

*MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(Year Ended 31ST December 2015)*



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TRUSTEES AND OTHER INFORMATION

Members

Pat McDermott rsm, President, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Berneice Loch rsm, Institute Leader, Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia & PNG

Margaret Casey rsm, Congregational Leader, Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Ireland

Katrina Fabish rsm, Congregational Leader, Sisters of Mercy New Zealand (Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa)

Carmela Cabactulan rsm, Sister Superior, Sisters of Mercy Philippines

Elizabeth Davis rsm, Congregational Leader, Sisters of Mercy Newfoundland

Colette Cronin rsm, Congregational Leader, The Institute of Our Lady of Mercy

Philomena Bowers rsm, Congregational Leader, Sisters of Mercy of the Union of Great Britain

Aelred Carlin rsm, Federation President, The Federation of the Sisters of Mercy

Catherine Reuter rsm, Congregational Leader, Sisters of Mercy Brisbane

Loreto Conroy rsm, Congregational Leader, Sisters of Mercy North Sydney Congregation:

Catherine Ryan rsm, Congregational Leader, Sisters of Mercy Parramatta

Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the Board

Patricia McDermott rsm

Peter Burnett

Denise Fox rsm

Maura Hyland

Ron Ashworth

James Peppiatt-Combes

Colette Cronin rsm

Margaret Casey rsm

Scholasticah Nganda rsm



TRUSTEES AND OTHER INFORMATION

Executive Director and Secretary to Board

Mary Reynolds rsm

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES Finance & Funding

Peter Burnett

James Peppiatt-Combes

Colette Cronin rsm

Kevin Hoy

Executive Leadership Team

Mary Reynolds rsm: Executive Director

Denise Boyle fmdm: Assistant director Global Action

Mary Kay Dobrovolny rsm: Assistant Director Heritage & Spirituality

Sylvia Williams rsm: Assistant Director Finance & Administration (Departure Dec 2015)

Margaret Scrope rsm: Director Finance & Administration (Arrival Dec 2015)

Registered office

11 Adelaide Road

Dublin 2

Principal Address

Mercy International Centre

64A Lower Baggot Street

Dublin 2



TRUSTEES AND OTHER INFORMATION

Independent Auditors

Robert J. Kidney & Co
11 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Principal Bankers

Bank of Ireland,
Baggot Street,
Dublin 2

Legal Advisers

Mason Hayes + Curran
South Bank House
Barrow Street
Dublin 4

Financial Consultants

L&P
Terminus Mills,
Clonskeagh Road
Dublin 6



PREFACE

ADVANCING MERCY'S MISSION ROUND THE WORLD



One of the two principal objects of Mercy International Association (MIA) is to stimulate and inspire Sisters of Mercy, their associates and colleagues in ministry, to continue the work of Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy in ways which are appropriate to the needs of the world for the time being.

In 2015, this object was progressed in a number of ways. Several Formation programmes were offered at Mercy International Centre and there was a continued rise in the number of people participating – a rise of 76% on 2014. Of those attending 39% were Partners in Ministry; 36% were Youth and Young Adults; 24% were Vowed Members and 1% were Associates. There is a very clear indication that Partners in Ministry and Youth/Young Adults are a rapidly growing cohort of those availing of formation at Mercy International Centre. It being the Year of Consecrated Life, twelve Mercy scholars were invited to contribute articles, one each month, on the theme of Mercy. These were uploaded to our web and availed of widely. The articles proved to be a very inspiring resource for Vowed members and colleagues alike. Further stimulation and inspiration was offered by input at a Mercy Education Conference in Australia in August and by a field visit to Justice Ministries in Australia in October.

In addition to the programmes, the Heritage and Spirituality resources and Conference facilities of the Centre were availed of by a wide circle of people. Several tour groups visited the centre, the chapel was used by a number of local schools for religious formation and celebratory events and our Conference Room was used by a number of organisations.

The second objective of Mercy International is outreach to the poor. In 2015, we worked very effectively to influence the post 2015 Development Agenda that aims to help define the future global development framework that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals. Our particular focus was on the human right to Water and Sanitation and while disappointed that this did not get included in the Strategic Development Goals proper, it did get included in the targets. We welcome the unanimous adoption by world leaders in September 2015 of the Sustainable Development Goals and their commitment to end poverty by 2030, leaving no-one behind. Our intention is to work to progress this agenda and to monitor and lobby governments at national and international level to honour this commitments. Another focus for MIA in 2015 was the European migrant crisis which began in 2015, when a rising number of refugees and migrants made the journey to the European Union (EU) to seek asylum, travelling across the Mediterranean Sea or through Southeast

PREFACE

Europe. MIA took action at the UN, partnered with *Save the Children* and *One.ORG*. to organise a recruitment of signatories of a petition to the EU Leaders meeting to address the crisis and joined the Refugees/Migrants Coalition in Ireland which is composed of national NGOs working with migrants and asylum seekers and which lobbies the Irish Government and through them the EU on issues relating to the crisis. Several initiatives were taken in the work of opposing human trafficking, including. A member of the Australian Institute, who has done extensive research on the Trafficking issue took up a role at our UN office and continues to work on influencing in regard to this issue there.

In the area of communications which is at the service of our two main objectives, our website and weekly newsletters continued to build interconnectedness, provide information, education and inspiration and link us with audiences within and outside the Mercy network. In 2015, our communication of the Mercy story was greatly enhanced by the upgrade of technology and resources of the International Room. This has made a major contribution to our Formation Programmes.

We continue to be very grateful for the support of Mercy Congregations around the world who generously contributes almost 1 million annually to resource the work of Mercy International Association. In our desire to share our vision and mission with ever widening circles of people, we are actively engaged in inviting others to become partners with us in our ministry through the contribution of their time, talent or treasure. A special word of thanks goes to the Members and Board of MIA for their breath of vision, their commitment to good governance and their unstinting support. Delivering the mission of MIA could not be accomplished without the professionalism and commitment of Team and Staff.

In conclusion and acknowledging the gift of this Jubilee Year of Mercy, I quote Pope Francis: “Our faith in Christ, who became poor, and was always close to the poor and the outcast, is the basis of our concern for the integral development of society’s most neglected members. The love of Christ compels us, but this “compels us” can also be translated as “possesses us.” And so it is: love attracts us and sends us; it draws us in and gives us to others” (*Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy*). These words, so reminiscent of Catherine McAuley, will inspire us in our commitment to encourage and nurture the flourishing of the Mercy charism and to work for a more just and compassionate world.



Mary Reynolds, RSM
Executive Director

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 Dec. 2014.

BACKGROUND HISTORY OF MIA

In 1827, Catherine McAuley opened what was to be the first Mercy Convent in the world at 64A Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, on the boundary between those who were rich and poor in Dublin at that time. She did this because of her desire to address poverty and its expressions in 19th century Ireland. The mercy mission spread throughout the world through daring women willing to respond in various countries. For over 150 years, the call was to move the founding spirit of Catherine to all parts of the world to address whatever the most significant needs might be. During these 150 + years, the Convent of Mercy on Baggot Street continued to respond to the needs of the poor in Dublin under the care of the Sisters of Mercy, Dublin. In the 1980s a decision was made that the original house founded by Catherine should be held as a heritage house and Mercy home for the Sisters of Mercy, their Associates and Partners in Ministry worldwide. In order to hold it as such, Mercy



International Association was formed. This was an association of the Mercy Congregations, Institutes and Federations around the world – Americas, Australia, England, Ireland, Newfoundland, New Zealand, and the Philippines. In all, this represented Mercy present in 45 countries. In 1992, the memorandum and articles of association of Mercy International Association were signed, and ownership of 64 Lower Baggot Street was transferred from the Sisters of Mercy, Dublin to Mercy International Association.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

A) STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

REGISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE INSTRUMENT

MIA is a registered charity in the Republic of Ireland (charity number CHY 10078), granted charitable status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. MIA was incorporated on 12th October 1992, is governed by Memorandum and Articles, as amended on 16 May 2011. MIA was established to foster unity of mind and heart among Sisters of Mercy and to increase awareness and experience of their global interdependence, to facilitate collaboration among the Congregations, Institutes and Federations to meet the needs of today, to work for justice and to encourage and nurture the flourishing of the Mercy charism within the various cultures of the world. MIA is separate and autonomous from other Mercy organizations around the world, but shares a spiritual bond with all Mercy organizations and operates from Mercy International Centre, 64A Lower Baggot St., Dublin 2, Ireland.

MEMBERS, TRUSTEES AND BOARD

The Members & Associate Members of MIA are the Canonical Leaders of the 12 Mercy Congregations, Institutes and Federations worldwide. The Members appoint a Board of Directors consisting of up to 9 members. The members of the Board are Directors of the MIA Company and Trustees of the Charity. They are subject to retirement by rotation, having held office for three years consecutively. Normally a Director of the Board holds office for no longer than six consecutive years. The Members meet annually to receive the annual report and audited financial statements of MIA. Other meetings take place as required. The Board Directors meets formally at least three times a year. All of these meetings take place over a residential weekend, to allow time for the Directors to develop a deeper understanding of the work of MIA worldwide. Trustees and Board members undergo an induction programme to ensure that collectively they have the overview necessary for the proper governance of the organisation; ongoing training is arranged as and when a need is identified.

There is currently one sub-committee of the Board-the Funding and Finance Committee which is responsible for overseeing all financial and funding aspects of our operation and performance to ensure short and long-term viability.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

DECISION MAKING

The Members, Associate Members and Board are the custodians of MIA's vision, mission and values; they approve strategy, structure, annual plans and budgets and ensure the association is effective and accountable.

Executive Director – Mary Reynolds



Assistant Director's



Sr Denise Boyle fmdm



Sr Mary Kay Dobrovolny rsm



Sr Margaret Scroope rsm

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Board of Directors



Pat McDermott rsm



Denise Fox rsm



Maura Hyland



Colette Cronin rsm



Scholasticah Nganda rsm



Margaret Casey rsm



Peter Burnett



Ron Ashworth



Jim Peppiatt-Combes

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Finance Committee



Mary Reynolds rsm



Margaret Scroope rsm



Kevin Hoy



J. Peppitte-Combes



Peter Burnett



Colette Cronin rsm

Members of the Company



Bernice Loch rsm



Margaret Casey rsm



Patricia McDermott rsm



Katrina Fabish rsm



Elizabeth Davis rsm



Carmella Cabactulan rsm



Collette Cronin rsm

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Associate Members



Sr Philomena Bowers rsm



Sr Aelred Carlin rsm



Sr Catherine Reutter rsm



Sr Catherine Ryan rsm



Sr Loreto Conroy rsm



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL

MIA has established a comprehensive risk management process, which seeks to ensure the responsible people in the organisation manage and mitigate risks. This risk management process is an integral part of MIA's organisational governance system. Risk is regularly and thoroughly assessed at various levels in the organisation up to Board and Trustee level. The MIA risk management process explicitly takes account of uncertainty, the nature of that uncertainty and how it can be addressed.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

Financial Stability: The principal risk and uncertainty facing MIA is Financial Stability: The principal financial challenge facing MIA is in the areas of fundraising and institutional funding. MIA is almost entirely dependent on the goodwill of its participant congregations and on identified donors. The fundraising environment remains very challenging. Increased competition for depleting congregational funds means MIA needs to identify and develop new sources of income in order to reduce the risk of significant income fluctuations. MIA continually reviews and assesses its investment strategy to reduce its exposure to fluctuations and risk in financial markets.

Operational: MIA's staff members and volunteers are the key to success. MIA values the building of strong relationships with staff and volunteers. It implements performance reviews and promotes staff development training. The personal security of staff and safety of beneficiaries of MIA programmes and services is a priority. It is MIA's policy to safeguard all individuals who are involved in or affected by our work from risks of exploitation and abuse, and to ensure that the behaviour of all those working with MIA meets the appropriate standards. MIA has developed comprehensive health and safety management policies to ensure that risk is appropriately managed. Policies are in place to protect children in the delivery of our service.

Information Security: MIA is dependent on IT and communication systems for processing and storing its data. Procedures and policies are in place for data protection and password protection. Digitization of important manuscripts and artefacts has taken place and there is off - site back-up to computer files as well as ongoing professional support. A cyber insurance policy is under consideration.

Reputational: MIA has mechanisms in place to receive from stakeholder's evaluations which include comment or complaint and we have procedures in place to deal with them. It also monitors the external environment in order to anticipate and minimise any reputational risks.

