



MERCY GLOBAL ACTION (MGA)

POSITION DESCRIPTION

GLOBAL POLICY AND RESEARCH ADVOCATE

Purpose of the Position:

The Global Policy and Research Advocate is a vital member of the Mercy Global Action Team. The purpose of this role is to research MGA's priority justice issues utilizing the Mercy Justice Advocacy Approach. This requires Participatory Action Research, necessitating a root cause and systems based analysis. Outcomes of research will form the basis of Social Justice Responses and Policy recommendations.

The Global Policy and Research Advocate will also act as an Additional Representative of the Sisters of Mercy in exercising Special Consultative Status at the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Key Relationships

Reports to: Head of Mercy Global Action

Internal: CEO MIA, Executive Team MIA, Mercy Global Action Team, Interns, Fellows & Volunteers. MIA Members, Sisters of Mercy and Associates

External: Donors, International Justice Coalitions, UN NGO's, UN Personnel & Government Diplomats.

Hours: This is a full time position.* 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 Global Policy and Research Advocate will:

- 1) **Research:** Use the Mercy Justice Advocacy Approach to develop and implement a strategic research plan to support MGA's justice priorities. This includes:
 - a) Undertaking Participatory Action Research within a theological, cross-cultural, critical, human rights framework.
 - b) Developing research analysis and policy positions to support Mercy advocacy on the issues of Migration, Water and Homelessness.
 - c) Liaising with Mercy Global Action research partners and research focused colleagues in NGO's, universities, research institutes and other international agencies.

- d) Contributing to the development of policy briefs, learning papers and submissions, including submissions to government and parliamentary inquiries.
 - e) Tracking relevant UN processes and identifying key opportunities to engage with the appropriate UN body and /or processes.
- 2) **Advocate:** Build on and sustain Mercy response to priority justice issues. This includes:
- a) Representing MGA in research, policy and advocacy coalitions, as well as NGO UN working groups, particularly in relation to Migration, Water and Homelessness
 - b) Engaging in strategic partnerships outside Mercy.
 - c) Leveraging Special Consultative Status at the UN (ECOSOC) and Association with the Department of Global Communications for advocacy, promoting just international standards a
 - d) Assisting Mercy ministries at National levels in holding their governments accountable for them, especially with respect to Migration and Water.
- 3) **Connect:** Participate in vibrant MIA-MGA networks for justice advocacy. This includes:
- a) Communicating in an intercultural environment, across the Mercy World
 - b) Working collaboratively through participation in MGA justice task forces
 - c) Providing input and expertise to MGA's particular task forces on the issues of Migration, Water and Homelessness
 - d) Providing input and expertise in responding to MIA's priority justice issues across the Mercy world, and with other collaborators beyond the Mercy world, especially on Migration, Water and Homelessness.
- 4) **Communicate:** Take the lead on and sustain an effective MGA communications strategy. This includes
- a) Carrying out a vibrant social media strategy for effective Mercy connection, information sharing, capacity building and response to priority justice issues.
 - b) 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.
 - c) Using optimal digital communication channels, serving as Mercy's information hub on priority justice issues.
- 5) **Raise Awareness:** Generate and share information and guidance on priority justice issues to educate and inspire response throughout the Mercy world. This includes:
- a) Translating findings and insights from research and program learning, into tools and guidance for MGA Advocacy Training
 - b) Carrying out other training to strengthen justice advocacy capacity throughout the Mercy world as well as supporting internship, fellowship and research opportunities.
 - c) Collaborating on MIA initiatives providing opportunities for MGA justice information to be shared and explored throughout the Mercy World.
 - d) Providing information and advice for Mercy Sisters and Associates efforts on other justice issues when possible.

Selection Criteria

Essential

- A commitment to the Mission, Purpose and desired Ethos of MIA.
- Relevant post-graduate qualifications in International Development or related field.
- An informed and updated knowledge of the United Nations System, its processes, programs and activities
- Knowledge of Catholic Social Justice Teachings, theological reflection processes, human rights, sustainability principles, and gendered impacts of development.
- Outstanding written and verbal communication skills, including experience writing and editing policy, advocacy or action research reports for publication and representing policy positions to external audiences.
- Demonstrated research experience including: coordinating research projects or partnerships; collecting and analysing data; preparing and editing research for publications to communicate research including policy and practice implications.
- A high level of proficiency in the use of web based resources, particularly social media and an ability to use web-based communication effectively
- Ability to write submissions, negotiate and manage research contracts, including with donors, institutions and individuals
- Ability to problem-solve technological issues, seek out answers and adapt to a changing technological environment,

Personal Skills and Attributes

- Strong organisational skills, including time and stress management skills and the ability to prioritise and to give attention to detail.
- 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.
- Language Skills – Fluency in Spanish is desirable.

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

* Due to funding availability this is a two year contract with the possibility of extension.

** 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.

Remuneration will be negotiated based on skills and qualifications.

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:

Angela Reed rsm, Head, Mercy Global Action, mercyrep@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.