as we had worked on the development of the SDG Agenda. Currently the Global Action Team is producing a series of pamphlets on the goals. An introduction pamphlet to the SDGs can be accessed [here](#). SDG 1 concentrates on poverty and is entitled End Poverty for All while Goal 2 is entitled Freedom from Hunger. The pamphlet covering both can be accessed at this [link](#).

As part of the celebrations at the Quay, seventeen “Global Mini boats of Hope” were launched on the River Liffey. These boats were built by communities and schools from across the country and each one represented one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Every boat was accompanied by a statement of hope, read by one of the school children or community members as they were launched.

Speeches followed including one from MR. Micheal MacDonnacha, Lord Mayor of Dublin. H.E. David O’Donoghue, former Irish Ambassador to the UN addressed the audience about the hope and responsibility generated by the 2030 Agenda. Having shared the role of co-facilitator with Kenya on these intergovernmental negotiations, O’Donoghue was in a key position to give a passionate talk on the importance of the SDGs. A minute’s silence was then observed to pay homage to all the victims of poverty, as these facts reflect:

- 22,000 children die each day due to poverty (UNICEF)
- 27-28% of all children in developing countries are underweight or stunted



Photo: MIA GA International Centre

The minute’s silence was followed by music and pertinent songs highlighting the seriousness of the event.

Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative weekly 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: www.mercyworld.org/subscribe

MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



MERCY GLOBAL ACTION

Source: MIA MGA UN

Contributors to this issue: Angela Reed rsm, Denise Boyle fmdm, and Colleen Cloonan

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GA OFFICE
INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE

NEWS FROM THE MIA GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE UN

MIA GLOBAL ACTION AT THE UN SIGNS ON TO TWO STATEMENTS



International Day
of Peace



Making the Global Compact
on Refugees Work for All
Women and Girls

ANGELA REED RSM VISITS CARLOW UNIVERSITY, PITTSBURGH ON THE EVE OF MERCY DAY

It was a privilege to visit Carlow University in Pittsburgh. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, whose first US mission was to Pittsburgh, the university carries a strong legacy of seven bold Mercy women in 1843 responding to a call to serve beyond their Irish shore. Sr Sheila Kearney rsm was a warm and welcoming host who is proud of the Mercy Heritage at Carlow. She provided a wonderful overview of the sisters contribution to the local Pittsburgh Community and the ways in which this legacy lives on.

As part of Founders week celebrations at Carlow, Angela was invited to present an overview of the work of Mercy International Association, Mercy Global Action at the UN. The Carlow Community, comprising Students, teachers and sisters of Mercy were enthusiastic about Mercy's contribution to the

global agenda and engaged in an interesting discussion on water, fracking, human trafficking and human rights.

MIA GLOBAL ACTION AT THE UN INVITED TO LUNCHEON AT THE HOLY SEE MISSION

On Wednesday 27 September, Angela Reed rsm and Colleen Cloonan represented MIA at the UN at a reception hosted by the Holy See Mission Office. Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Papal Nuncio to the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN extended the invitation to engage in a conversation with His Excellency Archbishop Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See. The reception was very welcoming, informative, and a great opportunity to dialogue



Source: MIA MGA UN

with Archbishop Gallagher who expressed high regard for religious sisters whose collective efforts have supported victims of trafficking and exploitation. Angela Reed rsm had the privilege to personally

address His Excellency on the work of religious NGOs at the UN and contributions to particular themes such as human trafficking and the displacement of persons. Angela Reed rsm emphasized that as religious NGOs "We believe in the human dignity and human rights of all people...[and] our faith in a God of Mercy impels us to act, to speak out, to work to ensure that we look at every global policy issue through the lens of the most disadvantaged".

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MGA UN COORDINATOR: SR. ANGELA REED RSM PHD E: MERCYREP@MERCYINTERNATIONAL.IE

THROUGH OUR ECOSOC* EYES...

MIA Global Action at the UN attends the Review of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

September 27th and 28th marked the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly for the appraisal of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Every four years the progress, achievements, gaps, and challenges are assessed by UN Member States and Civil Society Stakeholders in order to adopt a Ministerial Declaration. ([click here](#))

Opening the first session, President of the General Assembly, H.E. Miroslav Lajčák stressed that in order to work collaboratively to eliminate trafficking in persons. He called for Member States to pledge to respect the human rights of everyone. This can be done by taking a survivor centered and human rights approach. In addition, he stressed prevention efforts must work towards addressing root causes, because we see a stark chasm between peace and war, migration, and human suffering. He also claimed that we must open our eyes and protect those that are the most vulnerable, as too often there is a lack of regard for those experiencing poverty, human rights violations and issues of food security. Lastly, he stated that it is imperative that the international community works toward the realization of the 2030 Agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goals 5, 8, and 16. Ending his statement, Lajčák detailed that "trafficking knows no borders"... "we have made progress but we have much further to go. Our goal is zero trafficking. Let us commit to stronger cooperation for decisive global action. Let us leave the abhorrent trade in human beings in the past forever!" To read his full statement click [here](#).