Compliance & Regulation: MIA implements well-established policies and procedures, and adheres to recommended codes to ensure compliance with statute, regulatory or labour law.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

COMMITMENT TO BEST PRACTISE IN GOVERNANCE

MIA has governance structures and procedures in place to ensure Good Governance. MIA is committed to the standards contained within the Good Governance Code. The aim of the code is to determine and formulate standards of best practice in the Voluntary and Community Sector. MIA has signed up to this code and reviews its procedures against it annually.

COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

MIA believes that all individuals have the right to life with dignity and to freedom from exploitation and abuse. It is MIA's policy to safeguard all individuals who are involved in or affected by our work from risks of exploitation and abuse, and to ensure that the behaviour of all those working with MIA meets the appropriate standards. MIA has had a Child Protection Policy in operation since 2010. It provides clear and detailed guidance on prevention of abuse, identification of abuse, reporting of issues and management and investigation of complaints. All staff is Garda vetted and have had in-service training. MIA follows the Policy, Principles and Guidance Document of the Congregation of Sisters of Mercy, Ireland and avails of the formal safeguarding structures of Mercy South Central Province. MIA has a Safeguarding Designated Officer on site in Mercy International Centre and publicly displays its Safeguarding Ethos/ Policy, which includes all relevant contact information.

COMMITMENT TO STANDARDS IN FUNDRAISING PRACTISE

MIA is committed to the standards contained within the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising. The statement was developed by the Irish Charities Tax Research group and exists to provide charities in Ireland with a Fundraising Code of Practice. The purpose of the Statement is to:

- Improve the way charities in Ireland raise their funds.
- Promote high levels of accountability and transparency by organisations fundraising from the public.
- Provide clarity and assurances to donors and prospective donors about the organisations they support.

MIA meets the standards as set out in the Code of Practice and is fully committed to working with the relevant agencies to maintain and develop the highest standards of fundraising methods.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

B) OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of Mercy International Association, as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association is to inspire Sisters of Mercy and their Associates and Partners in Ministry worldwide to incarnate the spirit of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy in ways which are creative and appropriate to the needs of the time ,to foster unity of mind and heart among them and to respond to the cry of the poor in a spirit of mutuality, compassion and mercy. As a catalyst for global possibilities, it enables networking for mission. It promotes the advancement of religion and the relief of poverty. The three main programmes through which MIA works are:

- 1) Heritage and Spirituality Programmes (page 28 - 35)
- 2) Global Action Programmes (page 36 - 51)
- 3) Mercy International Communication Programmes (page 52 - 55)



Mercy International Centre is a place of hospitality which welcomes all associated with Mercy and all who seek to learn and understand Mercy's heritage and mission in the world. Every year over 8,000 people visit MIC to participate in programmes and retreats. Participants walk and pray in places associated with Catherine McAuley. The Centre also provides significant Leadership Training programs to form individuals in Catherine McAuley's philosophy, as they execute professional roles they hold in education, health care, and social outreach.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Each year, the Centre hosts an international youth pilgrimage and school group visits from Australia, Central America, England, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United States. The story of Mercy challenges young people to respond with compassion to the needs of people less fortunate.

Mercy International's Global Action Programme coordinates action and advocacy around poverty, human trafficking and sustainable development. It does this by:

- Identifying and eliminating factors that provide a means to pursue the trafficking of people.
- Pursuing initiatives to support sustainable development of the environment and poverty eradication with a particular focus on extractives, water, and nature.
- Responding, when appropriate, to crisis situations.
- Providing leadership training for the next generation of Mercy ambassadors
- Supporting the UN post 2015 Development Agenda which includes alleviating poverty, ensuring healthy lives, advancing equitable education with particular emphasis on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and promoting inclusive and peaceful societies with access to justice for all. At the United Nations, Mercy International performs significant advocacy through NGO Committees and working groups and publishes findings and statements on issues of critical relevance to the poor and marginalised.



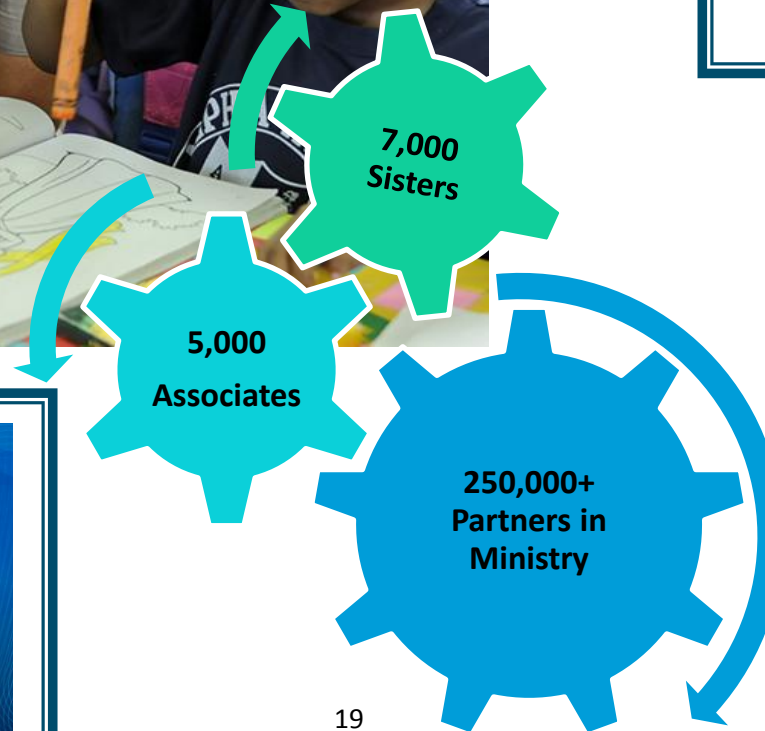
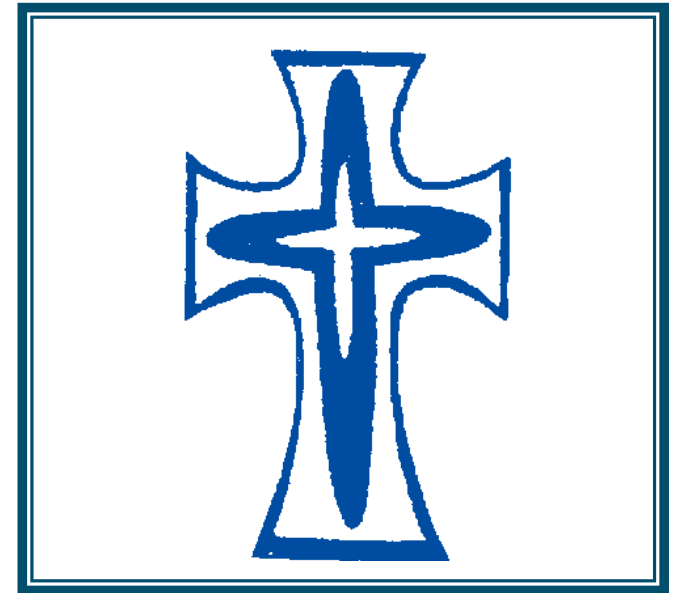
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Mercy International's online programme is underpinned by the concepts of personal connection and supportive communication for the sake of mission. It aims, in the spirit of Catherine, to ensure that Mercy people can be globally interconnected and can connect the rich and the poor for the life of the world. The mercyworld.org website and weekly Mercy eNewsletter are the key components of MIA online communication with social media a secondary but growing component. Together, they service the Mercy global network located in 44 countries across the globe and are the 'digital doorway' to Mercy International Centre (MIC) and effectively a 'virtual' Mercy Centre'. They act as an entry point, a centralised meeting place and a shared resource for members of the Mercy network, providing its many site visitors with information, education, connection, nourishment, inspiration and ongoing opportunities for engagement and interaction. It puts the 'local' into the 'global' arena and the 'global' back into the 'local'. Mercy life is enriched greatly by this mutuality and dialogue online and Mercy union is strengthened by the many and regular connections made through and drawn upon in the online communications.

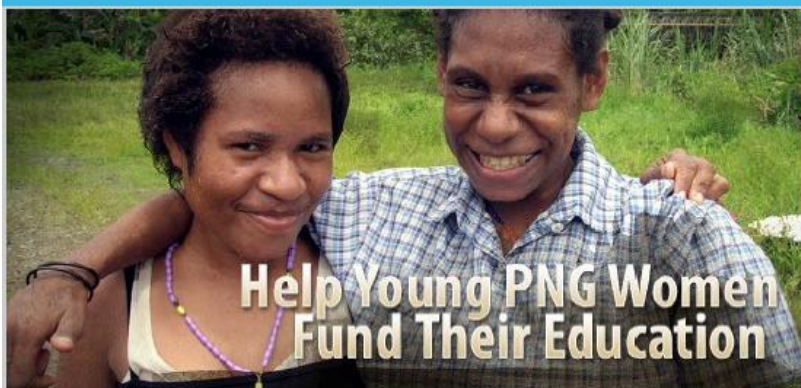


MIA Online also reaches audiences outside the Mercy network whose interests are aligned with the vision and mission of MIA .These diverse audiences are welcome to access the rich media resources and to participate in the public online activities of MIA.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES



The works of the Sisters of Mercy in the locations listed below span education, health social services and ministries that further social, political, economic and spiritual wellbeing. These works keep alive the founding spirit of Catherine among peoples of the world most in need of God's compassion and mercy.

Argentina, Australia, Belize, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Christmas Island, East Timor, England, Ethiopia, Federation States of Micronesia, Guatemala, Guyana, Guam, Guernsey, Haiti, Honduras, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Scotland, Samoa, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tonga, Uganda, United States, Wales and Zambia.



STRATEGIC REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES PLANNING



VISION

GOD'S GRACIOUS *and* COMPASSIONATE MERCY *is the* WELLSPRING, *the* SOURCE of NEVER FAILING SUPPLY, *for all* THOSE WHO CHERISH *and* SEEK *to* LIVE OUT THIS GIFT of MERCY.



CATHERINE MCAULEY, FOUNDRRESS *of the* SISTERS *of* MERCY, USED HER INHERITANCE *in* SERVICE *of the* NEEDS *of* HER TIME. TODAY, SISTERS *of* MERCY, THROUGH MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, USE THEIR RESOURCES *to* RESPOND *to* ISSUES *of* GLOBAL POVERTY DEMONSTRATED *in the* MASSIVE DISPLACEMENT *of* PERSONS WORLDWIDE.



The HOUSE BUILT *by* CATHERINE *to* CONNECT THOSE WHO WERE RICH *with* THOSE WHO WERE POOR FORMS PART *of* MERCY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, *a* PLACE *of* RICH HERITAGE *and* HOSPITALITY.



To INTEGRATE *the* ACTIVITIES *of* MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION *and* *in* SERVICE *of the* MISSION *of* MERCY TODAY, MERCY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE *is* EXPANDED *to* OFFER *a* DIVERSITY *of* PROGRAMMES, ENHANCED COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH EFFORTS, *and* APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATION *and* CONFERENCE FACILITIES.



This VISION KEEPS ALIVE *the* FOUNDING SPIRIT *of* CATHERINE AMONG PEOPLES *of* *the* WORLD MOST *in* NEED *of* GOD'S COMPASSION *and* MERCY.

