



**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 63rd SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, 11-22 March 2019**

A DEMAND FOR ACTION !!

**WHEN GOVERNMENTS AND POLICY-MAKERS DECIDE IN THE AGREED
CONCLUSIONS TO:**

- **Empower women and girls** – empower **ALL** women, including **older women** ! They are capable of participating and taking decisions, especially about living their own lives in dignity.
- **Provide social protection** – take a rights-based life-course approach. Include **older women**!
- **Ensure the right to work** – include **older women**, who are living longer and are capable of working well beyond 60 and are not “a drain on society”. Ensure that **all** women and girls are protected by international labour standards and national labour laws.
- **Prevent discrimination against women and girls** – include **ALL women** and girls, **older women** too. Combat ageism!
- **Take action against rising inequalities and persistent poverty** - **older women** have suffered a lifetime of discrimination, low income, low literacy, poor health, malnutrition. Poverty in old age has a strong gender dimension. A life-course approach is essential to eradicate poverty.
- **Prevent violence against women and girls** – age is no protection. **Older women** also suffer from abuse and neglect. Do not neglect their suffering!
- **Invest in health care services** – include **older women**, who also have gynecological issues beyond reproductive age.
- **Systematically measure and incorporate the value of unpaid work** – do not forget the unpaid care and domestic work performed by **older women**.

March 2019

WOMEN OF ALL AGES CALL UPON GOVERNMENTS AND POLICY-MAKERS to:

- Note that currently, women account for 54% of global population aged 60 years or over, and 61% of those aged 80 years or over.
- Recognize that older women are entrepreneurs, farmers, mentors, care-givers, artisans, educators, mothers and grandmothers - they should not be viewed only as recipients or beneficiaries of special care and social protection but also as active agents of change, making valuable contributions to their families, communities and the national economy.

**Defenders of the rights of women and girls,
INCLUDE older women !!!!**

- **END AGEISM**
- **STOP LIFE-COURSE VULNERABILITIES**
- **LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND - THIS MEANS INCLUDING ALL PEOPLE OF
ALL AGES, FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE**

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**#olderwomencount
@UN4ageing**

Contact Co-Chairs, NGO/CoA-NY, Subcommittee to Promote a Human Rights Convention for Older Persons:
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Reference: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division,