Key to the discussion at the opening segment of the meeting are the voices of those survivors of human trafficking. Ms. Grizelda Grootboom, a civil society representative and survivor of human trafficking, shared her story. It was a profound and moving moment. When speaking about her trafficker she said 'She took my hope and turned it into a nightmare...'. She described her circumstances of being exploited for sexual exploitation, she spoke of her loss of dignity, her inhumane treatment. She said, "I didn't have an identity and everyone knew my nudity...". Now, while she will never forget these horrors of her past, she feels blessed to be alive and feel alive. You can listen to Grizelda's address to the UN [here](#), starting at (34:32).



The second panel discussion focused on "effective partnerships for the protection of and assistance to victims...also taking into consideration the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals". Members of Civil Society were invited to provide insight and best practices. At this session, a powerful intervention was delivered by Sr. Winifred Doherty of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd who accentuated the priorities of "addressing root causes...examining and unmasking the links between trafficking and policies related to economic justice, violence against women, discrimination against the girl child...recognition that women, girls and children are disproportionately affected, and the commitment to intensify efforts to eliminate DEMAND". She also highlighted the "Optimal Life Course Course Conditions" of Dr. Angela Reed rsm of Mercy International Association, Global Action at the UN, as a promising model for UN Member States to incorporate into their policies. The "Optimal Life Course Conditions" "recognizes that the interplay between the personal life story and systemic oppression renders persons vulnerable to human trafficking...[and] could be fully realized with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, eliminating vulnerabilities to traffickers and restoring dignity and hope to already-exploited persons". To watch Sr. Winifred's intervention click [here](#) (56:58).

Furthermore, at these sessions, some UN Member States and Permanent Observer Mission's emphasized and reaffirmed the important work done by religious communities around the world, particularly the work done by Catholic Sisters at the grassroots level. This was a significant remark and achievement for all as people of faith, people of Church, and ultimately people of hope. We are confident that through collaborative efforts across our Church, we can work for a better world in which each human being can flourish and live to their full potential. To hear some of these remarks by UN Member States watch at **34:32** and **1:03:39**.

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THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACED PERSONS



- ***MIA MGA at the UN Co-Sponsors and Participates in Trafficking Side-Event***



Source: UN WebTV

On Monday September the 25th, Mercy International Association, Global Action at the UN, co-sponsored an event at the United Nations, entitled, 'Children on the Move: Preventing Child Trafficking by Implementing the UN Global Plan of Action'. This event was strategically timed, as it was held two days prior to the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

It was a great privilege to have H.E. Jorge Skinner-Kleen, Ambassador of Guatemala and H.E. Kornelios S. Korneliou, Ambassador of Cyprus, co-sponsor the event and address all present. Central to the panel discussion were strategies to prevent child trafficking and a focus on the particular vulnerabilities of children on the move. It was acknowledged that at this time of mass global displacement, unaccompanied minors and homeless children are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. Angela Reed rsm was a panelist and stressed three points: 1) Prevention is key, 2) Trafficking survivors must contribute to global policy and practice 3) The Global Plan of Action on human trafficking must be integrally related to the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Moderated by Salesian Father, Tom Brennan, the event was well attended by representatives of Member States as well as Civil Society. A link to the webcast version can be viewed [here](#).



Source: MIA MGA UN

L to R: Yu Ping Chan, H.E. Kornelios S Korneliou, H.E. Jorge Skinner-Kleen, Angela Reed rsm, Dr. Vasileia Digidiki, Fr. Thomas Brennan, Ms. Jayne Bigelson, Mr. Kieran Gorman-Best

- ***The NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (CSTIP) Produces Educational Advocacy Sheets***

The NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons has three working groups advocating for justice in human trafficking. Members of the three working groups, including Forced Labor, Corporate and Social Responsibility and Sexual Exploitation, produced information sheets containing case studies, survivor stories, and recommendations. These Advocacy points are shared with UN officials, Member States, Individuals, Communities, and businesses. To read, click the photos below!



Forced Labor Working Group Information Sheet



Corporate and Social Responsibility Working Group Information Sheet



Sexual Exploitation Working Group Information Sheet

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THEMATIC AREAS

Continued



DEGRADATION OF THE EARTH

• *MIA Global Action at the UN Attends Event Moderated by Former President Mary Robinson*

On September 18th, Angela Reed rsm and Colleen Cloonan, attended an event titled "Modern slavery in the Americas: From here to elimination" hosted by the Business and Human Rights Resource Center at the Roosevelt House in NYC. While the conversation was directed towards tackling modern slavery and human trafficking in industries around the world, the Resource Center wanted to recognize that, "modern slavery is the sharp edge of a far more endemic problem: deep inequality that leads to widespread exploitation of workers, many of whom are migrants and refugees who face intimidation in a climate of growing xenophobia". Speakers highlighted the importance of due diligence throughout the supply chain as well as buying food from transparent and ethically sound companies that have made commitments to stop slavery.

