

# MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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## GREETINGS FROM THE MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE!

### *Welcome Cecilie and Siobhan to the MGA Team!*

I am from Westport, Ireland. It brings me great joy to take on the Intern position with Mercy Global Action this year. I want to sincerely thank Sr Angela Reed and Colleen Swain for this opportunity. I am excited to further my commitment to justice and advocacy work, while offering a unique perspective to the Mercy Global Action team. I graduated from the University of Limerick in 2018, with an honours degree in Psychology and Spanish. During the course of my study, I had the opportunity to teach English in Patagonia, Argentina. This experience opened my eyes to the many diversities, injustices and inequalities in the world. Although, I have always had a passion for justice and social change, it was this opportunity which encouraged me to learn more about human rights and global justice issues.

I am currently participating in the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship. This has been a valuable experience for me and has guided me to view the world through the lens of Mercy-- reminding me that poverty is not a fate and to always respond to issues of justice with kindness and compassion. I am excited to continue to build on the leadership skills I have gained and further empower other women and girls to be leaders. The Fellowship has highlighted the importance of fostering women's leadership and drives me to continuously confront and expand my own learnings and way of life. Additionally, I am

## *Welcome Cecilie and Siobhan*

conducting a research project on Women's Homelessness in Ireland. I feel strongly about the need to call on UN Member States to provide housing and support to their people, as a basic Human Right. I look forward to being part of the MGA team, bringing experiences of those in grassroots ministries to an international level and challenging oppressive systems.

I am excited to further connect and interact with the Mercy World and expand my knowledge and experience of international human rights advocacy. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, I am initially beginning the internship based at the Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland.'

-Siobhan Golden



'I am so excited to join Mercy Global Action as the Global Policy and Research Advocate. Since 2014, I have represented other communities of women religious at the United Nations, and engaged in advocacy related to gender equality, human rights, human mobility, poverty eradication and water and sanitation. Through the collaborative work of civil society organizations at the UN, I have worked in partnership with the Mercy Global Action team, beginning with Sr. Áine O'Connor, and then with Sr. Angela Reed and Colleen Swain. Over the years, I have valued the hospitality of the Mercy team, and seen first-hand how Mercy Global Action translates a deep commitment to social justice and human rights into advocacy, particularly on behalf of marginalized populations. I believe in the vital role of religious congregations to bring the perspectives of local advocates to the UN, to voice issues of moral urgency, and to ensure that policies are based on human rights and the dignity of each person. I also believe that it is important to share the work of the UN with local constituencies, raise public awareness of global justice issues, and enhance the accountability of Member States to their people.

I have dedicated my work and studies to exploring issues regarding human mobility, especially policies related to protection and assistance for refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations across the migration cycle, and the gendered aspects of migration. At the UN, I advocated for strong rights-based and gender-responsive human mobility policies in the processes to elaborate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Prior to working at the UN, I worked as an immigration paralegal at a Washington DC non-profit, advocating for compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform, and accompanying migrants, refugees and their families through the US immigration system. I am originally from Palo Alto, California, and I have a BA in Diplomacy & World Affairs and Spanish Literary Studies from Occidental College and a Masters of International Affairs concentrating in Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy, Gender and Public Policy, and UN Studies from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.'

-Cecilie Kern



# THEMATIC AREAS

## DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS

- *Mercy Global Action observes World Day against Trafficking in Persons - 30 July 2020*

World Day against Trafficking in Persons is commemorated annually on 30 July to raise awareness of the situation of human trafficking around the world, and to call on governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and all societies to redouble their efforts to prevent people from being exploited, protect those who have been trafficked, and seek justice and prosecution of perpetrators.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The Protocol was the first international agreement on trafficking in persons. It provided a broad definition of trafficking, recognized multiple facets of trafficking, and promoted the full respect of the victims' human rights. Despite the adoption of the Protocol, and despite progress over the last 20 years, impunity persists. Human trafficking remains a widespread human rights violation, involving more than 20 million people worldwide, of which only a few hundreds are recognised as victims and supported in their process of social inclusion. Women and girls are disproportionately impacted, making up 72% of all trafficked persons, and 98% of people trafficked for sexual exploitation.



COVID-19 has amplified the inequalities within our societies, and exacerbated the risks of exploitation for people in vulnerable situations. Loss of employment, increased poverty and socioeconomic stress, lockdowns and travel restrictions, school closures, a lack of access to social protection, and a rise in online interactions are increasing vulnerabilities to sexual exploitation and forced labor, creating opportunities for traffickers, and making it increasingly difficult to identify victims. The crisis has also overwhelmed social and public services and impacted the work of criminal justice systems, hindering access to assistance and protection and delaying access to justice for victims and survivors.

