

MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



MERCY GLOBAL ACTION

Source: MIA MGA UN

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YOUNG MERCY LEADERS CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN



Photo: Mercy E-News

The Mercy Global Action Team at the UN played an active role in the Young Mercy Leaders Conference held last week at Mercy International Centre in Dublin.

Colleen Cloonan, currently in the role of Leadership and Advocacy Associate, was a key guide for the young leaders who travelled to Ireland for the pilgrimage. Having been a pilgrim herself, just four years earlier, Colleen was able to provide words of inspiration and encouragement to young participants seeking to play a greater role in Mercy works. Colleen led participants through reflective activities which helped them to deepen their understanding of leadership and mercy.

Angela Reed rsm, currently coordinating the Mercy Global Action Office at the UN, delivered a keynote address to the young leaders, focusing on six key questions to ask when undertaking Justice and advocacy work.

- What is the experience for Earth and People?
- Who am I and where do I place myself in this ever evolving world?
- What tools do I have for Advocacy?
- Whom do I advocate for/with?
- Who is with me on this justice journey?
- What action does this justice journey lead me to?

In the 'Other resources' section of this newsletter are four key resources that Angela used in her keynote. These include; a trailer to the documentary 'Flow: For the Love of Water', a trailer to the documentary 'Human Flow', an online reflection by Argentinian Mercy Sister, Ana Sufie on Eco-Spirituality and an article by American activist Mary Cunningham, entitled 'Striving for Holiness in Our Advocacy'. (See side panel page 3).

For a full overview of the weeks activities in Dublin visit the Mercy World website!

**The Sisters of Mercy have held special consultative status within the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1998*

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THEMATIC AREAS

DISPLACED PERSONS



- *Mercy International Association: Mercy Global Action at the UN launches "Inherent Dignity: An Advocacy Guidebook to Preventing Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation and to Realising the Human Rights of Women and Girls Throughout their Lives"*



Photo: MIA: MGA at the UN

To highlight the International Day Against Trafficking in Persons (July 30th), Mercy International Association: Mercy Global Action at the UN launched its new publication 'Inherent Dignity' in an event co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd and Trocaire. This event was **live-streamed** on Facebook for members to tune in across the world.

Moderating the event was Chris Cervenak, International Lawyer and Human Rights Activist, with opening remarks by Ambassador Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines; followed by panelists including Ms. Jane Connors, Assistant Secretary General, Victims' Rights Advocate for the United Nations; Angela Reed rsm, Coordinator at Mercy International Association: Mercy Global Action at the UN; and Winifred Doherty rsgs, NGO Representative to the UN Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd. Each discussed the varying facets of their own work against trafficking in persons and highlighted how human rights must always be placed at the center of the dialogue on human trafficking.

In her Foreword to the publication, Anne T. Gallagher, president of the International Catholic Migration Commission, said the new guidebook "is ultimately about prevention. It is about creating rights-based and respectful families, communities and societies where trafficking through sexual exploitation is no longer possible. That goal is an ambitious one, but those we serve deserve nothing less." Read the publication [here!](#)



Photo: MIA: MGA at the UN



Photo: MIA: MGA at the UN

NOTABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION RELATING TO MIGRATION

- *Final Draft of the Global Compact on Migration released!*

After many months of preparation, discussion and advocacy, the negotiations towards the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration came to a close on July 13th. Adoption of the Global Compacts for Refugees and Migrants will take place in Marrakesh, Morocco this December. Click [here](#) to read the final draft!

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THEMATIC AREAS

Continued

DEGRADATION OF THE EARTH



• *Sister of Mercy, Mary Ellen Howard rsm Stands up for Water Rights at the United Nations*



Photo: MIA: MGA at the UN

During the High Level Political Forum at the United Nations, MIA: MGA at the UN Co-Sponsored an event entitled "Defining the Value of Water from a Rights-Based Perspective". Speakers included, Mary Ellen Howard rsm, Meera Karunanathan of Blue Planet Project, Maureen Taylor with the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, and Sandra Vermuyten with Public Services International. This event highlighted and explored the ways in which water is valued in communities, cultures and faiths around the world. As well as the ways in which market-based strategies have distorted these long-held values and further marginalized segments of the population including rural women, indigenous peoples, small farmers and impoverished communities. This event was live-streamed on Facebook and can be seen [here!](#)

• *Recognizing the Contributions of Women Human Rights Defenders*

On July 26th, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, MIA: MGA at the UN attended event entitled 'States' responsibility towards the protection of women human rights defenders: 20 years after the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders'. This event showcased the obstacles, experiences and strategies of collective protection from eleven women from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. It is imperative to reaffirm the works of women human rights defenders and strive towards measures to protect and support those who have been threatened. The Sisters of Mercy will continue to advocate for the rights of these women.

