

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2019 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 7



IN THIS ISSUE

THEMATIC AREAS

INSIDE THE UN: THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES

MGA HLPF SPOTLIGHT

MGA A WAY FORWARD

USEFUL RESOURCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:
ANGELA REED RSM, COLLEEN
SWAIN, AND MARIAN GARDNER

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION OFFICE HOSTS SR PATRICIA O'DONOVAN RSM

Mercy Global Action team had the pleasure of hosting Sr Patricia O' Donovan, co-founder of Mercy Efforts for Child Protection Against Trafficking with the Hospitality Sector (MECPATHS) in Ireland. Sr Patricia's visit was an opportunity for Mercy Global Action to share its advocacy strategies in relation to human trafficking and to learn more about the work of MECPATHS. The Mercy Global Action team also facilitated Sister Patricia's meeting and networking with other relevant organisations working to address human trafficking. In addition, Sr Patricia participated as a panelist in session three of the Inherent Dignity Webinar Series.



Photo: Mercy Global Action

VIBRANT CONVERSATION OVER THE AIRWAVES: MGA NEW YORK TO MIC, DUBLIN



Last week, Angela Reed RSM engaged in a lively conversation with Mercy Sisters undertaking a program at Mercy International Centre in Dublin. These sisters recently made final vows or are preparing to do so in the near future. Speaking from the Mercy Global Action Office in New York, Angela was able to zoom into the International room

at the Mercy International Centre in Dublin. The conversation included an overview of the work undertaken at the MGA office on behalf of Mercy globally and some of the challenges this involves. Angela spoke about the need to collaborate with sisters and associates on the ground and the importance of ongoing communication and advocacy.





THEMATIC AREAS

DEGRADATION OF EARTH



Click [here](#) for more information.

- [UN Expert Releases Report on Climate Change and Poverty](#)

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Philip Alston, released a report entitled “Climate Change and Poverty” on 25 June. The report calls for more focus on the impact of climate change on human rights, with a specific attention to the rights of people living in or near poverty. According to the findings of the report, “Climate change threatens the future of human rights and risks undoing the last fifty years of progress in development, global health, and poverty reduction.” The report highlights that although the poorest half of the world’s population is only responsible for 10 percent of carbon emissions, the greatest burden of climate change will fall on them. They will be further subjected to food insecurity, lost incomes and livelihoods, worse health, displacement and many other human rights consequences. **Mercy International Association: Mercy Global Action will leverage the findings of this report as it continues to advocate for climate justice.** Read the full report [here](#):

- [Voices From the Mine](#)

We encourage you to view the following film entitled “*Voices from the mine- Artisanal diamonds and resource governance in Sierra Leone*” which was featured at a recent event at the United Nations in New York. This film, set in Sierra Leone, casts a critical eye over resourcing within the artisanal diamond sector. It documents the stories of different stakeholders and particularly hones in on why those working at the bottom of the chain do not accrue benefits. Mercy Global Action continues to question exploitative practices within the mining industry and condemns both the degradation of earth and human rights abuses.



Watch the event on UN webtv [here](#) and click [here](#) to watch the film 'Voices from the mine'