And yet despite the challenges, we see the best of humanity: frontline workers overcoming the barriers posed by restrictions, risking their lives, and going above and beyond to provide essential support for people who have been trafficked. The 2020 theme for the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons shines a light on the first responders to human trafficking - those who identify, support, counsel and seek justice for victims of trafficking, and challenge the impunity of traffickers. Sisters of Mercy, Associates and Partners are among the first responders who provide a lifeline to those at risk of trafficking, trafficking victims and survivors. By reaffirming the rights and inherent dignity of all people, we can end human trafficking, and build more inclusive and sustainable societies.

Spread the word across your own social media platforms by sharing the MIA-MGA World Day against Trafficking in Persons infographic and using the hashtag #EndHumanTrafficking.

Learn more about human trafficking, especially in the context of COVID-19, and what you can do to prevent trafficking, uphold the dignity of survivors, and advocate for policy change:

- Mercy International Association - Inherent Dignity: An advocacy guidebook to preventing trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and realizing the human rights of women and girls throughout their lives
- ACRATH - Webinar: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery – what are the facts especially in this time of Pandemic and what would Catherine McAuley be Saying?
- MECPATH - Webinar: Human Trafficking amidst Covid-19
- UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons - Call to Action and list of resources to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime - Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trafficking in Persons
- UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children - COVID-19 Position paper on The impact and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficked and exploited persons
- US Department of State - 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report

**WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**  
30 JULY 2020

**THE PANDEMIC'S HIDDEN CRISIS: HUMAN TRAFFICKING** 

**PEOPLE ARE TRAFFICKED FOR MANY EXPLOITATIVE PURPOSES:**

- FORCED LABOUR
- CHILD SOLDIERS
- FORCED BEGGING
- SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
- VIRTUAL EXPLOITATION
- FORCED MARRIAGE
- SELLING CHILDREN
- REMOVAL OF ORGANS

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A VIOLATION OF DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY**

  
1 IN 3 VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ARE CHILDREN

  
98% OF VICTIMS TRAFFICKED FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS

**COVID-19 AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING** 

COVID-19 PROTECTION MEASURES INTENDED TO STOP THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS FURTHER HIDE THE CRIMES OF TRAFFICKING:

- ENFORCED QUARANTINE
- CURFEWS & LOCKDOWNS
- TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS & BORDER CLOSURES
- LIMITATIONS ON ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES
- PUBLIC LIFE LIMITATIONS
- INCREASED POLICE CONTROL

 **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY INCREASE THE RISK OF BEING TRAFFICKED.**

**TRAFFICKING VICTIMS HAVE BECOME LESS VISIBLE AND MORE VULNERABLE**

CHALLENGES TO: IDENTIFY | PROTECT | PROSECUTE

WE STAND WITH THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES WORKING TO STRENGTHEN ANTI-TRAFFICKING MEASURES AND ASSIST AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS DURING THE PANDEMIC.

**ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES:**

- READ THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ON THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON TRAFFICKING
- DOWNLOAD MIA'S INHERENT DIGNITY ADVOCACY GUIDEBOOK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS CAN DO TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING
- USE THE HASHTAG #ENDHUMANTRAFFICKING AND SHARE THIS INFOGRAPHIC ACROSS YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA!

**STUCK IN LIMBO AMID COVID-19**



# THEMATIC AREAS

## DEGRADATION OF EARTH

- *Mercy Global Action recalls the 2010 UN Resolution on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation and calls on UN Member States worldwide to reaffirm the human right to water and sanitation at all levels of society*