Keynote speaker, Leonardo Sakamoto-journalist, director of NGO Reporter Brasil, and TIP Person of the year- spoke about his efforts educating individuals across Brazil by providing financial and technical support for communities vulnerable to forced labor. We, ourselves, must take a stand against companies that are not meeting ethical requirements and commitments, including food and clothing companies. **What is your footprint?**



L to R: Beth Blissman, Sheila Smith, H.E. Mary Robinson, Angela Reed rsm, Colleen Cloonan

Source: <https://business-humanrights.org/en/modern-slavery-in-the-americas-from-here-to-elimination>

• *NGO Mining Working Group Sub-committee Meetings*

MIA Global Action at the UN are members of two sub-committee's within the NGO Mining Working Group focusing on issues surrounding Corporate Accountability and the Human Right to Water.

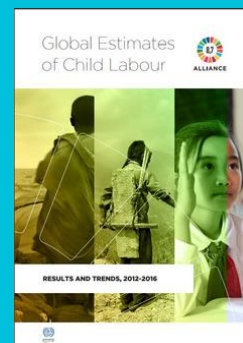
Key outcomes from sub-committee meetings this month involve following the UN treaty process on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. A particular focus will be: the intergovernmental sessions in Geneva in October 2017, the UN Global Compact, and specific cases of human rights and mining violations. Furthermore, the group seeks to provide input regarding the meeting of the High Level Water Panel at the UN Headquarters that happened this past week in New York. Many of the materials and outcomes will be highlighted at next year's High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development focusing on UN Member States that will be submitting Voluntary National Reviews.

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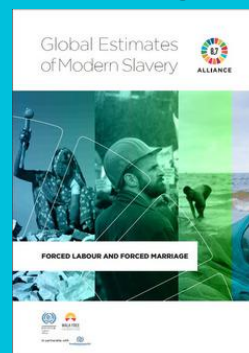
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USEFUL RESOURCES

Global Estimates of Child Labor: Results and Trends 2012-2016



Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labor and Forced Marriage



NGO Committee on Migration's "Climate Induced Displacement" Pamphlet



IOM Online Bookstore : "Migrant Smuggling Data and Research: A global review of emerging evidence basis"

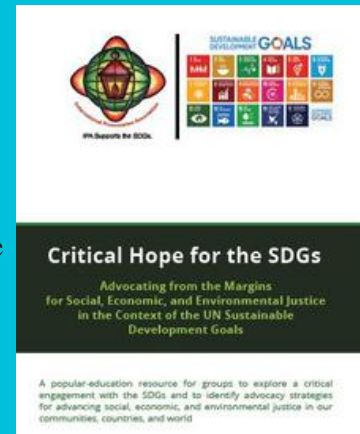


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- **"Critical Hope for the SDG's" Step 4: Act**

As we reviewed within the last section "Step 3: Judge", there are certain ways in which we can enhance our abilities of judging a situation, one for example, can be determined through using a "Rights-Based Litmus Test". Applying these skills with an international human-rights framework can assist us in "Step 4: Act" where we must tie together all of the previous steps to formulate successful action and advocacy for justice.

So what does 'action' truly include? Remembering that this guide primarily focuses on grassroots advocacy before the state, actions must "be designed to pressure those actors with influence over a situation to make the structural changes necessary to address social and environmental injustices" (pg. 33). First, we must monitor and gather the relevant information learned within the previous steps; this may mean going back to "SEE and JUDGE steps and going deeper, seeking out additional sources of information and expertise" (pg. 34). Second, mobilize those that are going to be the voice for your cause and begin raising awareness; this can include reaching out to schools or even organizing workshops and forums. Third, use direct advocacy. Direct advocacy comes in many forms such as appeals through social media or requesting meetings with relevant officials. Fourth, work towards international 'boomerang' advocacy which includes partnering with allies and networks within the UN system or even write a submission for an upcoming UPR process. Fifth, it is important to gain the public opinion; write letters to the editor, educate journalists on the subject and host debates. Lastly, evaluate your results and continue the good work! While this is the last step within the advocacy process, advocacy for justice does not stop here. For more learnings on issue specific advocacy, such as for health or the environment, "A Critical Hope for the SDG's" has just what you are looking for! Continue your efforts for other causes and give support and guidance to educate others.



USEFUL RESOURCES

The International Organization on Migration's innovative campaign IOM X, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) produced a series of educational fact sheets to provide insight on safe and regular migration to encourage public action against trafficking in persons.

- [Who are human traffickers? \(Click\)](#)
- [Debt Bondage \(Click\)](#)
- [Forced Begging \(Click\)](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIA at the UN will be attending

- **5th - 13th October - MIA Field Visits in Ireland**
- **11th October - International Day of the Girl Child- UN HQ**
- **11-12th October - Presentations at Salve Regina University**
- **17th October - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty -UN HQ**

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NEWS FROM THE

MIA GLOBAL ACTION (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE)

1. The MIA-Global Action (GA) ‘Cosmology / Eco-justice Working Group’ met via conference call on Thursday, 14th September. Twelve members from Australia, South Africa, Ireland, Newfoundland and the United States discussed their activities and future plans.

