

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS FROM THE MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE!

- *Announcing Cohort 3 of the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship*

To mark International Women's Day, Mercy International Association is thrilled to announce the ten women who will form the third cohort of the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF) 2023-24.

The MELF Program, grounded in the three pillars of Justice, Leadership, and Mercy, uplifts women to become transformative feminist leaders who empower others, enable creativity and facilitate mobilization around the collective goals of Mercy.

The cohort consists of women from around the world, including Australia, Kenya, Argentina, Guyana, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, and the United States, with backgrounds in various fields such as communications, advocacy, finance, social work, and community coordination. We are excited to announce Andrea Haller, Cynthia Mulholland, Dinah Mwendwa, Hilda Cruz, Jo Thompson, Maria Pearson, Sarah Dwan, Sr Virgencita Alegado rsm, and Yonette Alexis Stephens as the Fellows for Cohort 3.

[Click here to learn more about the fellows!](#)



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THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS

**COMMISSION for
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**
United Nations Headquarters, New York

- *Commission for Social Development 61 Side Event: The Struggles of Homeless Persons for Social Justice and Rights to Productive Employment and Decent Work in Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

On February 9, 2023, the Working Group to End Homelessness held a virtual webinar with the Permanent Mission of Madagascar. The event focused on the struggles of homeless individuals and the right to productive employment and decent work in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The discussion highlighted the importance of addressing homelessness as a form of poverty and an obstacle to achieving an adequate standard of living, which is enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. The event also emphasized the nexus between productive employment, decent work, and homelessness and presented policy and practice frameworks to support equal access to employment for all.

The webinar highlighted the significant and complex issue of homelessness. It is essential to have strong commitment and accountability from governments, inclusive multilateral cooperation, and build resilience for social protection to address homelessness. The speakers further emphasized the challenges homeless individuals face in finding employment and housing, and the need for flexible vocational education that meets learners' needs at their own pace.

The speakers also stressed the importance of decent work and productive employment for achieving sustainable development for all. The discussion also highlighted the need for an integrated approach to combating poverty, unemployment and restoring dignity to the excluded, especially the homeless.

Overall, the webinar provided valuable insights into the complexity of the issue of homelessness and the need for multi-faceted approaches to address it. The speakers further emphasized the importance of providing accessible and flexible support services, advocated for housing as a basic human right, and promoted policies and practices that support equal access to decent work and productive employment. These approaches are critical in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensuring that individuals and communities worldwide can access the support they need to prevent and address homelessness.



- Watch the full webinar [here](#)
- Read more about each SDG by clicking on the corresponding images



THEMATIC AREAS

DEGRADATION OF EARTH



- *What is Degradation of Earth?*

The Degradation of Earth is a key concern for the Mercy World and a serious and urgent issue that threatens the health and well-being of people and the planet. Human activities, including deforestation, overfishing, pollution, and climate change, are causing irreversible environmental damage, impacting the natural systems that sustain life on Earth. The effects of environmental degradation are wide-ranging and profound. The loss of biodiversity threatens the web of life, while deforestation, desertification, and soil erosion reduce the earth's capacity to produce food and support life. Furthermore, the impacts of environmental degradation are not evenly distributed, with marginalized communities often bearing the brunt of the damage. Climate change, for example, disproportionately impacts those least responsible for its causes. Consequently, it is essential that we take action to address the Degradation of Earth and recognize that the planet's health and people's well-being are intertwined. This includes reducing our carbon footprint, promoting sustainable development, protecting natural habitats, and reducing pollution.

At the United Nations, the Degradation of Earth is recognized as a critical issue that threatens global peace, security, and prosperity. The United Nations has developed several initiatives and programs to address the various forms of environmental degradation. In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a plan to end poverty, protect the planet, and promote peace and prosperity for all. The Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that outline specific targets and actions to achieve a sustainable future for all. Several of the SDGs are directly related to addressing the degradation of the earth, including Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 14: Life Below Water, and Goal 15: Life on Land.



The United Nations holds regular conferences and discussions, with Member States, experts, and civil society organizations to discuss and develop strategies for addressing environmental degradation and climate change. Additionally, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides technical assistance and support to countries in implementing sustainable development policies and practices.


The United Nations also holds several annual events related to the environment to raise awareness, promote action, and encourage international cooperation on environmental issues. Some of the most significant events related to the environment held by the United Nations include:

- World Water Day (March 22)
- Water Conference (March 22-24)
- Earth Day (April 22)
- World Environment Day (June 5)
- SDG Summit (September 19-20)
- The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) (30 November to 12 December)



CSW67 Parallel Event
Digital Engagement as Key to Women's Empowerment & Feminist Leadership

Monday, March 13, 2023 4:30 PM EDT
CCUN 11th Floor

 <https://bit.ly/MercyCSW67>



At the United Nations **THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES...**

- The sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women*

The 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women has begun. It focuses on the theme of "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

The session will also review the challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls. This year's session will be an important gathering of leaders, policymakers, and experts from around the world to discuss progress made in the advancement of women and girls, as well as the remaining challenges and opportunities for achieving gender equality. The session will provide a platform for countries to share experiences, best practices, and innovative solutions to address the systemic barriers hindering gender equality. The outcome of the session will help shape policies, programs, and strategies to accelerate progress toward gender equality and the empowerment of women in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

You are invited to our upcoming parallel event, "Digital Engagement as Key to Women's Empowerment and Feminist Leadership," which will take place on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 4:30 PM EDT, at the Church Center for the United Nations 11th Floor, as part of the Commission on the Status of Women's 67th Session.