MISSION

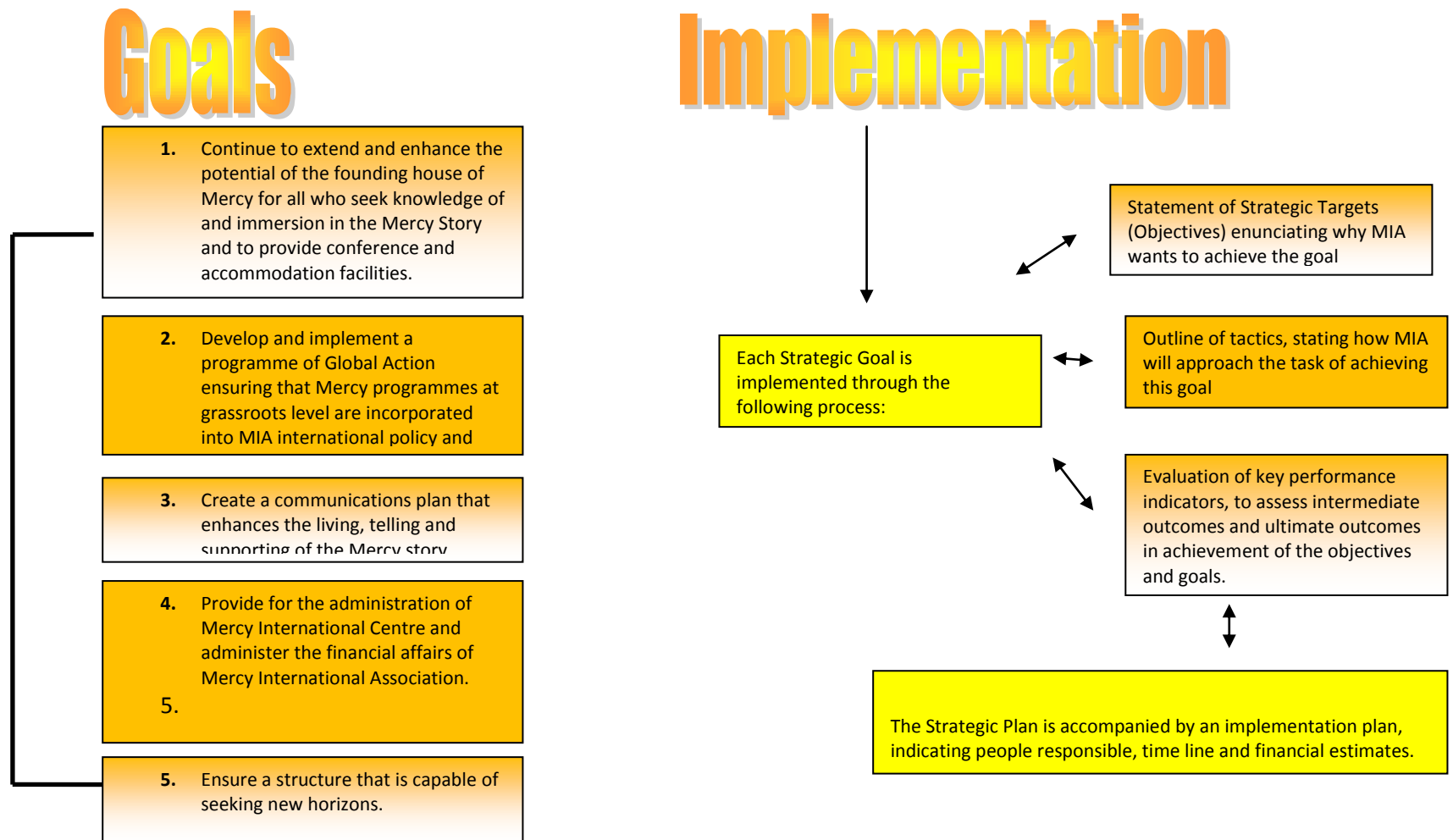


CORE VALUES



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The strategic directions of MIA are based on the Mercy International Association Purpose and on the current Vision Statement that keeps alive the founding spirit of Catherine among peoples of the world most in need of God's compassion and mercy.



EVALUATION

The Strategic Directions are informed by discerned responses to these critical questions:

- How can MIA enable Sisters of Mercy, their associates and colleagues in ministry to develop a global sense of identity and interconnection?
- How can we make MIC the iconic centre of the Mercy world and share its richness on a worldwide basis?
- In what ways can Mercy respond to issues of global poverty?
- How can we secure MIA's future in a situation where our funding is insecure?
- How can we grow an organisation that effectively and efficiently enacts the purpose and vision

The implementation of the plan is overseen by the Directors of the Board of MIA, who play an active part with Executive Director and Assistant Directors in monitoring progress. The Executive Director and Assistant Directors prepare an annual operations plan and Budget for Board approval. Each person - Executive Director, Assistant Directors, Project Leaders devise work programmes designed to achieve the annual operational plan.

Reviews of progress against the strategies and targets as outlined in the Strategic Plan are presented regularly to the Board. Participants at all events and courses are invited to complete evaluations and the feedback is collated and reviewed. Feedback from users of our web based services is also invited.



Catherine McAuley Rose in bloom outside Catherine's Tomb, MIC, Baggot St. Dublin

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

C) ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Context - The changing profile of the Mercy Family

From 1831 onward, the Sisters of Mercy ministries have grown in response to global need. Today, the Sisters serve the poor and underserved in 44 countries and territories. Works of Mercy have been carried out principally through the ministries of education, health care, and social service. Vocations to the Sisters of Mercy reached the highest point in the post-world war period – mid 40's to mid 60's.

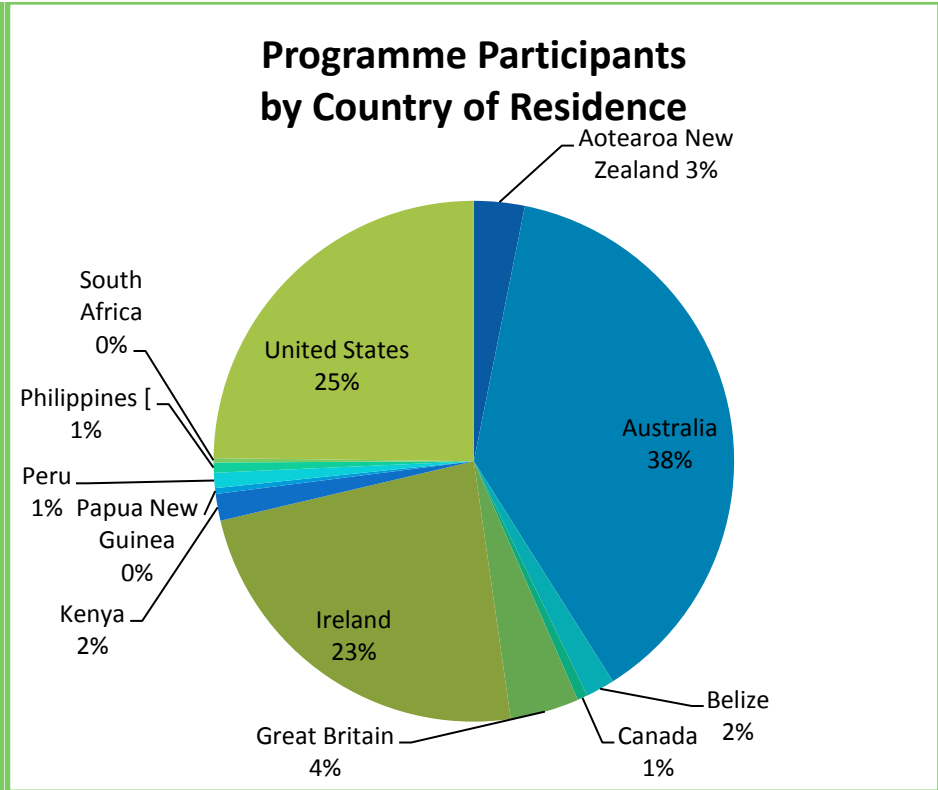
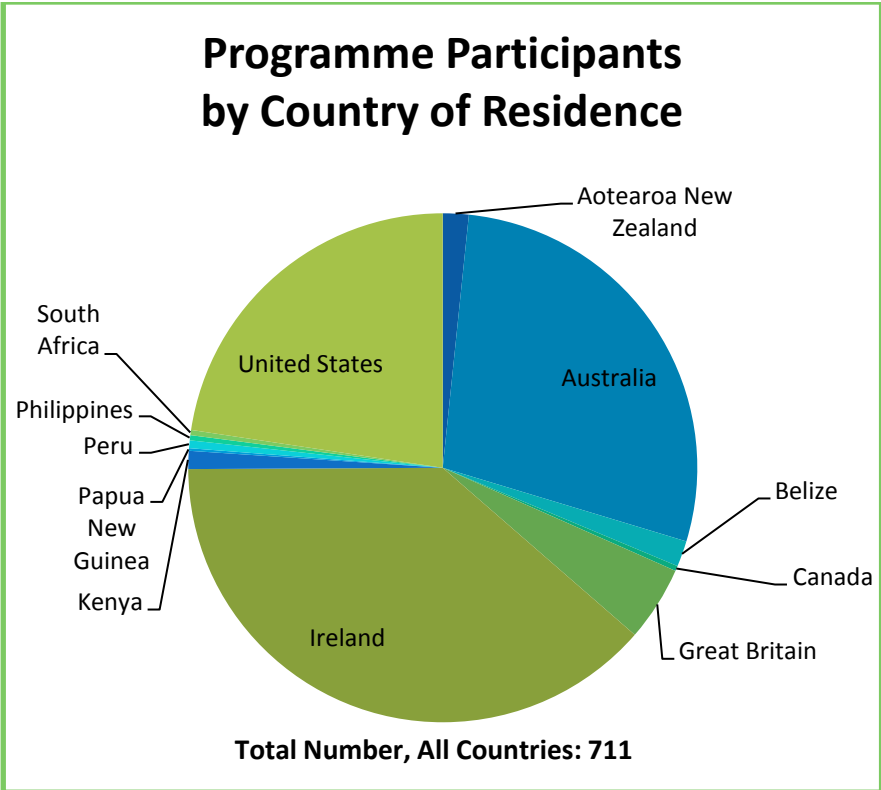
Today, the story and example of Catherine McAuley, continues to attract and inspire people around the world. The Sisters, together with associates and partners in ministry, are the eyes and ears that see, hear, and attend to the needs of the poor, the sick, women and children, and the marginalized and forgotten.

When the number of religious declined in the mid – 60's, the Mercy congregation recognized this as a transition point, and responded to the changing times by increasing engagement of lay people and the youth. The opportunity to share in meeting global needs through the works of Mercy associates and lay partners in ministry was, and continues to be, compelling.



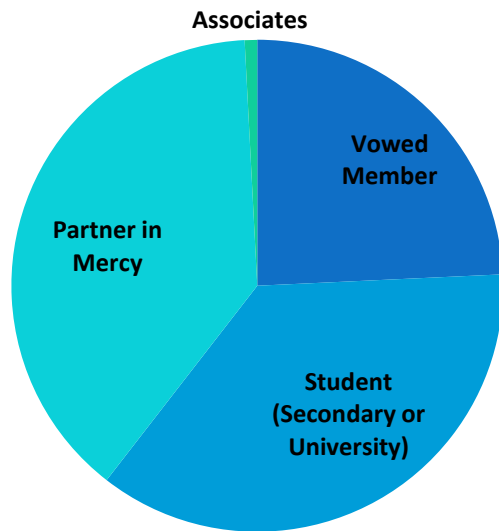
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

(1) Mercy International Spirituality & Heritage Programmes

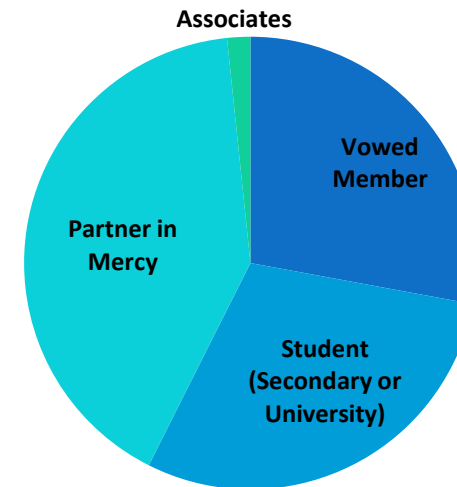


REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Programme Participants by Affiliation in Mercy



Programme Participants by Affiliation in Mercy multiplied by Number of Days of Programme