2. Workshop on Asylum Seekers Right to Work, 21st September, was timely following the Irish Supreme Court ruling in March 2017 that asylum seekers living in ‘Direct Provision Centres’ were deemed to have the right to work. Speakers reflecting on this life-changing ruling for those denied the right to work, sometimes for as long as nine years: included: Catherine McGuinness, former Supreme Court Judge; Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and Christiana Obaro, an Asylum Seeker Resident at Mosney Direct Provision Centre. They all referred to the loss of dignity and psychological problems caused by the denial of the right to work. A disturbing fact revealed that most European Countries whilst claiming to allow asylum seekers to work after six months ‘ring fence’ this with many restrictions, thereby making it very difficult to gain access to the work force!

3. Workshop on ‘Culture, Faith, Cohesion – Moving from Tolerance to Inclusion’ was organised by the Inter-Faith Forum. Government and local authority personnel together with politicians, faith community leaders and representatives from the NGO Community listened to examples that successfully challenged prejudice and intolerance. These reflected the positive consequence for communities and cities, when there is genuine dialogue and an acceptance of diversity, culture and religion. It is recognised that faith communities play a unique role in forming a new kind of citizenship that is based on trust and acceptance. Cities welcome new citizens differently, which in turn facilitates the integration of ethnic and religious diversity and determines how they deal with political challenges and differing economic status.

www.dublincityinterfaithforum.org

4. Meeting with Ms Caroline the Deputy Director of the UN’s Regional Information Centre to discuss the promotion of the SDGs. As members of the ‘SDG Coalition 2030’ we heard how many European countries are implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On September 25th we participated in an event in the city, to commemorate the second anniversary of the passing of the UN SDGs by 193 Government Leaders

at the UN. We marched with banners encouraging the Irish Government to continue to ‘lead the way’ along the River Liffey from Rosie Hackett bridge, finishing at the famine memorial. This highlighted the urgent need to eradicate global poverty and homelessness, in the context of the biggest global, mass movement of migrants since WW11.



Source: Denise Boyle

NEWS FROM THE

MIA GLOBAL ACTION (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE)

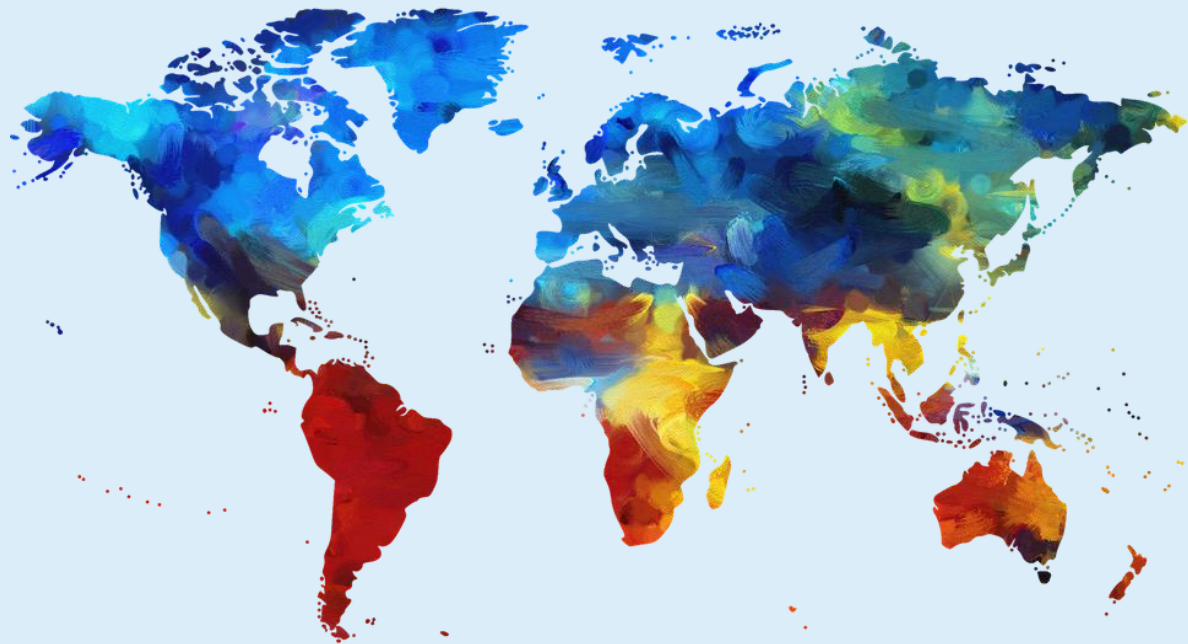
5. Future We Need (FWN) group met to discuss their programme of action. This is an inter-congregational group comprising participants from the Columbans; Franciscans; Mercy Family; Presentation; and Salesian orders or institutes. A short term action agreed by the group is to work on a series to coincide with the upcoming 'UN 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence'.

6. MIA-GA is supporting the Campaign of 'People4Soil' who are calling on the European Commission to pass a Soil Directive to safeguard soils. Soil is valuable and a precious natural resource that we depend on for healthy food, clean water, storing carbon, preventing floods, and ultimately supporting all life. Despite this over the last half century, Europe's soils have come under increasing threat from pesticides, afforestation, land use changes, over-farming, erosion and overgrazing, industry and urbanisation. And soil is essentially non-renewable...