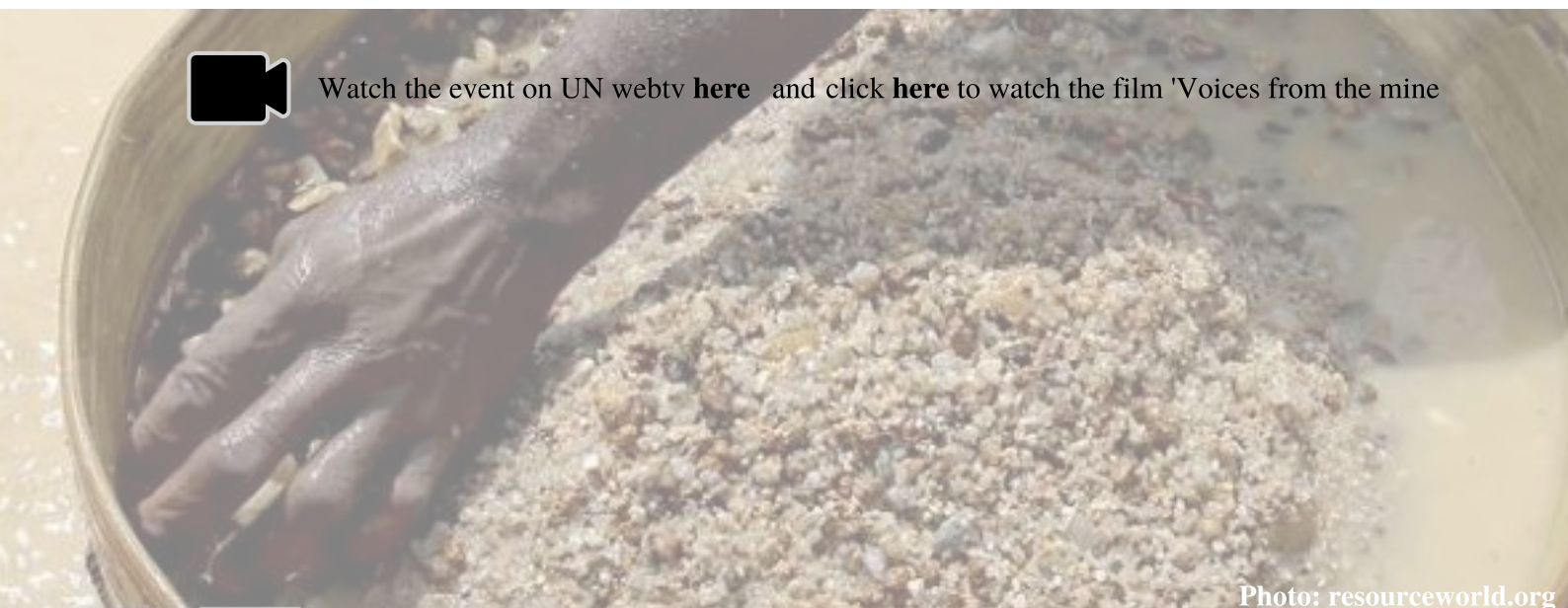
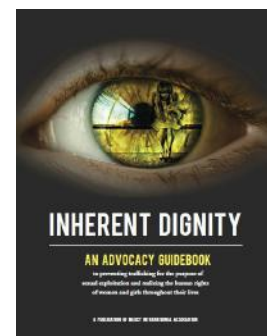


Photo: [resourceworld.org](#)



THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS



- *[Mercy Sisters and Affiliates Share about their Anti-Trafficking Advocacy Efforts in Inherent Dignity Webinar!](#)*

On 25 July the final session of the Inherent Dignity Webinar Series entitled “Prevention of Trafficking: What Organizations and Individuals Can Do” took place. During the webinar, anti-trafficking advocates from Canada, Ireland, United States and Australia presented on their advocacy efforts. Panelists included Grandmother Isabelle Meawasige, Ojibway Head Grandmother and Healer from the Serpent River First Nations in Ontario, Canada; Ms. Christine Carolan, National Executive Officer of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH); Sister Jeanne Christensen rsm, the Justice Advocate against Human Trafficking for the Sisters of Mercy West Midest Community; Sister Patricia O’Donovan rsm, co-founder of Mercy Efforts for Child Protection Against Traffickign with the Hospitatlity Sector (MECPHTS) in Ireland; and Sister Angela Reed rsm, Coordinator of Mercy Global Action and co-author of the Inherent Dignity Advocacy Guidebook, delivered closing remarks.

 You can view the recordings of all three sessions of the Inherent Dignity Webinar Series [here](#).

- *[More than 70 Million People were Displaced in 2018!](#)*

A key area of concern for MIA: MGA is the displacement of persons. Sisters of Mercy and associates have been working with and advocating for refugees and asylum seekers for many years. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) 2018 report on the state of force displacement, the number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million in 2018 - the highest level that UNHCR has seen in its almost 70 years. Every minute in 2018, 25 people were forced to flee. Click [here](#) to read the report and click play (right) to view the video.



Photo: Talitha Kum

- *[Trafficking in Persons Report](#)*

The 19th annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, published by the US Dept. of State was released on 20 June 2019. It is pleasing to see that the 2019 TIP report includes the promotion of human trafficking survivors and their leadership in establishing effective and comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies. The report states ‘survivors know firsthand what is needed to improve government anti-trafficking responses and their input is key to ensuring anti-trafficking policies reflect perspectives that only those with a lived experience

can provide’ (see page 24). MIA, through the Mercy Global Action Office, has highlighted the significance of survivor advocates voices in anti- trafficking policy and prevention for many years. MGA continues to consult with survivor advocates on issues of policy and prevention in relation to Human Trafficking. Click [here](#) to read the full report. Can you identify your own country in this report? Congratulations is extended to Sr Gabriella Bottani, the International Coordinator of Talitha Kum who was honored as a TIP report Hero. Mercy Global Action works closely with Talitha Kum and Sr Gabriella and is delighted to see that her advocacy across the world has been acknowledged.