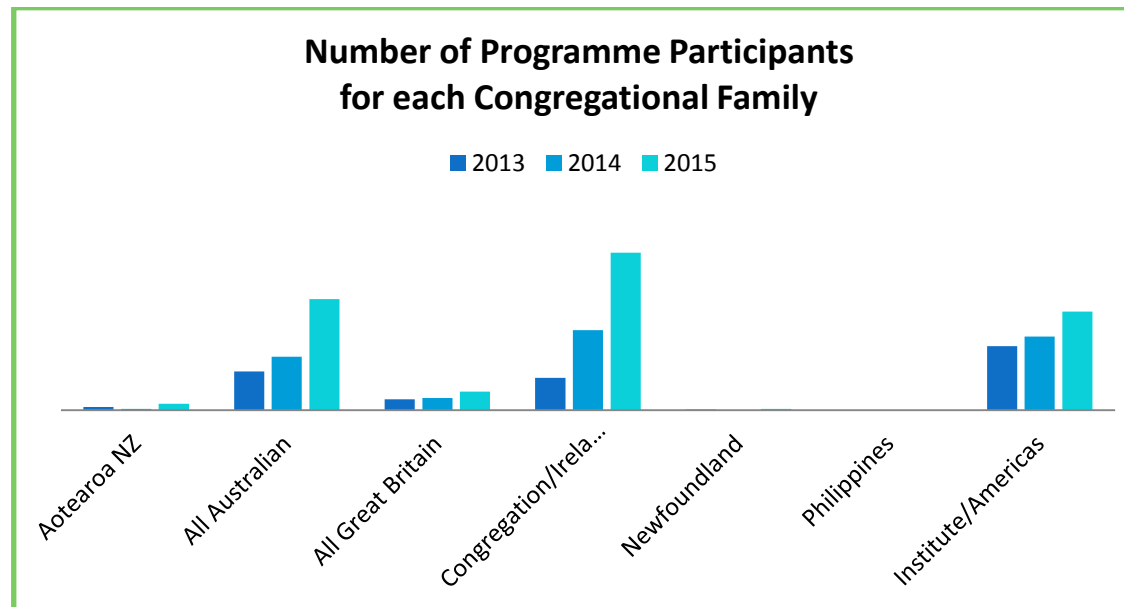


REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

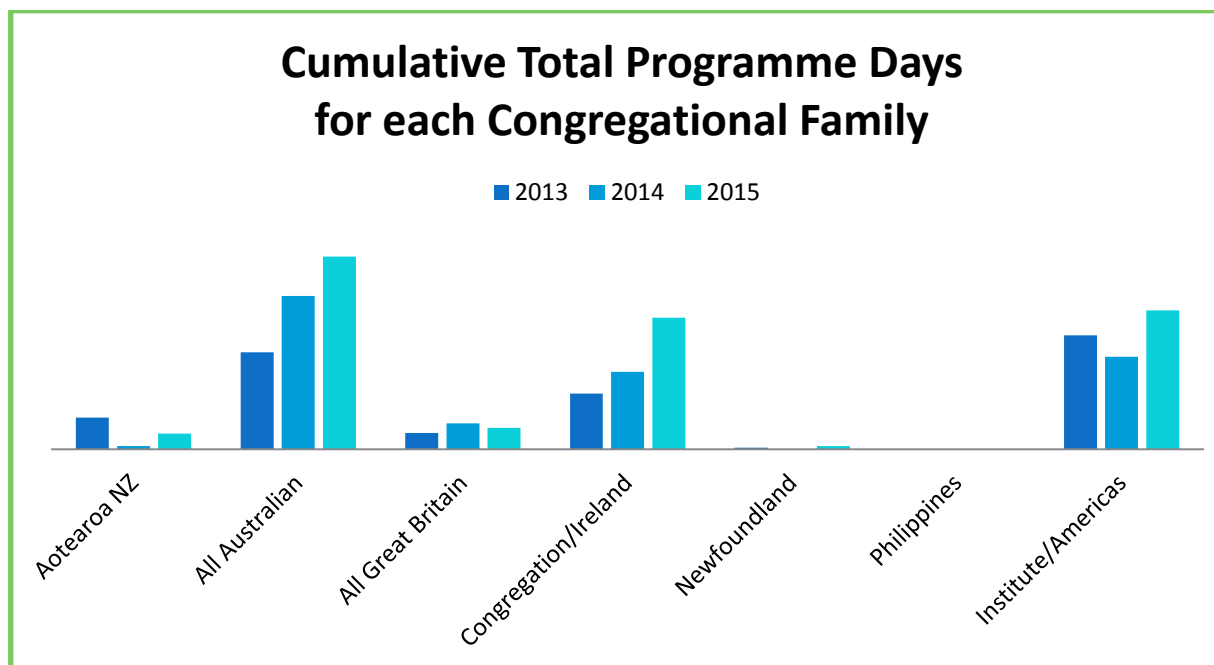
Three year comparison

The three year comparison shows a marked increase in number of programme participants and cumulative total of programme days by number of participants:

	2013	2014	2015
Number of Programme Participants	232	346	610
Cumulative total – number of programme participants multiplied by number of programme days	1,396	1,624	2,118



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES



2015 Generally Advertised Programmes:

- 7 weeklong programmes (49 days)
Average Number of Participants per Programme: 8.3
- Young Mercy Leaders' Pilgrimage (4 days)
148 total registrations

2015 Programmes Organized by Specific Groups:

- 18 programmes of varying lengths (46 days)
- 404 total registrations
- Average Number of Participants per Programme: 22.4

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Information on Specific 2015 Programmes:

Generally Advertised Programmes

- Come Home to Catherine, 26 April – 2 May
- Seeking Mercy that is Twice Blest, 7-13 May
- Come Home to Catherine, 14-20 June
- Pilgrimage of Young Mercy Leaders, 14-17 July
- Mercy: The Divine Wildness of Love, 26 July-1 August
- Mercy within Mercy within Mercy, 9-15 August
- What Had God in Mind....?, 23-29 August
- Visions of Mercy, 20-26 September

Programmes Organized by Specific Groups

- University of St Joseph, Connecticut, 16 March
- ISMAPNG Ethos Programme, 22-28 March
- Mount Mercy University, Iowa 26 March
- Santa Maria College, Perth, 1-2 April
- Western Province CEIST Schools, Ireland, 20 April
- Western Province CEIST Schools, Ireland, 24 April
- Carlow Roundtable, USA, 24-27 May
- Final Vow Programme, 31 May – 6 June
- Principals' Association of Victoria Catholic Secondary Schools, 22 June
- Staff of Union of Sisters of Mercy, Great Britain, 23-24 June
- Anglo-Irish Mercy Archives Conference, 30 June – 2 July
- Mercy Health & Aged Care, Central Queensland, 8-15 September
- St Michael's School, Dublin, 22 September
- Mercy Health, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 4-6 October
- St Michael's School, Dublin, 13 October
- St Michael's School, Dublin 8 December
- Mater Hospital, 11 December
- Northern Province, Sisters of Mercy Ireland, 16 December



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Selected comments from 2015 participants of the Young Mercy Leaders' Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage was a life changing experience. It was not only fun but a learning experience for me as well. I am now equipped with the message if Catherine McAuley and I have been truly inspired to go out into the world and help those in need as Catherine McAuley did.

I was very inspired by Catherine's story and her willingness to help others. I aspire to be like her in her way of kindness and care.

I enjoyed the experiences gained from the pilgrimage and I hope that the valuable assets I gained from the pilgrimage will help me to be a better leader here in Belize.

This has been the best experience of my life so far! Thank you so, so much!!

Catherine McAuley inspires me to be a leader. She was determined and tenacious to complete her house for young women. I see all the downfalls of my country that I would wish to change or make a difference just like Catherine did.
(Zakiya, student from Belize)

I now know what a vast amount of support is out there. The world is filled with amazing, kind and welcoming young people who despite living on different sides of the planet and having completely different interests can come together to support each other as they spread mercy.

The highlight of the pilgrimage for me was meeting so many people who have the same light and goodness as Catherine did. It was inspiring to see the amount of young people like me who want to change the world.

The pilgrimage made me more aware of the power of good work and faith. It was amazing to meet other students from schools that all began due to Catherine McAuley. I feel more capable to be a good leader... and I am now able to do so in a way which followed in Catherine McAuley's message. Thank you for the amazing unforgettable experience I had. I have brought all that I learnt whilst on the pilgrimage back to my own life and community.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Selected Comments from other 2015 Programmes

When I pushed the doorbell [to MIC] my hands were trembling. Catherine's presence, Catherine's spirit – you can truly feel it here. I feel her loving presence, her comforting. From her room down to the garden – she feels so alive to me. I feel so blessed and privileged to be here.

It has been a lovely experience to spend even one day in Catherine's house. I feel all of us will never be quite the same again as individuals and as co-workers in Mercy.

To be in this house – I don't even have the words. One of my deeper desires was that Catherine would move from being a wonderful foundress and a good model to being my friend. That's what happened. I leave here calling her and knowing her now as my friend. So that is a very big treasure.

I thought I knew Catherine's story having heard it over the years, but I discovered when you have such knowledgeable people as Mary Reynolds RSM and Áine Barrins RSM sharing insights, enjoying tea at Coolock House and walking the same streets of Dublin that Catherine would have, there is so much more richness to this story. This story also comes to us with an invitation to play our part in continuing it into the future.... By participating in the program I developed a greater appreciation of our core Mercy values, which are timeless, trans-cultural, non-negotiable, and the soul of a Mercy organisation.

Being new to a Mercy school was an opportunity to learn through experience about the life and work of Catherine McAuley. It was also a chance to reflect on what it means to be a Mercy person in today's world and to meet wonderful people from a variety of Mercy ministries. I enjoyed the experience of walking each day to the Mercy International Centre and having quiet time in key locations in the house.... The impact of place on me was something that took me by surprise.... I underestimated the power of the experience when I was preparing to go on the pilgrimage and know that I will feel its impact for years to come.... It was a most rewarding experience and life-changing.

For me to be in this house was very much like coming home. It was my first trip to Ireland. I came from the airport to Baggot Street and felt so at home. Opening that door, being met by Sisters of Mercy, embraced into the Spirit of Mercy from the moment I stepped into the house. And then to have the unfolding over the three weeks that I've been here – gradually coming to know Catherine and feeling connected to her more closely than I ever have. To see where she slept, to be in the room where she died, to pray in the chapel she created and in which she prayed every day has been comfortable and comforting, but also embracing. My whole experience in this house has been very special and has engaged me into the Mercy story more than I could ever have expected it to.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The heritage value of Mercy International Centre to the Mercy Global Community and to the wider community is significant. Several groups booked tours of the centre either because of a desire to know more about Catherine McAuley or to enjoy the heritage aspects of the centre – in all there were 73 booked tours in 2015.



Chapel Usage

The Chapel is a very prized part of the building and provides a public service to a number of groups. The Mercy Day celebrations had 150 people with a Mass presided by Ireland's apostolic nuncio Archbishop Charles Brown, the re-dedication and blessing of the International Room. Other Mercy celebrations included the Commemoration of Catherine's death on November 11th 2015 and the celebration of Foundation Day on December 12th 2015. Several schools used the chapel for sacramental preparation, confirmation, Baptism celebration and school visits. Other groups requested to use the chapel for the celebration of Eucharist. An Icon Exhibition was also hosted. Each of the generally advertised programmes had weekday liturgies, and pilgrimages arranged by specific groups had liturgies as requested.

(2) Mercy International Global Action Programmes

Mercy Global Action Approach

Mercy Global Action focuses on the following main areas:

- Cosmology -caring for a fragile environment including mining and climate change.
- Opposing Human Trafficking by Identifying and working to eliminate factors that contribute to human trafficking.
- Eco- Justice with particular emphasis on promoting the human right to water and the development of sustainable energy resources particularly within the context of the sustainable development goals
- Migration



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

In dealing with these focussed areas MIC employs a multifaceted approach primarily:

- Education & awareness raising.
- Pursuing initiatives to support protection of the environment and dissemination of best practise with a view to improving lives.
- Advocacy, especially on behalf of those living in lesser developed countries and in communities at risk from exploitative practices.
- Promotion of sustainable development enterprise.
- Supporting the UN post 2015 Development Agenda which includes alleviating poverty, ensuring healthy lives, advancing equitable education with particular emphasis on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and promoting inclusive and peaceful societies with access to justice for all.
- Providing leadership training for the next generation of Mercy ambassadors by providing workshops at the Mercy Young Leaders Conference and providing opportunities at the UN, including internships.
- Collaboration/networking with other agencies.



We hold the future in our hand

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Mercy Global Action (MGA) strives to ensure sustainable solutions and real change. Whenever significant changes in policy are needed, it seeks to influence key leaders to make decisions that will improve the lives of millions of people over the long-term, through structural changes. In order to achieve such changes and to enhance impact, Mercy Global Action addresses the root causes of injustice and the abuse of human rights. At both national and international level it strives to raise awareness, particularly of decision-makers.

The programme is coordinated by the mercy international global action office in Dublin from where many justice issues are addressed. In addition it has a presence at the UN which enables it to engage with the UN mechanisms and processes and to take part in international negotiations. Furthermore Through a network of Committees, MGA disseminates good practise and builds the capacity of Mercy Sisters and Partners in Ministry working with the most vulnerable populations. Through the collaboration of Mercy personnel working at the grassroots Mercy Global Action ensures that its activities have an impact at national and international levels. Mercy Global Action operates as a bridge between the local and the global.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The following is an outline of activities engaged in 2015 under a number of headings

MINING

Urgency of action is needed in the face of injustice wherever and however it occurs. One facet of this is related to mining projects that exploit local communities and cause environmental degradation. For this reason we need to be attentive to the challenges associated with the mining industry. These can range from minor infringements of human rights and environmental damage, to major displacement of people and irreparable damage to ecosystems. A true ecological debt exists,

Particularly between the global north and south, connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time. The export of raw materials to satisfy markets in the industrialized north has caused harm locally as for example in mercury pollution in gold mining or sulphur dioxide pollution in copper mining. According to the UNHCR the mining of gold, diamonds and precious metals has caused the deaths of thousands and displaced over a million people.