7. Season of Creation, September 1st – October 4th

As in previous years MIA-Global Action has participated in this important worldwide event, focusing on the theme: "Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor" from Pope Francis' global letter 'Laudato Si', paragraph 49. We are united with Christians worldwide to pray and take concrete action, to raise awareness of the threats to Earth and to care for creation. See valuable resources for the Season.

http://mercyworld.org/news_centre/view_article.cfm?loadref=1&id=1805



Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative weekly 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: www.mercyworld.org/subscribe

MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



MERCY GLOBAL ACTION

Source: MIA MGA UN

Contributors to this issue: Angela Reed rsm, Colleen Cloonan Swain, Denise Boyle fmdm, and Betty Lacey

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NEWS FROM THE MIA: MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE UN

COLLEEN TIES THE KNOT!

A huge congratulations to our office 'Fellow', Colleen Cloonan who married Austin Swain on Friday, November 17th! Surrounded by their loving family and friends, Colleen and Austin were married in a moving wedding ceremony at Sts Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Hoboken. A beautiful reception followed at the Hyatt Regency in New Jersey overlooking the Manhattan Skyline. We wish Colleen and Austin all the very best as they journey together into the future.



Images: Colleen Cloonan Swain



Wishing you all a joyous Advent season and a happy and healthy New Year! May this reflective time inspire us to continue to do God's own work for justice and peace within our world and in our own hearts.

"May the light that we celebrate this coming Christmas help us to see, to widen our vision to all the ways that God shows up in darkness and in daylight. When you have need of it, may you find a welcoming fire and shelter in the shadows, and may you offer these in turn." -Jan L. Richardson *Through the Advent Door: Entering a Contemplative Christmas*

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THROUGH OUR ECOSOC* EYES...

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

On November 22nd, the United Nations hosted an event in the Economic and Social Council Chamber commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is celebrated on November 25th. This year's theme was "Leaving No one Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls". Identified within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations strives to uphold its commitment to the empowerment of women and girls. Violence against women happens every day throughout the world and is a stark violation of human rights. Yet, on the other side, women and girls around the world have the right to live free of violence.

In a powerful remark at the event, Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, detailed the alarming statistics that are rupturing every community and how "violence against women is a major barrier to the fulfillment of human rights, and a direct challenge to women's inclusion and participation in sustainable development and sustaining peace...[while] initiatives should help us deliver transformative change...more needs to be done. We need strong political will, increased resources and coordinated action. Violence against women is fundamentally about power. It will only end when gender equality and the full empowerment of women will be a reality." To read his full statement click [here!](#)



Watch the UN event [here!](#)

We are encouraged to rise up and speak out against all forms of violence and human rights abuses against women and girls.

Ways to Engage in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

• *The Secret Slaves of the Middle East*

This 45 minute documentary produced by Al Jazeera is a very confronting video that depicts young women being exploited as domestic workers in Lebanon. It exposes the way in which people with resources exploit those rendered poor and features numerous young women sharing their stories of racism, sexism, classism and other forms of marginalization. Worth watching to gain insight into the ways in which young women are being treated as modern day slaves.

• *OXFAM Video "What She Makes"*

OXFAM's video "What She Makes", in addition to the "What She Makes pledge", was produced as a means of advocacy to tackle poverty and exploitation within the fashion industry. We all buy clothes. Many women who participate in these sectors do not receive a living wage and even risk their lives speaking out. We must be mindful of the brands we buy and ensure that those who are making our clothes are paid a living wage and the corporations are held accountable.

• *"16 Days 16 Stories"*

Watch MIA: Mercy Global Action at the UN's 2016 Campaign "16 Days 16 Stories" produced for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

• *Nadia Murad Book Release at the United Nations*

On November 11th, Nadia Murad, Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) presented her new book, *The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity, and My Fight Against the Islamic State*. Watch UN event [here!](#)



• *Spotlight Initiative EU-UN*

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the European Union, partnering with the United Nations, are investing in a global initiative that primarily focuses on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls. This multi-year initiative aims to respond "to all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic labour exploitation". To read more click [here: www.un.org/en/spotlight-initiative](http://www.un.org/en/spotlight-initiative)

• *MIA: MGA & 'Future We Need' 16 Leaflets*

Developed a resource of 16 leaflets for the campaign. Read more on page 6.

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THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACED PERSONS



- *'How and Now: Ten ACTS for the Global Compact'*

As recently published in Mercy E-News, Mercy International Association, Mercy Global Action at the UN is a member of the NGO Committee on Migration. Much of our work this year has focused on participating in UN migration meetings and contributing to the Global Compact on Migration which is to be adopted in 2018.

There has been a Civil Society advocacy document 'Now and How: Ten ACTS for the Global Compact' which has been compiled by a core group of members of, and in consultation with 50 organizations and networks that are part of the Civil Society Action Committee (established in 2016 for the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants and its follow up) and the International Steering Committee of Civil Society for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The NGO Committee on Migration has made major contributions to this document which lays out a civil society vision for human mobility, migration, implementation and development. These 'Ten ACTS' (**full document attached**) are key to addressing the critical issues of migration today and comprehensively address issues of human rights. It is hoped that these '10 ACTS' will be incorporated, in an actionable manner, into the upcoming 2018 Global Compact on Migration.