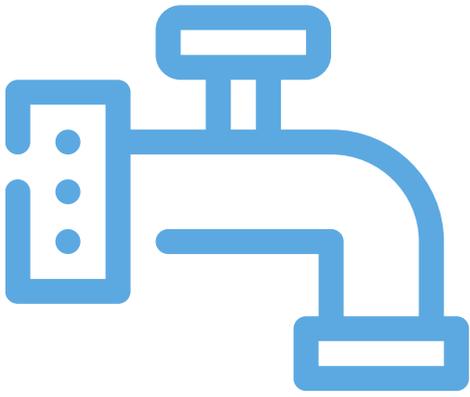
On the 28 July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 64/292 which “recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life”. The resolution calls on states to fulfil their duties to their people and provide the necessary assistance, cooperation, resources, and infrastructure which are essential to make water clean, safe, accessible and affordable for all. The year 2020 commemorates ten years since the adoption of this resolution and yet, the full achievement of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as a human right is far from being a reality for many, as 1 in 3 people globally do not have access to safe drinking water.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the need for adequate water and sanitation facilities even more urgent worldwide. The World Health Organisation has encouraged good hand hygiene as the single most important practice to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and improve public safety. A report by the UN Economic and Social Council in 2016, states that 47 per cent of schools and 40 per cent of health-care facilities worldwide were not equipped to practise good hand hygiene. In order to overcome the current health pandemic, we must demand the realisation of the human right to water and sanitation, and increase the provision of sufficient, safe, accessible, affordable and acceptable WASH programmes worldwide.

Water is essential to all life and the survival of ecosystems. The adverse effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and natural disasters are putting increased unsustainable pressure on global water resources. Water has become a scarce commodity and levels of water pollution and contamination are continuing to rise. Water is essential for poverty reduction and other development achievements including promotion of health, food security, gender equality, sustainable agriculture and growth in industries. UNICEF and the WHO have published a recent report highlighting the stark reality of our Global Water Crisis, revealing that approximately 4.2 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation services and 3 billion lack basic hand washing facilities.

Across the Mercy World, there are many countries struggling to realise the human right to water and sanitation due to socio-economic, political and environmental pressures which sustain poverty and hunger. The role of governments is essential to end water poverty and invest in infrastructure to provide water at the national and local levels.





At the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020, Panama affirmed the great challenges they are facing to improve health care and provide WASH facilities to the most vulnerable communities. Their new plan to Improve the Health Systems and decrease the infant mortality rate and gender inequality gap, includes guaranteeing safe and clean water and sanitation services and improving environmental policies, which expand to rural and indigenous areas.

Access to clean water and sanitation is a core concern of the Mercy World. We stand against the growing tendency to privatise water which puts the lives of many at risk and promotes inequality, conflict and greed. Mercy Global Action calls on UN member states worldwide to reaffirm the human right to water and sanitation at all levels of society.

## GET INVOLVED -

- If tap water is safe and clean in your area, reduce your bottled water consumption and persuade others to refill an eco-friendly water bottle instead.
- Communicate directly with your community and raise awareness about the Global Water Crisis and ways to conserve water.
- Review recommendations the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation has made to your country on a past visit and advocate for full implementation of the human right to water and sanitation.

## LEARN MORE

- **NGO Mining Working Group: A rights-based approach to water and sanitation -**  
<https://miningwg.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/water-guide-final-pdf.pdf>
- **WASH and COVID-19 -** [https://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/news-events/wash-and-covid-19/en/](https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/news-events/wash-and-covid-19/en/)
- **UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation: Tools for transformation: Gender equality and the human right to water and sanitation -**  
[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Water/Pamphlet\\_GenderEquality.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Water/Pamphlet_GenderEquality.pdf)

# THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES...

- *Mercy Global Action reflects on the 2020 High-Level Political Forum – From the Decade of Action to a Decade of Recovery*

The annual meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In a year when most other multilateral meetings and processes have been cancelled or postponed, the 2020 HLPF took place during its originally-scheduled dates from 7-16 July, albeit in a much different format than previous years due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 HLPF was originally intended to begin a new four-year cycle to review the implementation of the SDGs, assess progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, and begin “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.” The meetings took place in a virtual format, and the agenda was reoriented to focus on the pandemic, featuring an official agenda as well as over 240 side events, special events, Voluntary National Review (VNR) “Labs” and other online discussions to address key challenges and actions towards post-pandemic recovery.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the importance of the HLPF and the SDGs at this unprecedented time:

*“The COVID-19 crisis is having devastating impacts because of our past and present failures. Because we have yet to take the SDGs seriously. Because we have put up with inequalities within and between countries that have left billions of people just one crisis away from poverty and financial ruin. Because we haven’t invested adequately in resilience – in universal health coverage, quality education, social protection, safe water and sanitation. Because we have yet to right the power imbalances that leave women and girls to constantly bear the brunt of any crisis. Because we haven’t heeded warnings about the damage that we are inflicting on our natural environment. Because of the shocking risks we are taking with climate disruption. And because we have undervalued effective international cooperation and solidarity.”*

## HLPF IN NUMBERS

HLPF 2020 -- The FIRST Virtual HLPF



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



DAYS



MEETINGS



HEADS AND  
DEPUTY HEADS  
OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT,  
MINISTERIAL  
LEVEL OFFICIALS



SPEAKERS  
IN PANELS



VOLUNTARY  
NATIONAL  
REVIEWS



REGISTERED  
PARTICIPANTS



VNR LABS



SIDE EVENTS



SPECIAL EVENTS



EXHIBITIONS



VIEWS ON UN WEBTV

Similarly, the President of the General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad-Bande stated that “The reality is our Decade of Action and Delivery has become the Decade of Recovery. The SDGs must be at the forefront of government strategies for recovery to safeguard our communities against future shocks by building resilient systems.”