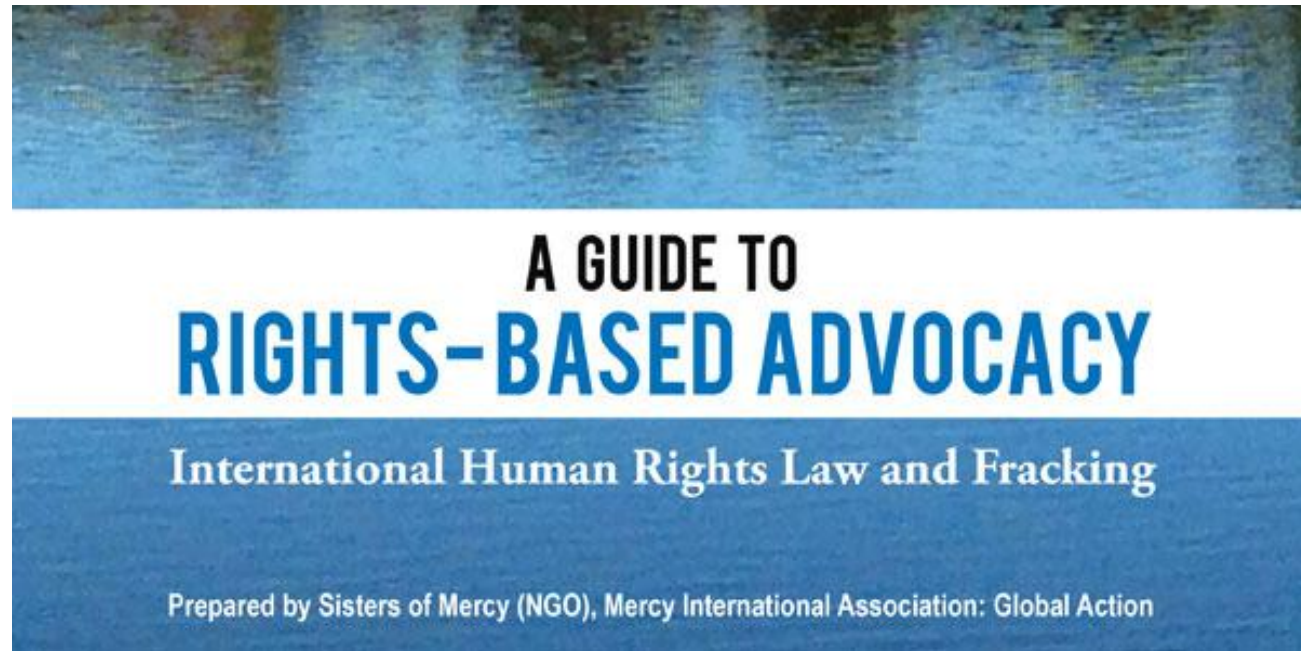


REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

MGC Response - 2 major pieces of work were conducted in this regard in 2015

1) At the UN, MGC chaired a group of religious who produced a report called '**A Guide to Rights Based Advocacy: International Human Rights Law & Fracking**'. The report is a formative document demonstrating how the international human rights framework can be used to initiate rights-based advocacy against human rights violations that result from the harm caused by hydraulic fracturing (fracking). The guide makes an important contribution to the nascent topic of fracking's impact on human rights, by summarizing:

- Examples of harm caused by fracking, which demonstrate the enormous negative impact on human and animal life and the environment
- How these effects of fracking can breach multiple human rights, including violations to the right to health, water, food, housing, freedom of information and expression, the rights of children, and the cultural and collective rights of indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and peasant communities
- The ways in which international human rights law offers various accountability mechanisms, venues for information and action, and tools to empower and reposition people and communities as rights-holders
- How governments have a duty to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, and to prevent violations of human rights by non-state actors



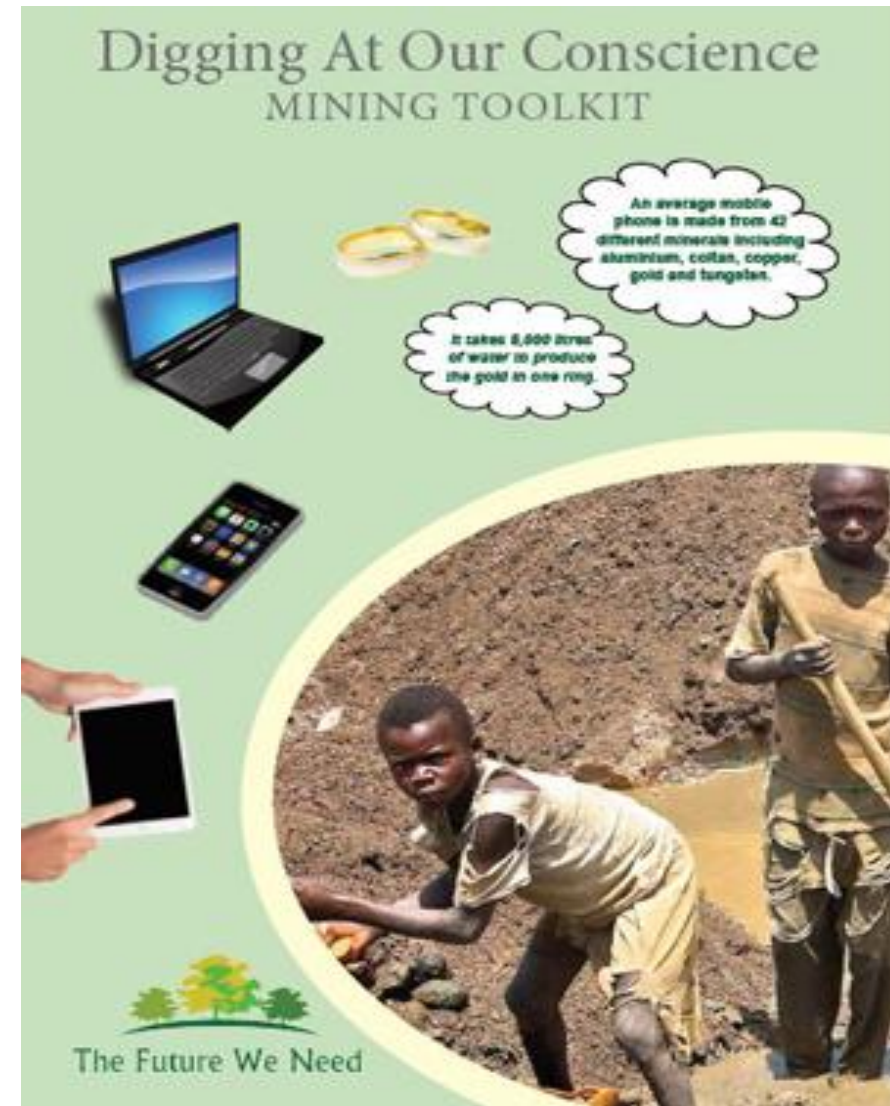
This report is offered as a work in progress, inviting further contributions from around the world. It encourages more collaborative efforts on this vital subject, with the ultimate goal of empowering right holders shaping policy and ensuring accountability.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

2) In Ireland, working in partnership with a group of 9 different religious congregations called *Future We Need* (FWN) and with a grant from Trocaire, we designed a 'Toolkit' on Mining called '*Digging At Our Conscience*'. This toolkit is a resource for those concerned about the impact of mining on Peoples and Planet.

The Toolkit, through a series of 12 case studies, is designed to provide information about the impact of mining on communities worldwide. It also serves to challenge consumers to take responsibility for what they buy. The Toolkit Covers The Following Areas:

- Issues facing local communities in their dealings with mining projects
- Specific examples of the consequences of irresponsible mining practices
- Social, environmental and health impacts of the depletion of natural resources
- The importance of networking with civil society, faith-based and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for positive outcomes
- Sharing strategies and campaigns of best practice



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate history changed with the development of the steam engine and the subsequent industrial revolution, we have seen dramatic changes to global climate. Since then we have burned millions of tons of wood, coal, petrol and gas. We have poisoned the atmosphere with more and more CO₂, greenhouse gas. We have already warmed the planet by one degree. If we cross this 2° degrees line, we will unchain serious transformations for global climate e.g. changes in precipitation patterns, melting of the ice sheets on the poles, the resulting rise in the sea level and mass population movements. For the global climate this number represents a vital threshold that we mustn't cross.

Many mining activities release harmful gases like methane that contribute to global warming and climate change. Additionally, extensive deforestation removes the trees that absorb carbon dioxide and solar heat. Scientific evidence confirms that climate change is a critically urgent issue, responsible for the deaths of 4.5 million people each year because of air pollution. It is predicted that the climate crisis will claim 100 million lives between now and the end of the next decade.



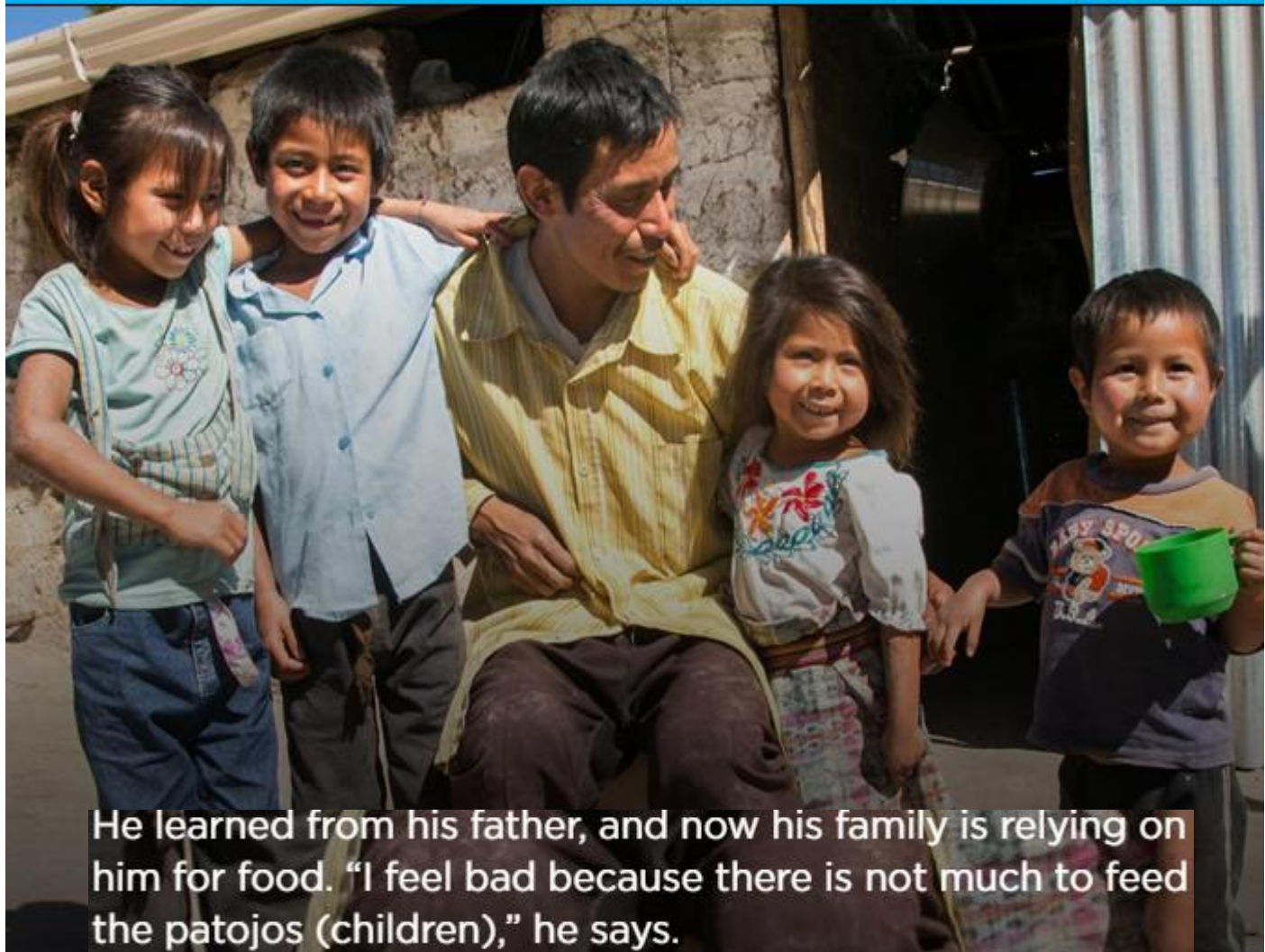
Ethiopia Harar hdr by Mariusz Kluzniak

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The following were the actions taken by MGC in regard to Climate Change:

- In Ireland engaged with a network of concerned citizens to discuss Climate Change with our TD's or Parliamentarians. The SDG provide a valuable means of monitoring this critically important reality closely and challenging our Government re their response.
- MIA-GA joined the 'Global Catholic Climate Movement' (GCCM), who put out an excellent statement ahead of Pope Francis' encyclical on the Environment.
- MGC took lead in Ireland to promote: *Global Catholic Climate Movement: 'Lenten Fast and Prayer for Climate Justice', 31st March*. Held prayer reflection, to raise awareness on Climate Change; and pray that UN COP 21 in Paris would result in legally binding treaty, signed by all countries.
- Attended COP 21.
- Prepared a six session module on 'Laudato Si' for MIA, on website from Sept 18th
- Prepared an Advent Series of four evening sessions, using 'Laudato Si', the environment encyclical of Pope Francis as the backdrop. These were distributed via Mercy enews.