What aspects of migration do the "Ten Acts" encompass?

ACT 1. Drivers of human mobility: Act to end the drivers of forced displacement and normalize and facilitate migration by choice.

ACT 2. Safe pathways for human mobility: Act to enhance safe, regular and affordable pathways and opportunities for human mobility that comply with human rights.

ACT 3. Protection: Act to meet the needs and respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants and refugees in distress, in transit, at borders and at destination, and end their criminalization and detention.

ACT 4. Decent work and labor rights: Act to promote safe and decent labor mobility, working conditions and labor rights for migrants and refugees.

ACT 5. Decent living conditions and access to justice: Act to ensure safe and decent living conditions and access to social services and justice for all migrants and refugees.

ACT 6. Education and skills: Act to provide quality education and developmental care for all children, and improve student mobility, learning opportunities and recognition of skills and qualifications.

ACT 7. Inclusion and action against discrimination: Act to promote social cohesion and inclusion of migrants and refugees into societies and combat all forms of xenophobia, racism and discrimination.

ACT 8. Transnational and sustainable development: Act to foster transnational connections and contributions of migrants, refugees and diaspora to sustainable development, and reduce transaction costs for remittances and investments.

ACT 9. Rights, return and reintegration: Act to develop global principles on the governance of return, reintegration and alternatives to return that guarantee the rights, safety and dignity of all migrants and refugees in these contexts

ACT 10. Governance, implementation and monitoring: Act to create transparent, accountable and participatory mechanisms and means of implementation for rights-based global governance of human mobility and migration.

In its entirety, the 'Now and How: Ten ACTS for the Global Compact' reflects the issues and concerns of migration that were shared through MIRP. Those of you that are directly involved in working with migrants and refugees, will also recognize common calls and concerns that you have been raising over many years. In addition, there is a template for an advocacy letter to be sent to your governments outlining the 'Now and How: Ten ACTS for the Global Compact'. You may also want to speak to your Congregation or institution about sending this. To read further information about this very comprehensive Civil Society response, please follow this link <http://madenetwork.org/ten-acts>

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THEMATIC AREAS

DEGRADATION OF THE EARTH *Continued*



• *Civil Society and UN Member States Meet in Bonn for COP 23 Climate Summit*

From November 6th to the 17th, members of the United Nations Delegations, along with Civil Society and other Stakeholders, met in Bonn, Germany for the 23rd annual "conference of the parties" under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to make preparations for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This year, marked the first time that a Pacific Island nation--Fiji--chaired the meetings. It was significant as many of these nations are put in a dangerous position due to climate change and face critical risks of sea-level rise and destructive storms.



Image: UN Environment Twitter

The momentum was high as nations agreed to begin drafting the processes for the Paris Agreement to come into action and review their progression through the "Talanoa Dialogue" in Poland in 2018. The approach for these meetings were

recorded on page 7 of the Official Outcome Document as detailed below.

Key Outcomes of COP 23 Climate Conference:

- Member States agreed on the practical and political aim to bring the full and equal role of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in climate action.
- The Ocean Pathway Partnership was launched to "strengthen action and funding that links climate change action with healthy oceans including through the UN Climate change process and via more explicit aims and ambitions in national climate action plans".
- A notable outcome has been made over the issues with climate change and agriculture. As a means to address a demand for food across the world, countries have been asked to submit their views on improving soil carbon, assess adaptation, and resilience and the creation of better livestock management systems.
- The Bonn-Fiji Commitment, a commitment with 20 climate action initiatives, was signed by over 300 local and regional leaders. Read [here](#).

Our colleague at the United Nations, Veronica Brand rshm, was recently interviewed in the National Catholic Reporter: Global Sisters Report regarding her observations at COP 23 in Bonn. Congratulations! Click [here](#) to read further.

Ways to inform yourself...



Three things to now about the latest UN Climate Talks



Read the COP 23 Outcome Document



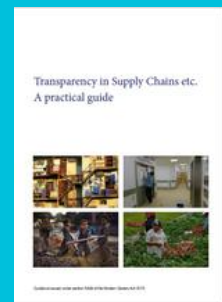
What needs to happen to keep the Paris Agreement on track?

Source: <https://cop23.unfccc.int/news/bonn-climate-conference-becomes-launch-pad-for-higher-ambition>

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“USEFUL RESOURCES

UK Government's "Transparency in Supply Chains: A Practical Guide"



UNICEF's "State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World"



NGO Committee on Migration "Putting Words into ACTION: Concrete Policies and Practices for the Implementation of a Civil Society Vision for the Global Compact"



Explore the UN's "Ocean Action Hub" filled with resources, networks and other data working towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water



Update on the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

• *Taking a Closer Look at SDG 6 "Water and Sanitation for All"*



Section two of the Water and Sanitation guide is entitled 'The SDG's'. It begins by discussing monitoring and advocating in SDG implementation by reminding the reader of a simple truth; 'It is ill-advised for governments who wish to comply with their international human rights obligations and who seek to ensure development outcomes for the most vulnerable to abdicate human rights responsibilities to the private sector' (p.5). This is a great challenge for we must ask ourselves what are the roles of government when it comes to ensuring human rights. Can you think of examples where a government has abdicated their responsibility for human rights?