The event is aligned with the priority theme of the 67th session and will showcase how Mercy Global Action has used digital tools to promote and develop women's leadership through the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship.

The current cohort of MELF participants will present their experiences and discuss how the Fellowship has provided them with the tools and pathways to be agents of change in their communities and society. They will highlight how the program has used digital technology to cultivate strong links and networking across the Mercy World through international encounters, webinars, a digital classroom, mentorship, and other activities.



Ann Brady, Paula Carron, Marietta Latonio
and Lorraine Cunningham at CSW 67



[Register here for the event](https://bit.ly/MercyCSW67)



MELF LEADERSHIP GENERATING PROJECT

• *Introducing the Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellowship Impact Report*

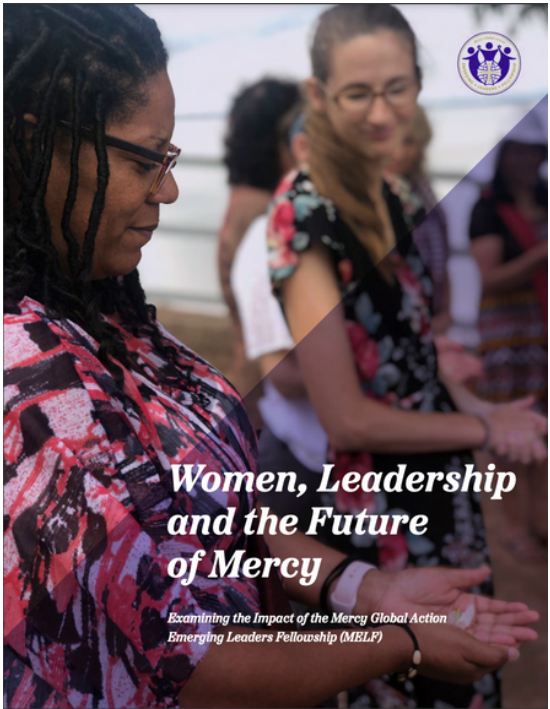
It is our great pleasure to be able to share with you the Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellowship Impact Report. As many of you know, we have been working on this report since September 2022. The report is a culmination of hundreds of reflections and testimonials from across the Mercy World, including MELF Fellows, mentors, congregation leaders, associates, and NGO partners. Many of these reflections speak about the value of MELF and express hope for how the program can grow into the future.

A big part of this Impact Report is the MELF Theory of Change. A Theory of Change (sometimes known as a Program Logic) is a high-level framework that tells the story of how your organisation works to achieve a particular set of goals. It outlines the problem or opportunity that an organisation seeks to address, the activities that the organisation undertakes to address the problem or opportunity, and the outcomes one could expect to see as a result of this work. A Theory of Change is a very attractive document to people working in government, as well as funders and potential supporters because it's a very simple way of communicating the value of your organisation's work. You can find a copy of the MELF Theory of Change on pages 22-23 of the report.

Importantly, this report also describes how MGA will measure the impact of MELF according to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Accompanying this information are beautiful custom illustrations from Australian visual artist and MELF Fellow (Cohort 1), Ana Freeman, as well as poems from the esteemed Mary Wickham rsm.

We are very grateful to everyone who played a role in the creation of this report, including those who attended our 'Impact Workshops' in late 2023, Julie Conway, our designer, Kathleen Rushton rsm, our expert proofreader, and of course, Angela Reed rsm and the MGA team.

Our hope is that this report helps people across Mercy World gain a deeper understanding of the MELF Program, including what it could mean for the future of leadership in Mercy. We hope you enjoy reading it (and those who finish the whole 80-page document go up on our Plaque of Honour!). Please do get in touch with your thoughts and feedback.



[Read the report here](#)

“USEFUL RESOURCES



[UNDESA World Social Report 2023](#)



[Watch or Attend our CSW67 Parallel Event "Digital Engagement as Key to Women's Empowerment and Feminist Leadership."](#)



[Follow Mercy Global Action on Instagram!](#)



We are excited to announce that Mercy Global Action has launched a new Instagram account, and we would like to invite you to follow us!

Our Instagram account will be the perfect place to stay updated on all the latest news and events from MGA. We will be sharing all our updates from the Mercy Global Action office.

Search for our Instagram handle @miaglobalaction and hit that follow button!

UPCOMING EVENTS & INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- 6-17 March Commission on the Status of Women
 - 13 March Our Commission of the Status of Women Side Event: "Digital Engagement as Key to Women's Empowerment and Feminist Leadership" [register here](#)
- 17 March St. Patrick's Day
- 22 March World Water Day
- 22-24 March UN 2023 Water Conference
- 7 April World Health Day

Mercy International Association (MIA) maintains a comprehensive and up to date website and produces an informative fortnightly e-newsletter (MercyNews). Visit our website to discover more about MIA and our global activities:
www.mercyworld.org

Subscribe to our e-newsletter to learn about our vision in action and the ministries carried out by our member congregations: www.mercyworld.org/newsroom/enews/