The common refrain that echoed throughout the 8-day event was that the Sustainable Development Goals are a vital roadmap for the world to “Build Back Better” from the COVID-19 pandemic, a phrase that was first defined and used with the 2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Speakers voiced strong calls for solidarity, inclusion and multilateralism, and urged governments to transition their efforts to implement the SDGs from a focus on individual goals to systemic responses. One speaker referenced John Maynard Keynes in her remarks, cautioning that “The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas, as in escaping old ones.” There was a strong emphasis on the call of the 2030 Agenda to “Leave No One Behind,” with a large focus on social protection. There was also a lot of discussion of the economic consequences of the pandemic, and what this will mean for resourcing implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with speakers discussing associated debt relief and finance implications. Despite the challenging virtual setting, civil society made their voices heard throughout the meeting, especially women and youth.

Unlike other HLPF sessions, this meeting did not conclude with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration. A draft had been developed, but agreement had not been reached by the close of the meeting on 16 July. The President of the UN Economic and Social Council, Mona Juul, reported that “an ambitious declaration was emerging, but some issues required further discussion.” On Friday, 17 July, she circulated a revised draft, but still the Ministerial Declaration has not been adopted. Civil society representatives have circulated a press release expressing deep disappointment and calling for governments to demonstrate real ambition and commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to dismantling injustice in all its forms.

A central focus of the HLPF each year is the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). This year, 47 countries presented VNRs, with 26 presenting for the first time, 20 for the second time, and 1 for the third time. Countries were given the option of livestreaming their presentation, sending pre-recorded presentations, or a combination of the two. The following countries with a Mercy presence presented VNRs this year:

- **Argentina** - Victoria Tolosa Paz, National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies, said the current government prioritizes the fight against hunger and multi-dimensional poverty, which goes beyond income and includes access to drinking water and public health. She highlighted: measures to “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 and strengthen the public health system; resource transfers to the most vulnerable groups; and support to companies to preserve jobs. She said that her country’s commitment to the SDGs comes from the suffering that her country has experienced, including hyperinflation, unsustainable debt, and now COVID-19. [View Argentina’s 2020 VNR \(ES\)](#).
- **Honduras** - The VNR highlighted the holistic framework established for the implementation of the SDGs in the country, but also discussed continued challenges to providing decent work despite significant economic growth. Honduras is making efforts to tackle extreme poverty through programmes such as the Better Life subsidy that provides conditional cash transfers to improve access to health, education, and housing. They also are in the process of reallocating public expenditures due to the pandemic. [View Honduras 2020 VNR \(ES\)](#).
- **Kenya** - Ukur Yatani Kanacho, Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury and Planning, highlighted the country’s “Big 4 Agenda” prioritizing food and nutrition security, healthcare, manufacturing, and affordable housing. He noted advancements in renewable energy installed per capita, infrastructure, domestic resource mobilization, public awareness-raising of the SDGs, and stakeholder engagement. He also mentioned the policy gap analysis that was conducted in 2018, highlighting the need to continuously enhance implementation plans. [View Kenya’s 2020 VNR \(EN\)](#).