The section continues by raising a concern about implementation of the SDG's and the current trend of privatization and market based solutions in relation to water. It appears that the practice of SDG implementation contradicts its purpose which is to address major social and environmental ills. Once again, this section warns 'The emphasis on profit in the delivery of essential services results in predictable and systemic human rights violations for vulnerable populations' (p. 5). Are you aware of who is responsible for the water services in your local region, nation?

Transnational corporations are discussed with attention to the fact that legal frameworks for their accountability for human rights abuses are almost nonexistent. The section highlights facts from a UN DESA report released in 2016 which notes that 'private-public partnerships are more costly than public-sector alternatives from a social and financial standpoint' (p.5).

Human rights in the SDG's

Specific facts about the responsibilities of States in relation to human rights are discussed and information about the binding parameters for development processes, policies and efforts are outlined. Essentially the SDG's are grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Human Rights Treaties. Reference is made to the preamble of the 2030 agenda which commits to the realization of human rights for all indicating that the SDG's are grounded in a human rights approach. Attention is given to Goal 16 which is seen as an important guide for 'interpreting the proper implementation and orientation of all other goals, especially targets' (p.6) .

Reaffirming the human rights to water sanitation in and the SDG's

The role of civil society in the negotiation of the SDG's is briefly mentioned in this section. Significantly, 'Civil society campaigned for explicit recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation as a crucial lynchpin to safeguard against corporate abuses, uphold the sovereignty of local communities over their natural resources, and promote universal access to public water and sanitation services.' (p6). Can you think of ways in which the human right to water and sanitation is not being upheld?

It is important to note that despite opposition, in the final hours of negotiation of the SDG's, States included 'the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation' in the preamble. This is very significant as it requires states to uphold this commitment to human rights. What role do you believe that Civil Society can play to ensure that states uphold their commitment to the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation?

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIA at the UN will be attending

- **25th November - 10th December -16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence**
- **10th December- Human Rights Day**
- **18th -International Migration Day & Informal Interactive multi-stakeholder hearing for the Global Compact on Migration**



**The Sisters of Mercy have held special consultative status within the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1998*

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MIA: MERCY GLOBAL ACTION (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE)

As the programme of courses and field visits have finished for 2017, Denise Boyle fmdm had time to co-edit with Sr. Maureen O'Connell PBVM the resource for the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence', see link below. We continue our involvement in the programme of the 'Irish Refugee and Migration Coalition' (IRMC) and the 'Coalition 2030 on the Sustainable Development Agenda' (Coalition 2030) as both groups are linked into Europe and the International community on several issues, as reflected in our report.

MIA-Mercy Global Action (GA) conference call meeting with the Mercy Global Action Network (MGAN), November 9th

Most MGAN members coordinate the justice programme for their respective groups. In an interesting conversation with participants from New Zealand through to Washington DC, we exchanged ideas, shared progress and commented on upcoming events. An important discussion developed around how best to implement the justice themes that emerged from the Mercy International Reflection Progress (MIRP). These are degradation of earth and displacement of persons. Both these issues are underpinned by a rights based approach, with an emphasis on eradicating poverty and a special focus on women and children. As we move into developing these two themes across the Mercy World, we will report our activities under these two headings.

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS:

1. Resource for '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' Campaign, 25th November – December 10th.

Working with members of the 'Future We Need' (FWN) group, we developed a resource of 16 leaflets, one for each day of the campaign. These were published and distributed widely through the websites of the different members' organisations, one being our website www.mercyworld.org. The leaflets were designed both for reading on-line or printing. Leaflet 16 designed to commemorate the UN International Human Rights Day on December 10th – see here / attached – also highlighted the beginning of the year long celebrations, to mark the 70th year since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was passed in 1948. The theme for the year is: **'Let's Make Human Rights a Fact and Not a Dream'**. See all 16 pamphlets for the Campaign on: http://mercyworld.org/mercy_global_action/view-post.cfm?id=899

2. 'Stand Against Domestic Violence – Your community Will Stand With YOU!'

Denise Boyle was invited to participate in this important awareness raising initiative on December 5th to coincide with the 16 Days Campaign. Organised by the 'Inchicore Outreach-Domestic Violence Centre' in Dublin, we walked through the streets of this inner city suburb with a large banner, en route to the Kilmainham College of Further Education. Here students and staff welcomed us and accepted the book marks with important information about reporting domestic violence. In the college canteen Rita Fagin the Director of the Family Resource Centre, addressed the crowd in an informative and engaging manner with some harsh statistics to support her cause. From there we walked to the Kilmainham Garda or Police Station. Here Kate McCarthy, Team Leader in the Domestic Violence Centre, took the opportunity of sharing the message with Sergeant Stephen Perry and Garda Christine Kelly, who then availed of a photo op by joining the group holding the banner, as seen here.