At the United Nations THROUGH OUR ECOSOC EYES...

- *Mercy Global Action Advocates for the Protection of Children from Abuse and Exploitation During the UN High-Level Political Forum*



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mercy Global Action (MGA) along with members of the UN Committee to Stop Trafficking In Persons (CSTIP) developed a one-page advocacy guide for Sustainable Development Goal 16, Target 16.2: “End Abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.” The guide will be distributed to UN Member States at official sessions, side events and Voluntary National Review presentations during the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which is held from Tuesday, 9 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019. MGA and members of CSTIP will be paying special attention to UN Member States who did not provide data for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report.

Please find the advocacy points below. Which of these advocacy points are relevant in your country's context?

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Goal 16, Target 16.2: “End Abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”

Adopt an action-oriented approach to prevent human trafficking, which recognizes the systemic issues that create vulnerabilities to exploitation, especially in women and children. Respond to these vulnerabilities through gender-sensitive, age-appropriate strategies throughout a person's life course.

Adhere to the recommendations of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, noting where it connects to Agenda 2030. Abide by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. Ensure universal ratification and full implementation of both.

Address DEMAND. Without demand there is no trafficking in persons. Addressing this root cause is essential. Demand for high profits, cheap goods and labor, organ removal and commercialized sex is the driving force behind trafficking. Ending demand is key to eliminating human trafficking and paving the way to peaceful and sustainable societies.

Attend to the urgent need for disaggregated data on the number of victims of human trafficking by age, sex and form of exploitation, as called for in indicator 16.2.2. This is critical to understanding the full scope of human trafficking nationally and internationally, and will help certify that no victim, especially child victims, will be left behind.

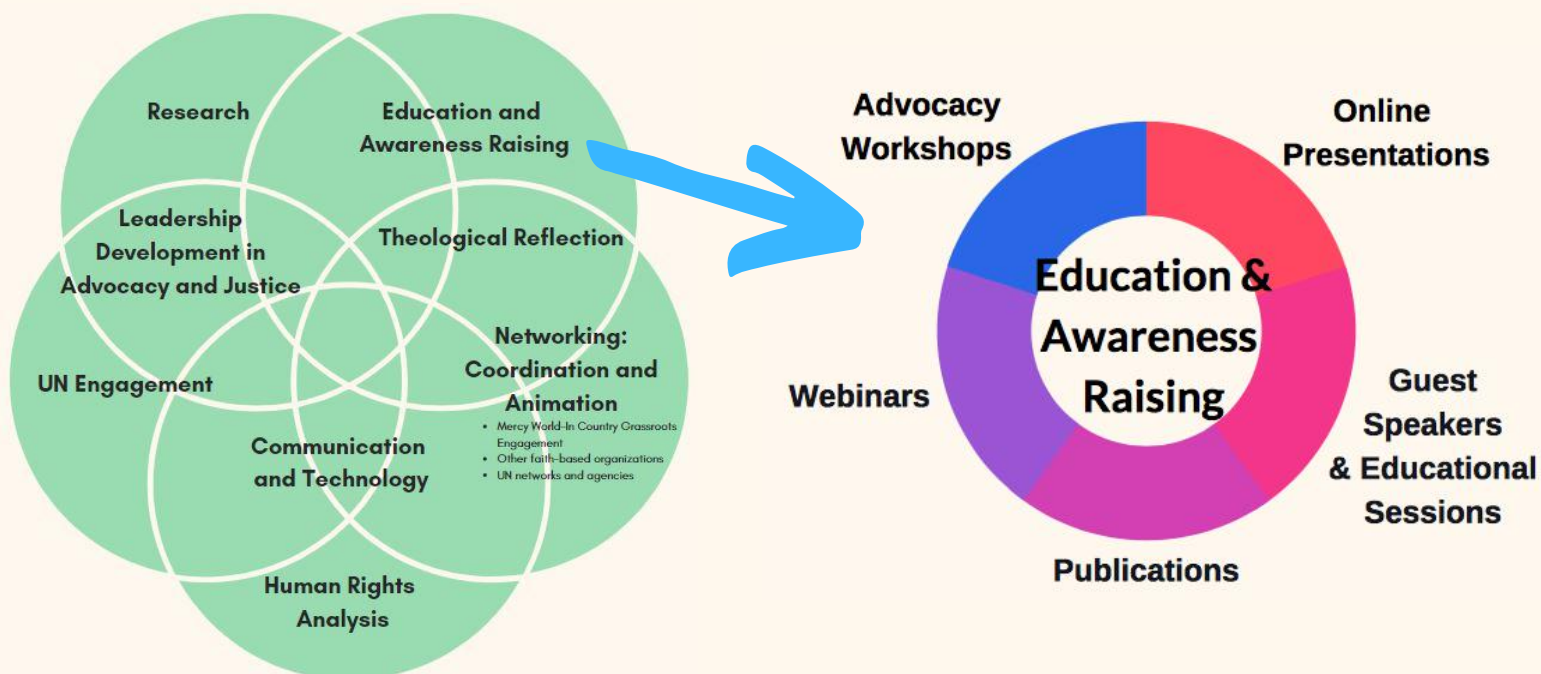
Allocate significant resources at all levels toward prosecution strategies, which should include, at a minimum, training for police, prosecutors and judges; and investments in partnerships to track traffickers' financial flows. Furthermore, full funding must be granted to comprehensive services, including exit programs, for victims and survivors.

