

## Patricia Deirdre Mullan RSM

Sisters of Mercy  
335 River Street  
Forty Fort  
PA 18704  
USA

Telephone: (1) 917-710-7214

Email: [Deirdremullanun@aol.com](mailto:Deirdremullanun@aol.com)

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### Biography

As a Sister of Mercy, Deirdre served as Director of the Mercy Global Concern (MGC) at the United Nations for over ten years. From September 2012 to April 2014 she served as the Executive Director of the Partnership for Global Justice at the UN, responsible for providing access to UN events for over 125 small congregations who did not have the resources for a full-time representative at the UN. Since May 2014 she has worked with UNICEF, the body at the UN focusing on children's and girls' education. She is one of the founding members of the NGO *The Mercy Girl Effect*.

Deirdre's international experience includes raising significant monies in the USA, the Republic and the North of Ireland, the USA and the United Kingdom to build and support schools (fourteen, at the last count) in Cambodia, working in conjunction with Denise Coughlan, RSM, a Sister of Mercy from Australia who heads up Jesuit Refugee Services in Cambodia); raising money and working with Angela Hartigan, RSM, from Kenya to support various educational and social service projects in the Mukuru slum in Nairobi; securing computers to support the work of the Sisters of Mercy in Guyana South America, working specifically with Sister Noel Mendes; contributing towards the building of a school in Nuba, Sudan, and rebuilding it after it was bombed, working with Sister Cathy Solano; working with Sister Celestine Daly to build a school in Zambia; working with the Sisters of Mercy in the Philippines to refurbish a hospital; working with the Sisters of Mercy in Nigeria to build 112 small mud-houses for families displaced by Boko Haram; and helping to build a small school in Sugu, Nigeria, working with Sister Agnes Hannon, RSM.

During her time as the Director of the Mercy Office at the UN, Deirdre did significant fund-raising and offered 25-30 all expenses paid opportunities for Sisters of Mercy around the world to attend a two-week conference at the United Nations entitled: Bridging the Gap. Over 200 Mercy Sisters took part in these conferences held over 8 years.

She also served on the Executive Committee of the NGO-United Nations annual conference and was responsible for the mapping and strategic plan of the conference.

Growing up in Northern Ireland, she witnessed the Irish Troubles and saw how young minds can become sectionalized and dehumanized. This led her, in 1998, to coordinate *The Dance of Co-existence* project, which brought together teenagers from “both parts of the divide” (Protestant and Catholic) to look at each other’s history and culture and to express their differences and understandings in dance. This group of young people was invited to perform in Dublin for the President of Ireland and representatives from all second-level schools in Ireland.

She has been a visiting professor of Social Sciences at Mount Aloysius College, PA, and has served as the Director of Mercy Global Concern (MGC) at the United Nations, the Mercy NGO representing the worldwide Sisters of Mercy. Currently she is the consultant adviser to UNICEF on their initiative “Partnering Religious Congregations with UNICEF”.

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### Education

Ph.D. “The Feminization of Poverty”: University of Ulster, N. Ireland

M.A. Educational Administration: University of Ulster, N. Ireland

B.A. Social Science: Queen’s University, Belfast, N. Ireland

Diploma in Education (with distinction): University of Nottingham, England

### Honorary Degrees/ Awards

The Spirit of Mercy Award: Yale Club, New York, 2017

Doctor of Humane Letters: Misericordia University, December 2015, in recognition of her work in education around the world

Doctor of Humane Letters: Maria College, Albany, NY, 2012, in recognition of her work for Girls’ education

Doctor of Humane Letters: Gwynedd Mercy College, Pennsylvania, May 2010, in recognition of her work to promote internationality in the Mercy world

Doctor of Humane Letters: St. Joseph's College, Maine, May 2007, in recognition of her work to raise consciousness about the Millennium Development Goals

## Recent Experience

Consultant Director – UNICEF – April 2014 – present  
Coordinator – Mercy Girl Effect – March 2007 – present  
Executive Director – Partnership for Global Justice at the United Nations – 2012-2014  
Executive Director – Mercy Global Concerns (MGC) at the United Nations, New York, NY – 2001-2011

In the past 24 months, I assumed the position of Consultant to UNICEF, the United Nations Children's wing, with the specific role of identifying and creating a database to enable UNICEF to find ways to partner with Women Religious in projects benefiting children around the world

## Publications

*Words Matter*, March 2019

*Who is My Neighbour?* 2018

*Passport to Global Citizenship*, 2017

*The Mercy GPS*, December 2015

*It is good for us to be here*, UN publication, November 2015

*The Human Right to Water – The Free Beverage*, March 2015

*There is a Girl out there who needs YOU*, March 2014

*Our Shared Destiny in a Post 2015 World*, September 2013

*Nurturing the Global Citizen Within*, September 2012

*What Price a Girl's Life?*, December 21, 2012

"Total Surrender," *The Tablet*, London, January 2012

*The Many Faces of Mercy*, March 2011

"Until All Have Enough," *The Tablet*, London, January 2011

*Are Women Human? Violence Against Women and Girls*, March 2011

*Meeting the Global Citizen in YOU*, Mercy Global Concern (MGC), January 2010

"Prophetic Voices," *UISG, Number 133*, November 2010

*Water is Free Beverage*, MGC, March 2009

*Just Imagine: The Girl Child and Education*, MGC, November 2008

*Mercy: The Language of the Heart*, MGC, May 2008

*Where in the World Are My Sisters?*, MGC, May 2007

Visitation, Spirituality and Leadership, MGC, September 2005

"Leadership: The Hard Questions," *The Furrow: A Journal for the Contemporary Church*, Volume 55, Number 11, November 2004

"Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors?" in association with Carol Rittner RSM, *American Foreign Policy Interests*, Vol. 26, #6, December 2004

*Mercy Global Concern: Leaven for Good in a Hurting World*, MGC, October 2004

"Human Rights are Women's Rights," *Living Mercy*, Summer 2003

"Beyond Individual Compassion," *Response*, March 2003

"Negotiating the Future – Towards a Process of Forgiveness Which Frees Us from the Legacies of the Past," *Lion and Lamb*, #17, 2000

*Whispers of Hope from an Amsterdam Attic*, Yes Publication, 1999

"Dancing Beyond Hate," *Tidings*, Volume 3, Number 2, 1998

"Sometimes the Hating has to STOP," *The Furrow*, January 1997

"U.N. International Year of Tolerance," *The Derry Journal*, September 1995

"As I see it. Ceasefire on Hatred," *Corrymeela*, September 1995

"The Pearl of Great Price," *Corrymeela*, December 1995