



MERCY GLOBAL ACTION (MGA)

POSITION DESCRIPTION

INTERN (12 months)

Purpose of the Internship:

The impetus for developing a formalised MGA Internship program is based on positive learning experiences from people who have been immersed in the global justice work of Mercy Global Action (MGA). The MGA Intern is considered a vital member of the Mercy Global Action Team. The purpose of the role is to advance the Mission and Vision of Mercy International Association and at the same time offer opportunities for the intern to develop knowledge, skills and gain experience within an International setting. With a focus on the Degradation of Earth and Displacement of Persons, the Intern will apply the Mercy Justice Advocacy Approach to specific issues including migration, water and homelessness.

The MGA internship seeks to:

- Educate, empower and encourage.
- Evoke a compassionate response by looking at social justice issues through a mercy lens
- Build upon the intellectual and creative capacities of the intern.
- Provide effective tools and strategies to enable the intern to be an agent of change.
- Develop Critical Thinking, Theological Reflection and Ethical Discernment
- Provide interns with the opportunity to challenge oppressive systems in order to advance social justice.

The Intern, with mentoring, will also act as an Additional Representative of the Sisters of Mercy in exercising Special Consultative Status at the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Location: The Intern is based in New York City at the Mercy Global Action Office.

Note: The current COVID-19 social distancing restrictions may make it necessary for the Global Policy and Research Advocate to work remotely and virtually for a limited time.

Key Relationships

Reports to:	Head of Mercy Global Action
Internal:	CEO MIA, Leadership & Advocacy Associate, Mercy Global Action Team, MIA Executive Team, other Interns, Fellows & Volunteers. MIA Members, Sisters of Mercy and Associates
External:	Donors, International Justice Coalitions, UN NGO's, Interns, UN Personnel & Government Diplomats.
Hours:	This is a full time internship from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The standard working hours are 40 hours per week, Monday to Friday. The nature of the work is such that considerable flexibility is essential and hours worked outside the standard working week will be compensated for by agreed time off in lieu.

Main Responsibilities: As a member of a collaborative, multidisciplinary justice team, the Intern is expected to:

- 1) **Connect:** Participate in MGA meetings, networks and global communication. This includes:
 - a) Attend weekly MGA team meetings.
 - b) Engaging in vibrant MIA-MGA networks for justice advocacy.
 - c) Communicating in an intercultural environment, across the Mercy World.
 - d) Collaborating with MGA justice task forces on the issues of Migration, Water and Homelessness.
 - e) Preparing articles for effective Mercy connection, information sharing, capacity building and response to priority justice issues.
 - f) Contributing to the development of policy briefs, learning papers.

- 2) **Raise Awareness:** Generate and share information on priority justice issues to educate and inspire response throughout the Mercy world. This includes:
 - a) Applying the Mercy Justice Advocacy Approach to MGA's priority justice issues
 - b) Undertaking Participatory Action Research within a theological, cross-cultural, critical, human rights framework.
 - c) Translating findings and insights from research and program learning, into tools and guidance for MGA Advocacy Training.
 - d) Collaborating on MIA initiatives providing opportunities for MGA justice information to be shared and explored throughout the Mercy World.
 - e) Providing information and advice for Mercy Sisters and Associates efforts on other justice issues when possible.

- 3) **Advocate:** Give input to MGA's priority justice issues. This includes:
 - a) Communicating on a range of IT channels, eg an MGA-focussed webpage, MGA social media channels, and email. MGA will share its news across these platforms, including publishing regularly in Mercy e-News.
 - b) Representing MGA in justice coalitions, as well as NGO UN working groups, particularly in relation to Migration, Water and Homelessness.
 - c) Assisting Mercy ministries at National levels in holding their governments accountable for them, especially with respect to Migration and Water.
 - d) Tracking relevant UN processes and identifying key opportunities to engage with the appropriate UN body and /or processes.

Selection Criteria

Essential

- A commitment to the Mission, Purpose and desired Ethos of MIA.
- A Commitment to Social Justice and International Development Issues.
- An undergraduate degree or equivalent.
- A demonstrated interest in the United Nations System, its processes, programs and activities.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong research and report writing skills
- A high level of proficiency in the use of web based resources, particularly social media and an ability to use web-based communication effectively.

Personal Skills and Attributes

- Strong organisational skills.
- Proactive at seeking and incorporating feedback.
- Ability to be flexible and work within a small, collaborative team.
- The capacity to initiate and act both independently and interdependently.
- Commitment to sound work ethics and willingness to work a flexible schedule.
- Intercultural awareness and sensitivity.

This is a volunteer position; a monthly stipend is provided to assist with food, housing and transportation expenses.

Please note that this position is based in New York, USA, and the successful applicant must, if necessary, be able to obtain residential and relevant visas for the United States of America.

Applications and enquiries:

To apply for this position, please email a cover letter, a CV and the contact details of two referees who can comment on your suitability for the position to:

Colleen Swain, Leadership and Advocacy Associate,
leadershipadvocacy@mercyinternational.ie

Applications for this position must be received by Friday, 22 May 2020.

About Mercy International Association

Mercy International Association (MIA) is an organization based in Dublin, Ireland, founded in 1992 to serve the Sisters of Mercy and their associates in ministry. MIA also has an office in New York (USA) from which its Mercy Global Action (MGA) activities are led and administered. MIA promotes the founding vision of the Sisters of Mercy through provision of heritage resources, programmes, tours, conferences and pilgrimages. MIA also stimulates and inspires Mercy congregations and institutes throughout the world to use their resources to respond to issues of global poverty and its root causes. This vision keeps alive the spirit Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, among peoples of the world most in need of God's compassion and mercy today.

MIA is responsible for Mercy International Centre, Lower Baggot Street Dublin where the offices of MIA are located, and also for its Mercy Global Action office located in New York City. In Dublin the work of MIA encompasses Heritage and Programmes, Archival and Research work and promotion of Mercy spirituality. Through its MGA office, MIA leads its Mercy global justice ministry. In both locations MIA has structures and systems that promote global communication, programmes, international gatherings and activities. MIA supports the cause for Canonization of Catherine McAuley.