Right: In Guatemala, farmers count. They count their healthy crops...



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Migrants



The European migrant crisis began in 2015, when a rising number of refugees and migrants made the journey to the European Union (EU)

to seek asylum, travelling across the Mediterranean Sea or through Southeast Europe. They came from areas such as Western and South Asia, Africa, and the Western Balkans. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the top three nationalities of the over one million Mediterranean Sea arrivals in 2015 were Syrian (49%), Afghan (21%) and Iraqi (8%). Of the refugees and migrants arriving in Europe by sea in 2015, 58% were men, 17% women and 25% children. The number of deaths at sea rose to record levels in April 2015, when five boats carrying almost 2,000 migrants to Europe sank in the Mediterranean Sea, with a combined death toll estimated at more than 1,200 people.

The shipwrecks took place in a context of ongoing conflicts and refugee crises in several Asian and African countries, which increased the total number of forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2014 to almost 60 million, the highest level since World War II.



Syrian Refugees

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

MIA Global Action determined how it could respond to the horrific situation of desperate migrants drowning in the Mediterranean, as they flee Africa and Middle East. The following actions were taken:

- In partnership with 'Save the Children' and 'One.ORG'. MIA organised a massive recruitment of signatories of a petition to the EU Leaders meeting to address the crisis. Mercy e-News also carried a request to sign the petition and MIA made a special request for prayer.
- At the UN, MIA arranged the following:
 - ✓ MIA official sign on to a statement issued by NGO Committee on Migration.
 - ✓ Alerted the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons, of which Mercy is an active member to the need to raise the issue and to advocate on this crisis. Supported the drafting of a statement which emphasised two particular points: the vulnerability to human trafficking and the need to address root and systemic causes of poverty, conflict, discrimination and exploitation in home countries.
 - ✓ MIA Global Action supported civil society groups at the UN that are focusing on migration to emphasize the need to address the root causes of migration in the Post-2015 development agenda. Some civil society groups continue to raise grave concerns on how migration is currently addressed in the agenda.



Refugees in Lesbos, Greece

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

- In Ireland a number of key NGOs who are working on the issue of Migrants and Asylum Seekers came together to form a Coalition. MIA – Global Action joined the group in September 2015. The Refugees / Migrants Coalition is composed of national NGOs working with migrants and asylum seekers. In December they circulated a briefing and challenged the Irish Government to get involved in the European migrant crisis, requesting a simultaneous three pronged approach:
 - 1) Address the ‘direct provision’ issue by processing applications for asylum within a realistic time frame; and allow migrants to work after 6 months in the country, which is the European norm.
 - 2) Address the homeless issue – much of this is the result of people taking out massive mortgages during the ‘Celtic Tiger’ years of boom; now they are unable to keep up the mortgage payments. A plan to build modular homes has been further delayed because our politicians got caught up in a national election.
 - 3) Address the serious poverty issue, which is escalating.
- MGC worked with a small group on a submission for Ireland’s **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**. The Universal Periodic Review is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council (HRC) aimed at improving the human rights situation on the ground of each of the 193 United Nations (UN) Member States. Under this mechanism, the human rights situation of all UN Member States is reviewed every 4.5 years. The two areas Global Action focussed on were Human Trafficking / Modern Slavery and our concerns about injustices perpetuated by the Irish Government in relation to Asylum Seekers who come to Ireland i.e. direct provision and delaying claims for up to 9 years.



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'The Future is in Our Hands.' (2014). Created by Syrian youth and artist Joel Bergner in the Za'atari, Syrian Refugee Camp in Jordan in partnership with aptART, ACTED and UNICEF.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.

As Advocates for Justice, MGA Members aim to:

- a) Network extensively, to monitor a rights based implementation of the SDGs by each government.
- b) Ensure a just, people centred model of development, in delivery of SDGs.
- c) Integrate the ideas and concerns of those most affected by development inequality.
- d) Continue to:
 1. -Address root causes
 2. -Highlight the dangers associated with the privatization of the SDGs
 3. -Contribute to a development model that is just for both Peoples and Earth

MGC at the UN Lobbied intensely on having the right to water and sanitation included in the post 2015 'human right to water & sanitation' included in UN Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In Ireland MIC joined the SDG Coalition which is comprised of national NGOs working on human rights / development / environment /and sustainability issues. Its goal is to collaborate with the Irish Government in developing a strategic framework for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. MGC continues to educate on the SDGs. It prepared a pamphlet for use by the global Mercy Family, It is an introduction to the SDGs, designed to encourage members to get involved in the implementation of SDGs at national and local levels. MGC attended several workshops / seminars on SDGs; Paris Climate Agreement.



Glor Na Mara Community garden, Bundoran, Co. Donegal



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

WOMEN

Issues concerning Women and Gender equality are of particular interest to MGC.

- MGC Participated in UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2015. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The focus of this CSW was on progress made on the 'Beijing Platform for Action' that emerged from the Fourth World Conference for Women, held in Beijing, 1995. The 12 key areas of the Platform were the focus for the UN side-events and parallel events organised by the NGO community. 11 of the key themes or critical areas are women focussed - poverty; human rights; health; armed conflict; the economy; decision-making; institutional mechanisms; media; environment; violence against women; with the twelfth area focussed on the 'girl child'.

Initially progress made in the critical areas since 1995 was assessed, then the focus moved to looking forward. The global question is how to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in our lifetime? 'UN Women' concerned at the slow progress are citing 2030 as the final end point to achieve these goals! They are putting great effort into these first five years 2015-2020 with specific targets that Governments with civil society should be accountable for achieving.



Aine O'Connor rsm and Denise Boyle fmdm about to enter a Conference room at the UN

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

- MGC conducted two parallel events focussed on human rights issues pertaining to women. These events linked 'Eco-systems, Fossil Fuels, Extractivism and Women's Experience' and emphasised that the current 'rape and plunder of our natural world' is mirrored in the rape and exploitation of women and girls.
- MGC engaged in the Global Campaign **16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence**. From the 25th of November to the 10th of December we engaged in the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** and **Human Rights Day**. The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign was a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY

Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery are two major global justice issues that the Global Action programme focuses on. The work of MIA to end this dreadful trade in human beings is rooted in Catherine's mission to protect vulnerable women and children from exploitation. Catherine's sense of the injustices faced by women and girls is as pertinent to the Mercy mission today as it was when she first opened her house on Baggot Street.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES



The two primary forms of human trafficking are: **(1)** sex trafficking in which persons are coerced to engage in commercial sex act and **(2)** labour trafficking in which persons are forced to work against their will. MGC addresses the causes and effects of violence, racism, degradation of the Earth and injustice to immigrants and women & children. It does this by collaborating with others to abolish human trafficking and slavery through raising awareness; providing

education; advocating for policy changes & stronger legislation; and providing direct services to victims.

To this end, MGC engaged the following:

- Campaigned to prevent Amnesty International (AI) passing resolution to 'de-criminalise sex business worldwide'. Tragically AI voted in favour of the resolution in July.
- Worked with assistance of Bishop Sanchez, Director of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in the Vatican, to request Pope Francis to host a conference on 'decriminalisation and legalisation of sex industry' and met with Pope Francis on the 2nd September in Rome.
- Engaged in first Vatican initiated 'International Day of Prayer against Human Trafficking' St. Bakhita's feast, February 8th and prepared a special reflection to mark the day and invited other NGOs to join in prayer at Mercy International Centre on the day.
- Linked in via conference call to State Department hearing in Washington DC on how Catholics are responding to Human Trafficking in the US.
- Monitored passage of '*Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill*' through the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament), to introduce *Nordic Model* into Ireland i.e. those providing sexual favours are decriminalised, whilst those purchasing or exploiting them are criminalised.
- MIA-Global Action Office in NY engaged Sr. Angela Reed rsm (Australia) who recently conducted doctoral studies on Human Trafficking to advocate on this issue at the UN.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

TRADE AGREEMENTS

Free trade is usually defined as the absence of tariffs and quotas, allowing each country to specialize in the goods it can produce cheaply and efficiently relative to other countries. Trade agreements can affect a huge range of laws and programmes that determine how our economies work, how we grow and sell food, and who benefits—or loses. Multi-national companies, in conjunction with governments, often behind closed doors, lock those decisions into permanent agreements.

Why should we be concerned about Trade Agreements?

- They give new powers to corporations to sue governments
- They lead to more privatisation of public services like health and education
- They weaken workers' rights and put millions of jobs at risk
- They reduce environmental protection and food safety regulation
- They can be a blueprint for future trade deals around the world

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in many cases override national and international laws. Three trade agreements are currently under negotiation:

- 1) Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the United States and Europe.
- 2) The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) between the EU and 11 Pacific nations.
- 3) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and EU (CETA).

What MGC is doing in this regard?

- Closely monitoring the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) a proposed free trade agreement between the EU and the USA that favours big business and corporate lobbyists. This has serious inherent human rights concerns and is to the detriment of individual Governments, workers and the poor.
- Attended several meetings on and Trade Agreements specifically the '*Transatlantic, Trade and Investment Partnership*' (TTIP) between the USA and Europe.

FIELD VISITS - MGC conducted a field visit to Australia in Oct, to meet the Sisters and see their work for justice firsthand & share the Global Action Programme.



(3) Mercy International Association Communication Programmes

Mercy International Association's On-line programme aims to:

- Ensure that Mercy people can be globally interconnected for the sake of mission and can connect the rich and the poor for the life of the world.
- Create a centralised meeting place and a shared resource for members of the Mercy network, providing information, education, connection, nourishment, inspiration and ongoing opportunities for engagement and interaction.
- Connect with audiences outside the Mercy network whose interests are aligned with the vision and mission of MIA and to provide access for these diverse audiences to the rich media resources and the opportunity to participate in the public online activities of MIA.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

ACTIVITIES

MERCY enews

During 2015 Mercy International on-line produced 47 editions of e-news. Mercy e-News continues to be a major communications and educative tool for MIA. It aims to present the mission of Mercy at MIA (MIA Vision in Action) and Mercy mission across the world (MIA Members' News) – often focussed on a particular theme in a particular week. The Feature Article usually highlights the main theme. Each week e-News invites a prayer response to a current and urgent global need. It provides an array of resources and offers the opportunity for comment and response to articles as well as contact details for those wishing to follow up on a particular article. Several series are run over a year or a few months, e.g. Articles for Year of Consecrated Life, Theological and Scripture commentary on Ecological issues and Sunday Readings. Prayer requests related to Catherine's Canonisation Case are also a weekly feature. A major archive of all e-News editions is available on the web and has a search facility which gives easy access to editions carrying a particular topic. There are about 6000 registered subscribers. Most of these are 'head' of groups, but this one copy is then forwarded to several hundred. The number does not take into account unregistered readers, who access it directly from the home page of the web.