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

• *Draft of Binding Treaty has been released!*

On July 16th, the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, released the draft document of the legally binding instrument to regulate, international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises. This draft document will be negotiated in Geneva this October 15th-17th. Read the draft binding treaty [here](#).

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“ USEFUL RESOURCES

FLOW: For the Love of Water



Movie: 'Human Flow'



Striving for Holiness in Our Advocacy



Meditation on Laudato Si' prepared by Sister of Mercy, Anna Siufi of Argentina



THROUGH OUR ECOSOC* EYES...

Elevating the Voices of Girls at the High Level Political Forum



Photo: Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

An inspiring side event during the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) was ‘Raising the Needs of the Girl Child’. This was an interactive side event moderated by Deisha, a girl advocate from the Working Group on Girls. Focusing on the girl child and the intersection of gender, age and the Sustainable Development Goals, panelists shared an array of insights and challenges.

Some passionate quotes from the panelists;

Winifred Doherty RGS

Main Representative to the United Nations, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

‘We need to provide a counter narrative to current practices of exclusion and division’

Rimah Salah

Former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. Faculty at the Child Study Center at Yale University.

“Girls need to be supported from a situation of vulnerability to strength”

Mavic Cabrera-Balleza

Chief Executive Officer, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

‘Economic empowerment is not just about spending money...it’s about power, agency and personal security’

Davica (Girl Advocate)

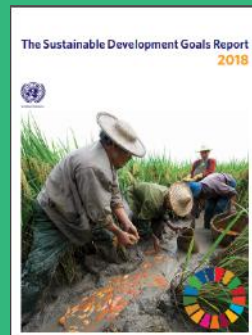
‘Girls need to have a seat at the table, because they are capable of speaking for themselves’

Read more about Davica's advocacy at <https://www.browngirlmagazine.com/2018/02/devika-saloni-mahi-project-menstrual-education/>

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- *Outcomes from the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF)*

The United Nations' High Level Political Forum (HLPF) concluded on July 18th with the adoption (164 in favor, 2 against) of a **Ministerial Declaration** pledging and reaffirming thirty-one commitments and actions towards sustainable development. Commitments within the declaration included continued work towards eradicating poverty, embracing diversity in cities, peace and security, achieving gender equality, and more.

"Addressing the Forum, Secretary-General António Guterres said that while much progress has been made, the world has also backtracked in areas that are fundamental to the shared pledge to leave no one behind. For the first time in a decade, the number of people who are undernourished has increased, gender inequality continues to deprive women of basic rights, and investment in sustainable infrastructure remains "entirely inadequate" — all amid runaway climate change, eroding human rights and persistent pockets of poverty." Read more [here](#).



USEFUL RESOURCES

Misean Cara, an international and Irish faith-based missionary movement, works to fund projects of varying congregations and member organizations in some of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities in developing communities. Learn more about their projects [here](#).

During the High Level Political Forum CEO, Heydi Foster, and other representatives from Misean Cara met with faith based organizations with ECOSOC status at the United Nations, including the Sisters of Mercy. Click [here](#) to watch a short video reflecting the outcomes of this visit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Some events MIA at the UN will be participating in

- 22nd and 23rd August- UN DPI Conference
- 4th September- Mercy International Association Web Presentation 'Care for Creation'
- 5th September- Religious at the UN Meeting
- 11th September- Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons Meeting
- 12th September- NGO Mining Working Group Meeting
- 25th September - Business and Civic Freedoms: Defending Human Rights in Southeast Asia

NEWS FROM THE MIA GLOBAL ACTION (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE)

NEWS UPDATE

It's been a busy and productive month as the following reflects.

YOUNG MERCY LEADERS PILGRIMAGE (YMLP)

It was a delight to work with the 48 young college students during the YMLP week. Following Angela's excellent keynote address Denise and JP O'Sullivan from MECPATHS (Mercy Efforts for Child Prostitution Against Trafficking with the Hospitality Sector) ran two workshops on human trafficking. The key points included:

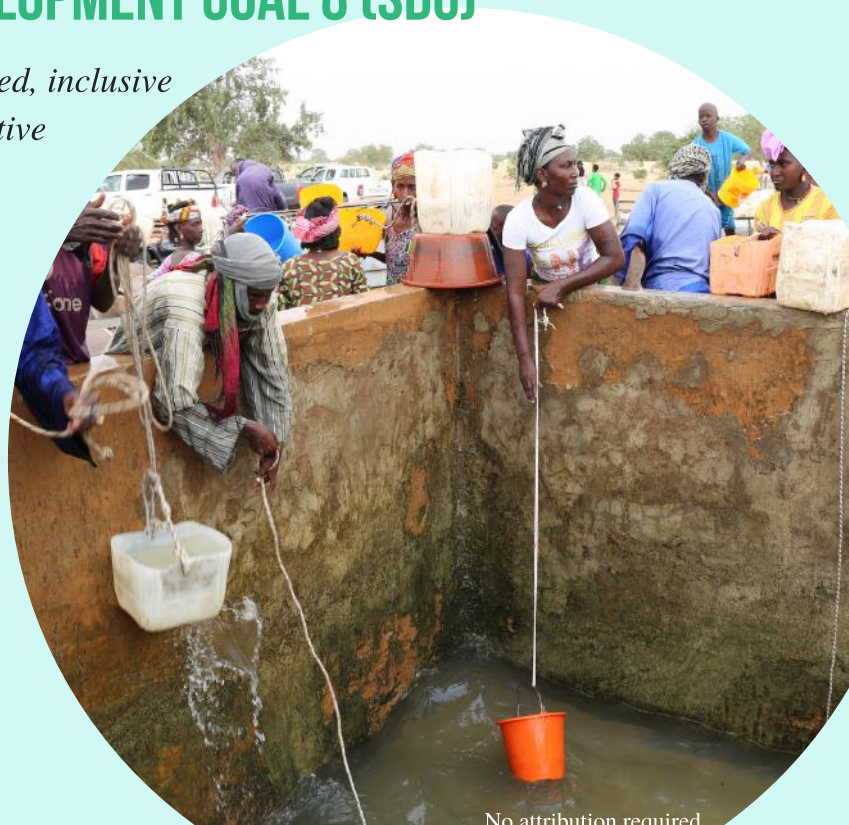
- a) Terminology, forms of trafficking, exploring the 'why';
- b) Petra's story – film clip of survivor sharing her story see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE0phtoqB2o>;
- c) Response of Mercy Global Family to human trafficking – projects / advocacy.
- d) Identifying 'root causes' that render people vulnerable to being trafficked
- e) Networking locally and nationally to address human trafficking
- f) Discussion around possible action and commitment to raise awareness about human trafficking / modern slavery.

Having Angela and Colleen here in Dublin, provided a good opportunity to catch up and to discuss the Global Action programme together.

PAMPHLET ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8 (SDG)

The focus of this pamphlet is to: *“Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”*.

Betty Lacey our researcher completed SDG 8 as part of the series of pamphlets MGA are producing. To date we have published eight of the 17 SDGs that form the central plank of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The pamphlets serve as an introduction to the various aspects of sustainable development chosen to ensure that collectively the 2030 Agenda will achieve its aims of addressing successfully: inequality, poverty, sustainable development, protection of ecosystems and climate change. See pamphlet on the Mercy World Website!



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NEWS FROM THE MIA GLOBAL ACTION (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE)

VITA REJOICE AT THE PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA



Thousands line to streets of Asmara, Eritrea's capital, to greet Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed

As a development agency working in Eritrea and Ethiopia, VITA was delighted to hear news that a peace agreement was signed by both countries in July, 2018, thereby officially ending the state of war between the two countries. The agreement declared by the leaders of Eritrea and Ethiopia has been followed swiftly by meaningful reengagement between the countries. These positive developments give tremendous hope for peace, stability and economic opportunity. This is especially true for Eritrea, as it had been isolated regionally and

internationally since the war with neighbouring Ethiopia. Members of the Congregation partner with VITA in the implementation of their excellent initiatives that promote sustainability and economic empowerment for people in the rural areas of both countries.

POPE FRANCIS TO VISIT IRELAND FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES (WMOF)

Ireland is poised to extend a warm 'céad mile failte' to Pope Francis on Saturday 25th of August when he arrives to close the WMOF. In his brief two day visit Francis will visit the shrine of our Lady in Knock, Co. Mayo; spend time at a project looking after the homeless and vulnerable in Dublin; meet members of the Government; have a private meeting with victims/survivors of clerical abuse and enjoy a special Irish concert in Croke Park just before closing the WMOF event. On Sunday 26th Francis will preside at an open air mass with 600,000 people expected to attend.

Betty and Denise are volunteers with the Laudato Si Working Group, who with the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) have set up a wonderful theme garden and a special prayer space. Throughout the three days of the WMOF there will be on going workshops, talks and activities highlighting the major themes 'On Care of Our Common Home' from Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment.

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