Image: Denise Boyle fmdm



Image: Public Domain

What to do, if you suspect someone is being abused?

Herewith the 4 steps each of us should take:

1. Ask her if she is being harmed? Does she feel unsafe? Listen, believe and offer support.
2. Contact the Police if you think a woman or child is in danger.
3. Give her information and a phone number on the nearest Domestic Violence Centre and relevant support services.
4. Don't judge or put pressure on her to take action, as leaving a domestic violence relationship can be the most dangerous time for a women.

(From the Bookmark of the Inchicore Outreach Domestic Violence Centre)

3. A Civil Society Vision for a UN Global Compact for Human Mobility and Migration in TEN ACTS

MIA-MGA as a member of the Irish Refugee and Migration Coalition, (IRMC) has contributed to the IRMC submission to the 'UN Global Compact on Migration' that will be adopted in 2018. The Compact, incorporating 10 Acts, reflects a vision of civil society for a transformative agenda to cover human mobility, migration and development. The Coalition has endorsed the Ten Acts of the Compact, seeing them as a means of developing clear, long-term policies that will facilitate regular migration, whilst ensuring the fundamental rights of migrants are always upheld.

Crosscutting or underpinning all Ten Acts, are the rights of children and gender responsive policies [see earlier reference on page 3].

IRMC recognises the importance of all Ten Acts that were formulated after months of negotiation. Whilst the Acts are best considered holistically, Coalition members believe some acts should be stressed i.e. **Act 3 – Protection**, designed 'to protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants, refugees and refugees in distress, in transit, at borders and at destination, and end their criminalization'. Additionally, Act 3 promotes ending child immigration without delay, because of the detrimental effect of migration on children's psychological and physical well being. Numerous studies support this finding, which has been upheld by the European Court of Human Rights.

The IRMC is advocating meaningful consultation between Governments and civil society in the negotiation and implementation phase 'to find responses to the challenges and the opportunities posed by international migration.' We support a reporting and monitoring system in the Compact to ensure that agreed standards are met. Finally, the Coalition believes as stated in Act 10.3 there must be an implementation guide attached to the compact, to ensure it goes beyond declarations. This in turn must be developed at regional and national level into clear action plans.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs):

The Coalition 2030, of which MIA-GA is a member through Denise Boyle is preparing a response to the 'Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment' who have just released Ireland's National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It incorporates the vision for Ireland 'to fully implement the SDGs at home and to contribute to their achievement internationally, through our role as responsible global citizens so that no one is left behind.' The plan will be complemented with a framework reflecting how the SDGs will be implemented in the period 2018-2020. It is anticipated that this will support national policies and facilitate multi-stake participation.



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DEGRADATION OF THE EARTH:

Outcome of Citizens Assembly held in November to Discuss Climate Change

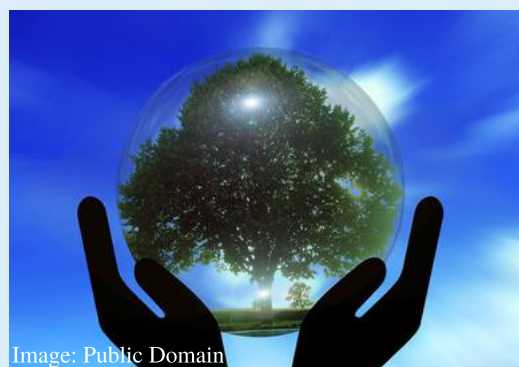


Image: Public Domain

The outcome of the Citizen's Assembly was radical, with the Assembly members calling for a complete overhaul of how the Irish State tackles climate change. Chosen from across the community, the 100 citizens discussed the submissions received from all sectors of Irish Society. MIA-MGA made a submission through Denise Boyle, strongly encouraging the abolition of 'one-use plastic' by introducing a tax on it that could be used to research an environmentally friendly option. At the end of their discussions, **the Assembly voted in favour of 13 recommendations** to the Irish Government, which can be grouped under the following:

1. Prioritise public transport investment over new road infrastructure spending at a ratio of no less than 2-to-1. Currently the majority of state investment goes to road building which means more cars and more emissions.
2. The Citizens' expressed willingness to pay higher taxes on carbon pollution and recommended that the agriculture sector should also apply the 'polluter pays principle' to its emissions. The resulting revenue should be reinvested to support climate friendly agricultural practices.
3. An end to all State subsidies for peat extraction on a phased basis over the next five years. This would bring peat-firing for electricity to an end a lot sooner than 2030, the current target.
4. Establishment of an independent watchdog with clear powers to make sure the State sets and meets five-yearly targets for emissions reductions. The introduction of such targets was removed from climate legislation by the government before it was passed in 2015.

Civil society and environmental organisations lauded the outcome as a "**clarion call**" for the government to step up their action to tackle climate change. This was particularly appropriate given the fact that the release of the 2018 Climate Performance **Index singled out Ireland as the worst performing country in Europe** for taking concrete action to tackle climate change.

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

Visit our website to discover more about MIA and our global activities: www.mercyworld.org

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