- **Nigeria** - Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, Senior Special Assistant to the President on the SDGs, said priority SDGs have been integrated into the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan for 2017-2020. She noted efforts to build a more inclusive economy and identified the need to invest more in education. Among challenges, she listed: high unemployment rates; maternal mortality; out-of-school children; and regional inequalities. [View Nigeria's 2020 VNR \(EN\)](#).
- **Panama** - The VNR highlighted a national focus on: creating inclusion; fighting poverty and inequality; investing in education and health; addressing social equality among vulnerable communities; and combatting climate change and protecting biodiversity. While recognizing the urgency of international cooperation, Panama highlighted national intersectoral public health actions in response to the pandemic. [View Panama's 2020 VNR \(ES\)](#).
- **Papua New Guinea** - James Marape, Prime Minister, reported that PNG has made modest progress, but that they were doing the best they could. He noted progress across many SDGs, including on improving transport connectivity, health, education, community development, life expectancy, maternal and infant mortality, literacy, reducing extreme poverty, and maintaining a robust democracy. He noted the challenge of reducing widening inequalities. [View Papua New Guinea's 2020 VNR \(EN\)](#).
- **Peru** - Javier Abugattás, National Centre for Strategic Planning, reported deeper integration of SDGs in long-term development plans, and said key priorities include the protection of life and risk management, including through improved decision-making processes, coordination, and research. He also highlighted government measures to support indigenous peoples in the Peruvian Amazon in the fight against COVID-19. [View Peru's 2020 VNR \(ES\)](#).
- **Samoa** - Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, noted that Samoans take collective responsibility for one another and respect individual human rights, but that her country was increasingly challenged by external shocks, including natural disasters and health crises. She highlighted progress in: literacy and numeracy; engaging stakeholders; integrating the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway into national development planning; women's representation in Parliament; and strengthening disaster risk response. [View Samoa's 2020 VNR \(EN\)](#).
- **Uganda** - Mary Karoro Okurut, Cabinet Minister in Charge of General Duties, highlighted improved access to electricity and telecommunications, reduced unemployment, and increased manufacturing capabilities. She attributed the progress to social protection programmes, gender equality and women's empowerment, a robust refugee policy, climate action interventions, rural electrification projects, and a sound economic growth rate. Immaculate Akello, representative of Uganda's Youth Coalition for the SDGs, highlighted achievements in "go back to school" interventions for children who had dropped out, and the need for further efforts to raise SDG awareness in remote areas. [View Uganda's 2020 VNR \(EN\)](#).
- **Zambia** - Alexander Chiteme, Minister of National Development Planning, and Chola Chabala, Ministry of National Development Planning, highlighted institutional arrangements for SDG implementation; a reduction of multi-dimensional poverty to 44%; investments in infrastructure and energy production; and improvements in health and gender equality. Precious Mulenga, a child civil society representative, called for a more inclusive process for civil society organizations to participate in SDG implementation. [View Zambia's 2020 VNR \(EN\)](#).

# Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Present on Panel Highlighting Fellowship Components



On March 18th, the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellows (MELF) were due to present on a panel at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) entitled “Empowering Women as Changemakers Across the Globe”. Due to COVID-19, both the Commission on the Status of Women and the panel event was cancelled. This year’s Commission on the Status of Women marked the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference for Women with a

priority theme of Beijing +25 “Realizing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls”.

Twenty-five years ago the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action flagged twelve key areas where urgent action was needed to ensure gender equality and women’s empowerment across the globe. One of these areas was ‘Women in Power and Decision Making’. This indicator gave rise to the creation of the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship. The MELF is building upon Mercy women’s leadership potential and influence in both the global and local arena; and provides access to global political forums in order that Mercy voices are heard and make meaningful contributions to Global Justice.

In lieu of an in-person event in New York to mark Beijing+25 during the CSW, Fellows presented their experiences as Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders to UN-based colleagues of MGA last month via Zoom. Through the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship builds upon the capacities of women and provides effective tools to empower them to be agents of change in their own Mercy communities and in the greater society through immersion programs, activism, mentorship, webinars, regional conferences and more. During the event, each Fellow explored one of these respective components. This event has been recorded and is available at the link below.

Congratulations to each of the MELF Fellows on their presentations. They are truly women of wisdom, compassion, creativity and critical thinking - women who will continue to grow and challenge unjust systems. It is evident they promote collaborative leadership, paving the way to compassionate and communal responses to current concerns of our world.

Thank you to Marietta Latonio for facilitating and moderating the panel event and Angela Reed rsm, Head of Mercy Global Action, for overseeing the Fellowship.

[To watch the event, click here.](#)

# “USEFUL RESOURCES

Towards a joint action agenda on women’s rights to water and sanitation



Human Right to water and Sanitation Webinar Series - Blue Planet Project



Race & Justice in World Affairs  
World Denver Speaker Series



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS

- 11 July World Population Day
- 18 July Nelson Mandela International Day
- 28 July World Hepatitis Day
- 30 July World Day against Trafficking in Persons
- 9 August International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 19 August World Humanitarian Day
- 21 August International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
- 22 August International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- 23 August International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
- 29 August International Day against Nuclear Tests
- 30 August International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

**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](http://www.mercyworld.org)**

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