



This Fellowship seeks to bring out key objectives that have been paramount to our work of Mercy Global Action-Mercy International Association over the course of the past twenty years.

The objectives of the program will be as follows:

### **1. Thinking Critically about the Global Reality of our world through the lens of Mercy**

Every day the world is changing. We see environmental destruction – both human and natural- we see the economic markets fluctuating –leaving individuals marginalised from society. We see war, hatred, trafficking, countries closing borders to migrants and refugees, and multinational companies undertaking large development projects that abuse the human rights of local communities. The global reality for Mercy is that despite all of these things that are driving our world apart, there is hope. Mercy brings hope to individuals, encouraging others to think critically about the root causes of these issues and advocate for justice towards fundamental and systemic change.

### **2. Providing Opportunities to Explore Mercy values in a Justice Context**

Over the course of the years, there has been an increasing number of requests to learn more about and engage in the work of Mercy's justice work. These requests have come from Mercy Partners including; Sisters, School Principals, Students, Volunteers and others. Mercy education and advocacy is a vital part of the work we do and we would like to expand this capacity through this program. We believe that this is a unique call at this particular time in our Mercy history. Women are seeking ways to be active leaders for justice and peace in our world. This request is coming from the grassroots and is seeking a response. We aim to give these women the opportunity to have their voice heard in the global arena and build on their own leadership skills and development.

### **3. Capacity Building and Empowering Women**

Key to the Mercy education component is building capacity and empowering women to be future Mercy leaders around the world. There is a need to focus on the gender dynamic in the international arena and encourage women to participate and share their skills. To build a stronger voice, participants will build relationships with other Mercy leaders around the world and form a united network, advocating for justice in their own communities.



#### **4. Mercy as Mentor**

The role of mentoring will be critical to the program. Many Mercy women throughout the world have valued the role of mentors in their lives. Establishing strong relationships with Mercy women who can provide companionship and wisdom will be a crucial element to the program.

#### **5. Expand Mercy Influence and knowledge of our global critical concerns**

The educational component will focus on our key issues of concern: the Degradation of the Earth and Displacement of Peoples. Participants will be given the opportunity to share their own experiences and to engage in theological reflection and social analysis. Participants will also develop further advocacy and critical thinking skills. Through training and support, participants will build upon their leadership skills and capacities, thus becoming a leader in Mercy and human and environmental rights advocacy themselves. Participants will be encouraged to step up in their own congregations, universities, and communities to be an advocate, articulating the challenges of our world and seeking viable solutions.