MGA A WAY FORWARD...

As in past Newsletters we are featuring a section from the "MGA: A Way Forward" document. See [here](#).

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

Education in Advocacy and Awareness Raising is a constant call of the Mercy World. This is critical. Education and advocacy are complementary but distinct. Both are key to the work of Mercy Global Action. Mercy Global Action is committed to critical analysis, informed advocacy and participatory education resulting in new insights, ideas and action for justice.



#AMAZONSOURCEOFLIFE

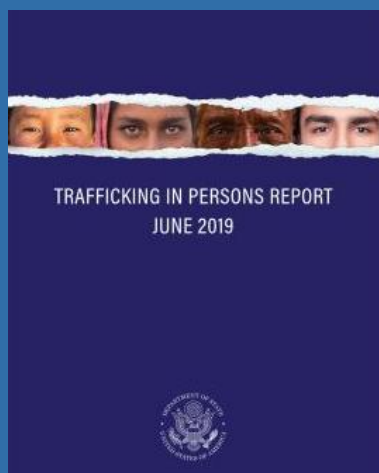
CIDSE and REPAM collaborated to produce a series of 17 mini video interviews on the Amazon covering issues such as the upcoming Synod, nature, climate, gender equality, indigenous rights, land rights, corporate regulation and systemic change.

All interviews last approx. 1.5 min each and are available on the CIDSE Youtube Channel with EN / ES / FR / GE / PT subtitles.

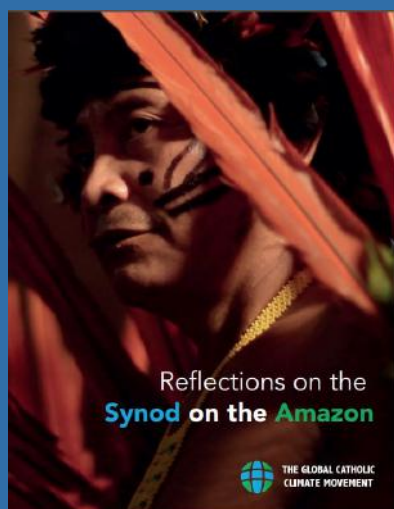


“USEFUL RESOURCES

Trafficking in Persons Report 2019



Reflections on the Synod on the Amazon



Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2018



UPCOMING EVENTS AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS

- 9th- 18th July High Level Political Forum
- 8th-12th July- Srs Rosemary Patterson rsm and Margaret Moore rsm visit with MGA Office
- 11th July- MGA Meets with Misean Cara
- 15th July- Marian Gardner and Colleen Swain Meet With Mercy VITA in Dublin
- 16th-19th July Marian Gardner and Colleen Swain present at Young Mercy Leaders Conference in Dublin
- 29th July-Event "Faces in the Fight Against Human Trafficking" To mark the 10th anniversary of the Talitha Kum Network & World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
Photo Exhibit 'Nuns Healing Hearts' by Lisa Kristine
Followed by a Reception
- 30 July World Day against Trafficking in Persons
- August - Angela Reed rsm/MGA in country visit Australia
- 9th August -International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

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

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