

# Advocating on harms of extractive industries

*Marianne Comfort; Institute Justice Team*

Mercy Associate Alexis Stephens of Guyana, as part of her participation in Mercy International Association's Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF), completed a research project on the oil and gas industry in her home country of Guyana. You may watch a 36-minute presentation of her work [here](#).

Alexis realized that many people in Guyana didn't understand the threats from an industry that was promising jobs and economic growth. While the country reportedly has the world's fast-growing economy, she notes that this boom hasn't resulted in prosperity for the people of Guyana. The government is using a lot of the money to build roads and bridges, for instance, which is disrupting local communities and displacing residents.

Alexis created a guide to advocacy on oil and gas in Guyana for her MELF final project. The Institute Justice Team has adapted her toolkit to be useful in other countries and addressing all forms of extractive industries. You may find that [here](#) ([Español](#)).

This toolkit is designed to equip individuals and organizations with the knowledge and tools necessary to advocate for a just transition away from fossil fuels, particularly within the oil and gas industry, mining, deforestation and other forms of large-scale extraction of resources. It aims to empower advocates to address the social, economic, and environmental inequalities associated with extraction, transportation, and consumption while promoting sustainable and equitable alternatives.

The toolkit provides many resources to assist individuals in planning an advocacy campaign around the harms of extractive industries. These resources include suggestions for communication and education, coalition building, direct action, research and analysis, and legal action.