MERCY WEBSITE: www.mercyworld.org

There are currently more than 250,000 visitors to the mercy website each month. The website continues to be refreshed regularly with new buttons being added to the home page to enhance accessibility to news and resources. In November 2014 – Pope Francis' proclamation of the Year of Consecrated Life challenged us as religious, to "Wake up the world!" MIA saw this challenge as an opportunity to further its Mission Statement that proclaims' *'Mercy is the wellspring, the source of never-ending supply for all those who seek to live out of this gift of Mercy'* MIA took up Pope Francis' challenge to 'Wake Up the world' with a series of monthly articles, published in e-News and available on the Mercy World web. Starting with Mercy enews on 28 January 2015 and continuing each month throughout 2015, twelve reflective processes were offered. While fitting broadly within the theme of the Year of Consecrated Life the programme had a particular Mercy focus.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The following topics were offered:

- Daring Hospitality- “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” by Elizabeth Davis rsm
- Called to Compassion by Breege O'Neill rsm
- Extravagant Mercy—A New Story in an Ecological Key by Elaine Wainwright rsm
- 'Take from My Heart All Painful Anxiety': Catherine's Courage by Janet Ruffing rsm
- "God's Healing Mercy is Forgiveness' by Kathy Rule rsm
- 'Every Grace Abundant' by Sheila Carney rsm
- Whakawhanaungatanga – Making Right Relationship by Kath Rushton rsm
- 'It is a SPECIAL FAVOUR of God to be made SERVANTS of his suffering poor ("Sayings")' by Helena O'Donoghue rsm
- Respect - A 'Looking Again', an Enlarging of Love by Jo O'Donovan rsm
- Mercy Craving Realisation by Lynda Dearlove rsm
- The Feminine Face of the God who does Justice by Sheila Curran rsm
- Is there Anything More Extraordinary than the Ordinary? by Brenda Dolphin rsm



An e-book of the entire series was produced at the conclusion of the year and continues to be available on the web. From the feedback received, it is evident that these resources were widely used by Sisters and lay groups. The experience has confirmed that MIA can provide support and nourishment for those who wish to live out the gift of Mercy by connecting the gifts of our Mercy scholars, theologians, etc. with the hunger and search of many in and beyond our global Mercy family.

A banner for the Mercy International Association. At the top, a dark blue navigation bar contains a home icon and the following menu items: ABOUT MIA, THE CENTRE, FOUNDRESS, HERITAGE, SPIRITUALITY, MERCY NETWORK, MERCY GLOBAL ACTION (highlighted in light blue), RESOURCES, NEWS CENTRE, and a search icon. Below the navigation bar is a blue banner with a world map background. On the left is the Mercy International Association logo, which consists of a white cross with a vertical bar through its center, next to the text 'MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION'. To the right of the logo is the text: 'Today, Sisters of Mercy, through Mercy International Association, use their resources to respond to issues of global poverty demonstrated in the massive displacement of persons worldwide.'

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

MERCY INTERNATIONAL ROOM

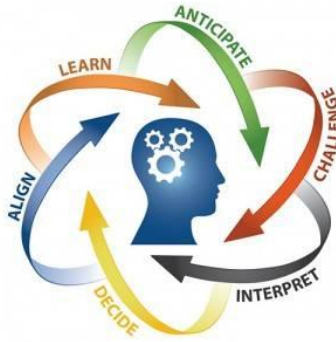
During 2015, the Mercy International Room was upgraded to enhance the telling of the Mercy Story and the delivery of formation programmes Sisters, Associates, Partners in Ministry and Youth. Content was developed and fully loaded into the touch screen technology in the International Room in time for the re-dedication and blessing of the room on Mercy Day.

- A three-minute video on the spread of Mercy around the world was finalized.
- Country profiles previously developed for a 2010 series published on Mercy E-News, were updated and enhanced with graphic design and layout.
- The maps of the world or parts of the world contained on each touch screen now have content loaded for every country where Sisters of Mercy minister that includes:
 - A PDF document with a 300-word or less summary of Mercy history and current ministry in that country; general country statistics such as population, population density, literacy rate, life expectancy at birth, unemployment rate, GDP ranking; Mercy At a Glance summary of statistics of number of vowed members, women in the formation/incorporation process and Mercy associates, year Mercy first began ministry in the country, and areas of current ministries (see next page for an example of the country profiles).
 - Photographs from the Faces of Mercy exhibition or other recent photos submitted to MIA showing Mercy ministries and members of the Mercy family in each geographic location.
 - Digital reproduction of the 1994 poster board displays.



In addition, some countries have short videos showing Mercy ministries in that area.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES



MERCY INTERNATIONAL REFLECTION PROCESS

In 2013, Mercy Global Action’s Theological Advisory Committee began to develop an international reflection process to provide ways for all of us to explore the challenges and issues that the new cosmology and its link to eco-justice are bringing to light in our world. Such a process would build on our rich Mercy resources and deepen connections which we have been steadily building across the Mercy world.

At their May 2015 meeting, the MIA Members and Board of Directors endorsed the implementation of a Mercy International Reflection Process (MIRP) beginning on December 8th 2015 and ending on December 12th 2016. This process has been developed over two years at the initiative of MIA Mercy Global Action’s Theological Advisory Committee. This International Reflection Process is the third step in a rich three-year cycle of global Mercy reflection: (1) The 2014 20th Anniversary celebrations of MIA (2) The 2015 Year of Consecrated Life and (3) The 2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy in the universal Church. The MIRP will be the international project for Mercy world for the Jubilee Year 2016 and will be mainly co-ordinated through MIA website and digital resources.



MERCY INTERNATIONAL REFLECTION PROCESS

Flaming the Fire of Mercy: Creation Waiting in Eager Longing

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The MIRP has three goals:

- (1) To draw on rich Mercy resources – theologians, experiences in ministry, collective action to address injustices, connections globally – to make a contribution to the work that is happening at the global and local levels in relation to cosmology and justice.
- (2) To provide ways for engaging and addressing the challenges and issues that the new cosmology and its link to eco-justice are bringing to light in our Mercy communities, congregations and international engagements.
- (3) To further develop and deepen the connections which we have been steadily building across the Mercy world.



OLMC Parramatta: Academic Staff Engage in MIRP (Parramatta Congregation)

The proposed process, greatly enhanced by on-line communication, allows for maximum participation and enables MIA members to address the many aspects relating to the complex issue: how can cosmological, ecological and justice visions shed new light on basic religious beliefs and understanding & how can religious sources shed light on or be reconciled with radical new cosmological, ecological and justice visions?

From this engagement MIA will work to articulate a new vision and praxis for the Mercy family internationally. MIA believes that such an undertaking will make a significant contribution to both the church and society - challenged as they are by the issues we have identified.



Opening the Door of Mercy

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

(D) OUR FINANCES

Income & Expenditure

At the 31 December 2014 the total funds of the Charity stood at €3,913,615 of which €2,529,953 are reserved funds and €144,992 are restricted. During the year, expenditure amounted to €1,218,747, which was largely resourced mainly from levies and subscriptions from the Mercy Congregations worldwide and for payment for programmes and services provided by MIA.

Investment Policy & Performance

The objectives of the Investment policy is to maintain high liquidity while ensuring maximum security, meeting ethical standards and achieving the highest possible return within these limiting factors. The Investment policy of the Trustees laid down to the Investment Advisers is to ensure preservation of the capital in the overall portfolio with some additional capital growth where market conditions allow.

In order to ensure liquidity €1,238,670 was held at the end of 2015 in fixed interest deposit accounts, spreading the total invested and limiting the amount invested with any individual financial institution. The financial institutions are authorised by the Finance Committee. The MIA management, with direction from L&P Financial advisers, determines the level of funds and period of investment with these institutions, taking into account the day to day cash flow requirements.

The Investment portfolio had the following underlying asset content on 31 Dec. '15 Equities 11%, Cash 89%.

The gain on managed funds in 2015 was €196,482.

The Investment Policy is reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board.

The interest earned is applied to our work.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Reserve Policy

It is MIA's policy to maintain a prudent level of reserves to enable the Charity to manage financial risk and to deliver on our commitment and our mandate to our beneficiaries for the foreseeable future.

Trustees' Responsibility in respect of Financial Statements

MIA is required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs and of its income and expenditure for each financial year. In preparing the financial statements, MIA is required to select suitable accounting policies, to apply them consistently and to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent. MIA confirms that it has complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements. MIA is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which comply with accounting standards and which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity. To ensure that proper books and records are kept, MIA has employed appropriately qualified personnel and has maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

(E) LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

CRY OF THE EARTH AND CRY OF THE POOR

As 2015 came to a close, the Year of Mercy was promulgated by Pope Francis. MIA has planned a global process for the coming year, which will focus on discerning the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Our intention is that, building on the outcome of this process, we will review our programmers – in particular our Global Action Programme- to respond to discerned needs

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In the document *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis says *'The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes bringing the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development'*. We believe that one way of doing this is to promote the Sustainable Development Goals. These 17 goals and 169 targets address sustainable development, poverty, inequality and climate change. The SDGs need the participation of every country and all peoples if the global community is to seek an end to poverty by 2030. MIA will use its network to promote these goals. It will advocate for a people-centred, just, inclusive and rights based approach to sustainable development. This means when working with the SDGs, our advocacy work will be underpinned by human rights. To achieve this, the MIA focus will be to:

1. Advocate for the human right to water and sanitation in every country and to enable positive action locally.
2. Address the root causes of poverty and other factors underpinning human trafficking (HT), whilst supporting survivors of human trafficking
3. Advocate for the protection of Earth and the rights of nature. This will include addressing human rights abuse and ecological violations associated with mining.
4. Collaborate with NGOs working on the refugee and migration issue.

In addition it will network extensively to monitor a rights based implementation of the SDGs by world Leaders, who unanimously adopted the 2030 agenda at the UN in New York on 25th September 2015.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

CAPACITY BUILDING

MIA wishes to develop the involvement of Younger Sisters, Partners in Ministry and Youth in shaping the future of MIA. This will involve:

- Creating opportunities for consultation and discernment
- Organizational development – the development of structures, processes and procedures that will enhance the ongoing involvement of these groups
- The management of relationships between MIA and different organisations, e.g. Congregations/Institutes; Ethos Development Groups; Mercy Volunteer Corps

Capacity Building

- Individual/Personal
- Community
- Organization
- Systems



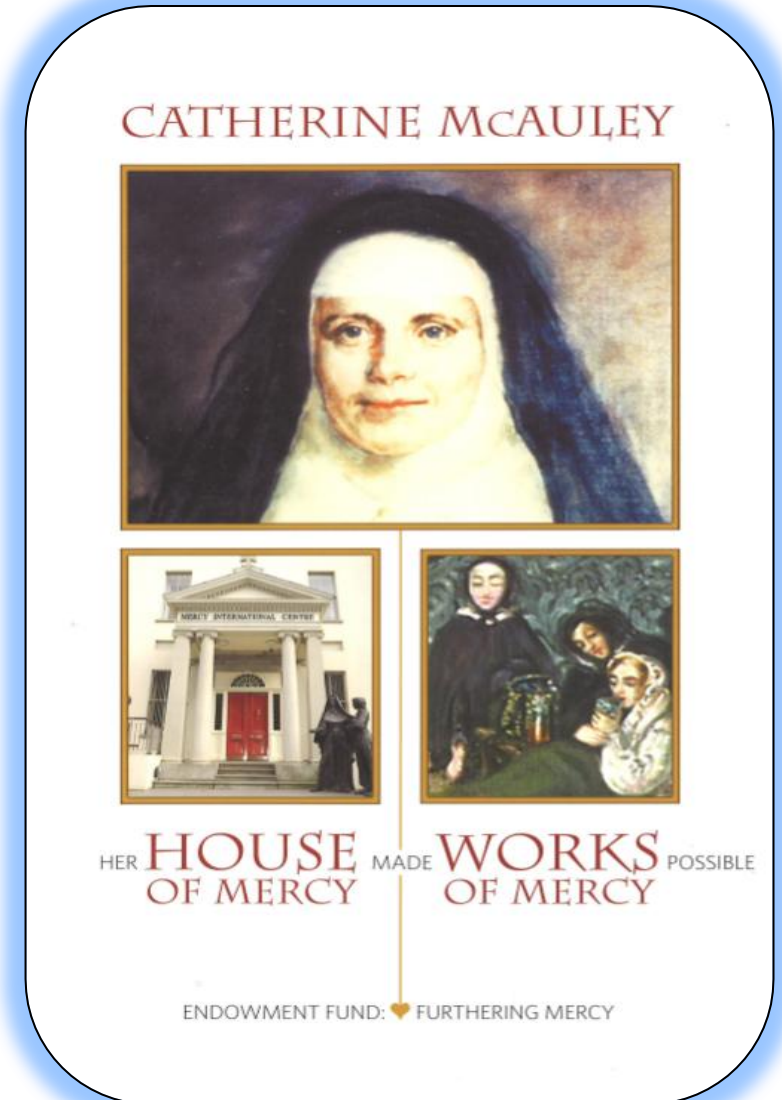
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

ADVANCING MERCY'S MISSION

In 2012 to secure the future of MIA, the Board of Directors made the decision to conduct a major fundraising campaign, named Advancing **Mercy's Mission**. This was in order to assure the continuance of MIA's mission and to safeguard the Mercy charism and legacy into the future. MIA is convinced that fundraising is a way of announcing its vision and inviting other people into the Mercy mission. It is proclaiming what we believe passionately in the vision and mission of MIA in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate in that vision and mission also. In his book "*A Spirituality of Fundraising*" Henri Nouwen states that '*whether we are asking for money or giving money, we are drawn together by God, who is about to do a new thing through our collaboration*'. Enhanced capacity for donation to Mercy International Association has been added to the website and a micro-site **Advancing Mercy's Mission** was developed.

