MERCY JOHN

mei25002@uconn.edu

EDUCATION

The University of Connecticut — **Storrs, CT**
Master of Arts in Human Rights — Expected 2027
The University of Dayton — **Dayton, OH**
Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Human Rights Studies — May 5, 2024

WORK EXPERIENCE

New Haven Leon Sister City Project — **New Haven, CT**
New Haven Intern — August 2026- Present

- Support the development of a transportation "Polluters Pay" campaign by researching environmental, public health, infrastructure, and climate costs associated with automobile use in New Haven
- Support New Haven Climate Movement via climate policy research, event communications, and youth-focused climate advocacy content
- Develop educational materials for community members, elected officials, and organizational stakeholders on transportation pollution and climate policy

Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute — **Storrs, CT**
Research Assistant- Crowd Counting Consortium — August 2025- Present

- Analyze and enter protest event data from 100 to 300 media sources per cycle for a national protest tracking database.
- Process 100 - 150 articles weekly under standard conditions and 200 - 300 articles within two weeks during peak protest periods
- Extract key variables (e.g., protest size, location, issue focus, and participants) to ensure data consistency and reliability.

Counterpart International — **Washington, DC**
Governance Fellow — June - July 2024

- Created and updated Past Performance Reviews (PPRs) for three El Salvador programs, demonstrating meticulous attention to detail and strong analytical skills.
- Analyzed quarterly and annual reports, gaining expertise in USAID contracts and cooperative agreements.
- Conducted background research for a regional Human Rights Proposal led by the Pan American Development Foundation, including preliminary economic assessments and other programmatic documentation.

UNIVERSITY PROJECTS

Democracy and Development in Central America — **Dayton, OH**
Capstone Project- INS 499 — January - May 2024

- Conducted research analyzing peacebuilding programs in Kenya and Somalia as modes of producing long-lasting effects in advancing democratic stability.
- Carried out market research in partnership with Counterpart International on the feasibility of selling Guatemalan coffee on the University of Dayton's campus.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Kenya Applied Research Practicum — **Nakuru, Kenya**
Dandelion Africa Intern & Researcher — May-July 2023

- Organized and led in-depth qualitative research on Female Genital Mutilation, conducting culturally sensitive interviews with local communities.
- Collaborated with Dandelion Africa staff to design culturally sensitive interview questions, collect data, and interview local communities.
- Conducted fieldwork in Dandelion Africa's Youth, Women's Livelihood, Health, and Advocacy programs, gaining experience in table banking and cone gardening.

ADDITIONAL

Certifications & Trainings: AFS Global Competence Certificate
Skills: Qualtrics, Stata