Among the steps that we need to continue taking in this regard are:-

- The development and promulgation of the spirituality of fundraising, emphasising passion for the vision and invitation to others to be part of the realisation of the vision through time, talent and treasure
- Exploration of opportunity and possibility of bringing individuals, companies, organisations, governmental agencies and Mercy together to forge a future that promises justice and compassion.



**INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES
OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Trustees

Date:

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Directors report Year ended 31 December 2015

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Directors

The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as follows:

Patricia McDermott R.S.M.

Peter Burnett

Denise Fox R.S.M.

Maura Hyland

Ron Ashworth

James Peppiatt-Combes

Colette Cronin R.S.M.

Margaret Casey R.S.M.

Scholasticah Nganda RSM (appointed 18th May 2015)

Principal activities

The company is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

It was formed to restore the property at 64A Baggot Street, Dublin 2, in which Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy in 1831 and to foster unity among the Sisters worldwide and to increase awareness and experience of their global interdependence.

The objects of the company are charitable, to assist and support the aspirations and objectives of the Sisters of Mercy.

Detailed information on the activities and governance of the company are available on the company's website www.mercyworld.org

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Business review

Development and performance

The company operates on a breakeven basis and it is not intended that the company will accumulate a surplus. The funding of the company is agreed with Mercy Congregations internationally on a multi-year basis based on the anticipated costs of operating the Mercy International Centre and the provision of sufficient working capital to ensure the company does not have to seek debt facilities.

Currently the company has managed to operate requiring less funding than has been made available. As it is anticipated that the surplus funds will be taken into account in agreeing future funding commitments, the surplus has been presented as deferred revenue.

Assets and liabilities and financial position

The balance sheet on page 7 indicates net assets of €7,337,600. Although there are net current liabilities of €1,807,213 the majority of the liabilities represent funding received in advance.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the company are ensuring the continuation of the funding commitments required to ensure the activities of the company can continue.

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Likely future developments

The company has a specific purpose and it is not anticipated that any change will be made to this in the foreseeable future.

Dividends

The company operates as a charitable entity limited by guarantee and no dividends are payable as a result of this.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at The Mercy International Centre, Baggot St, Dublin 4..

Auditors

In accordance with Sections 380 to 385 of the Companies Act 2014, the auditors, Robert J. Kidney & Co , have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 19 April 2016 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Patricia McDermott R.S.M.
Director

Peter Burnett
Director

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

We have audited the financial statements of Mercy International Association for the year ended 31 December 2015 which comprise the income statement, statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the directors responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the directors report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2015 and of its profit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant reporting framework and, in particular the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the directors report is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

Richard Kidney

For and on behalf of
Robert J. Kidney & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants, and Statutory Auditors
11 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

19 April 2016

INCOME STATEMENT

Income statement Year ended 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 €	2014 €
Turnover	4	728,216	818,357
Gross profit		<u>728,216</u>	<u>818,357</u>
Administrative expenses		(1,218,747)	(1,218,335)
Other operating income	5	<u>486,720</u>	<u>417,319</u>
Operating (loss)/profit	6	<u>(3,811)</u>	<u>17,341</u>
Income from other financial assets	8	196,482	375,775
Other interest receivable and similar income	9	<u>9,428</u>	<u>18,404</u>
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		202,099	411,520
Tax on profit on ordinary activities		-	-
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		<u>202,099</u>	<u>411,520</u>
Transfer to deferred revenue	10	<u>(202,099)</u>	<u>(411,520)</u>
Profit for the financial year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the year as set out above.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	2015 €	€	2014 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11	5,479,253		5,395,546	
Financial assets	12	3,665,560		3,561,235	
			9,144,813		8,956,781
Current assets					
Stocks	13	38,284		51,313	
Debtors	14	16,005		21,634	
Cash at bank and in hand		95,580		62,291	
		149,869		135,238	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	15	(1,957,082)		(1,754,419)	
Net current liabilities					
			(1,807,213)		(1,619,181)
Total assets less current liabilities					
			7,337,600		7,337,600
Net assets					
			7,337,600		7,337,600
Capital and reserves					
Capital Contributions - Gifts		1,904,610		1,904,610	
Capital Contributions - Cash		2,982,447		2,982,447	
Capital Contributions		2,349,041		2,349,041	
Profit and loss account		101,502		101,502	
Members funds					
		7,337,600		7,337,600	

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Capital Contributions - Gifts €	Capital Contributions - Cash €	Capital Contributions €	Profit and loss account €	Total €
At 1 January 2014	1,904,610	2,982,447	2,349,041	101,502	7,337,600
Profit for the year	—	—	—	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2014	<u>1,904,610</u>	<u>2,982,447</u>	<u>2,349,041</u>	<u>101,502</u>	<u>7,337,600</u>
Profit for the year	—	—	—	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2015	<u>1,904,610</u>	<u>2,982,447</u>	<u>2,349,041</u>	<u>101,502</u>	<u>7,337,600</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2015	2014
	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit for the financial year	-	-
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible assets	42,818	21,945
Income from other financial assets	(196,482)	(375,775)
Other interest receivable and similar income	(9,428)	(18,404)
Accrued expenses/(income)	29,750	(57,101)
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Stocks	13,029	(15,677)
Trade and other debtors	5,629	(2,493)
Trade and other creditors	202,099	335,531
Cash generated from operations	<u>87,415</u>	<u>(111,974)</u>
Interest received	9,428	18,404
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	<u>96,843</u>	<u>(93,570)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(126,525)	-
Proceeds from sale of other investments	87,997	64,253
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities	<u>(38,528)</u>	<u>64,253</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	58,315	(29,317)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	62,291	91,608
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>120,606</u>	<u>62,291</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in euros, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Transition to FRS 102

The entity transitioned from previous ROI GAAP to FRS 102 as at 1 January 2014. Details of how FRS 102 has affected the reported financial position and financial performance is given in note 16.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods supplied and services rendered, net of discounts and Value Added Tax.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the buyer, usually on despatch of the goods; the amount of revenue can be measured reliably; it is probable that the associated economic benefits will flow to the entity and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transactions can be measured reliably.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fittings fixtures and equipment	- 20%% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	- 20%% reducing balance

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Financial assets

Financial assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any provision for diminution in value. Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in profit or loss.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

3. Limited by guarantee

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding one Euro (€1)

4. Turnover

The whole of the turnover is attributable to the principal activity of the company wholly undertaken in Ireland.

All income is derived from contributions to and operating activities relating to the Mercy International Centre in Ireland.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. **Other operating income**

	2015	2014
	€	€
Generated support	486,720	417,319
	<u>486,720</u>	<u>417,319</u>

6. **Operating (loss)/profit**

Operating (loss)/profit is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2015	2014
	€	€
Depreciation of tangible assets	42,818	21,945
	<u>42,818</u>	<u>21,945</u>

7. **Staff costs**

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year, including the directors, was as follows:

	2015	2014
	Number	Number
Administrative	5	6
	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the year were:

	2015	2014
	€	€
Wages and salaries	209,024	269,023
	<u>209,024</u>	<u>269,023</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8.	Income from other financial assets	2015	2014
		€	€
	Gain on disposal - unlisted	191,630	-
	Gain on fair value adjustment - unlisted	4,852	375,775
		<u>196,482</u>	<u>375,775</u>
9.	Other interest receivable and similar income	2015	2014
		€	€
	Bank deposits	9,428	18,404
		<u>9,428</u>	<u>18,404</u>
10.	Transfer to deferred revenue	2015	2014
		€	€
	Deferral of income towards future funding requirements	(202,099)	(411,520)
		<u>(202,099)</u>	<u>(411,520)</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

11. Tangible assets

	Freehold property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
At 1 January 2015	5,308,473	625,467	12,675	5,946,615
Additions	-	126,525	-	126,525
At 31 December 2015	<u>5,308,473</u>	<u>751,992</u>	<u>12,675</u>	<u>6,073,140</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2015	-	538,989	12,080	551,069
Charge for the year	-	42,699	119	42,818
At 31 December 2015	<u>-</u>	<u>581,688</u>	<u>12,199</u>	<u>593,887</u>
Carrying amount				
At 31 December 2015	<u>5,308,473</u>	<u>170,304</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>5,479,253</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Freehold property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
At 1 January 2014	5,308,473	625,467	12,675	5,946,615
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2014	<u>5,308,473</u>	<u>625,467</u>	<u>12,675</u>	<u>5,946,615</u>
 Depreciation				
At 1 January 2014	-	517,193	11,931	529,124
Charge for the year	-	21,796	149	21,945
At 31 December 2014	<u>-</u>	<u>538,989</u>	<u>12,080</u>	<u>551,069</u>
 Carrying amount				
At 31 December 2014	<u>5,308,473</u>	<u>86,478</u>	<u>595</u>	<u>5,395,546</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

12. Financial assets

	Other investments other than loans	Total
	€	€
Cost		
At 1 January 2015	3,561,235	3,561,235
Disposals	103,633	103,633
Fair value adjustments	104,571	104,571
Transfers	(103,879)	(103,879)
At 31 December 2015	<u>3,665,560</u>	<u>3,665,560</u>
 Provision for diminution in value		
At 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015	-	-
 Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2015	<u>3,665,560</u>	<u>3,665,560</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	€	€
Cost		
At 1 January 2014	3,262,821	3,262,821
Disposals	(64,253)	(64,253)
Fair value adjustments	348,223	348,223
Transfers	14,444	14,444
At 31 December 2014	<u>3,561,235</u>	<u>3,561,235</u>
 Provision for diminution in value		
At 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2014	<u>3,561,235</u>	<u>3,561,235</u>

Investments include €144,392 relating to the long term funding of Mercy International Centre and are restricted to that purpose.

13. Stocks

	2015	2014
	€	€
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>38,284</u>	<u>51,313</u>

14. Debtors

	2015	2014
	€	€
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>16,005</u>	<u>21,634</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2015	2014
	€	€
Accruals	32,592	32,028
Deferred income	1,924,490	1,722,391
	<u>1,957,082</u>	<u>1,754,419</u>

16. Transition to FRS 102

These are the first financial statements that comply with FRS 102. The company transitioned to FRS 102 on 1 January 2014.

Reconciliation of equity

No transitional adjustments were required.

Reconciliation of profit or loss for the year

No transitional adjustments were required.

17. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 19 April 2016.

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts

**Detailed income statement
Year ended 31 December 2015**

	2015 €	2014 €
Turnover		
Levies and Subscriptions	389,700	381,070
Accommodation	49,092	55,624
Food Sales	62,831	56,187
Programmes	21,289	21,050
Hire of Facilities	34,142	26,780
Provision of Services	120,000	120,000
Donations and Grants	53,019	143,586
Shop	(2,351)	12,190
Other income	494	1,870
	<u>728,216</u>	<u>818,357</u>

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts

Administrative expenses		
Wages and salaries	(209,024)	(269,023)
Staff training	(450)	(1,330)
Repairs and Renewals	(12,582)	(48,267)
Maintenance Contracts	(23,262)	(35,232)
Gas, Electricity and Water Rates	(48,675)	(56,561)
Community Service	(274,193)	(245,418)
Telephone	(5,095)	(10,715)
Food	(47,398)	(59,858)
Chapel	(1,354)	(1,162)
Stationary and Postage	(4,494)	(2,402)
Motor and Travel Expenses	(20,834)	(8,721)
Insurance	(20,404)	(20,217)
Office Equipment	(16,415)	(19,982)
Household and Cleaning	(14,826)	(21,321)
Donations and Grant Expenses	(5,372)	(53,539)
Fundraising Expenses	(170,000)	(152,258)
Programme Expenses	(49,078)	(30,993)
MIA Communications	(91,347)	(75,665)
Global Concern	(96,853)	(20,500)
Meetings and Travel	(17,448)	(17,901)
Legal and professional	(40,898)	(24,299)
Bank charges	(2,584)	(4,277)
General expenses	(3,343)	(16,749)
Depreciation of tangible assets	(42,818)	(21,945)
	<u>(1,218,747)</u>	<u>(1,218,335)</u>

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts

Other operating income		
Sundry income	<u>486,720</u>	<u>417,319</u>
	486,720	417,319
Operating (loss)/profit	(3,811)	17,341
Income from other financial assets	196,482	375,775
Other interest receivable and similar income	<u>9,428</u>	<u>18,404</u>
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	<u><u>202,099</u></u>	<u><u>411,520</u></u>

