



**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**A DEMAND FOR ACTION !!**

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

- **Empower women and girls** – empower *older women* too ! They are capable of participating and taking decisions, especially about living their own lives in dignity.
- **Educate women and girls** – educate *older women* too! Strengthen their skills and knowledge to ensure independence, including financial independence.
- **Prevent discrimination against women and girls** – remember *older women* too. Combat ageism!
- **Eliminate all forms of violence and harmful practices against all rural women and girls** – end *elder abuse* too! End violent widowhood rites, land grabbing and scapegoating, including witchcraft accusations.
- **Invest in health care services** – include *older women*, who also have gynecological issues beyond reproductive age.
- **Ensure the right to work** – include *older women*, who are living longer and are capable of working for many years beyond 60, to ensure income security and avoid being considered “a drain on society”. Ensure that all women and girls are protected by international labour standards and national labour laws.
- **Systematically measure and incorporate the value of unpaid work** – do not forget the unpaid care and domestic work performed by *older women*.
- **Invest in essential infrastructure to improve the lives of women and girls** – ensure that *women of all ages* are included.

March 2018

## **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.
- **Pay attention to the fact that older women make up 53% of persons over the age of 60 in rural areas.**
- Note that older women in rural areas are at high risk of falling into poverty.
- Recognize that older rural women are farmers, entrepreneurs, mentors, care-givers, mothers and grandmothers, artisans - 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:  
Susan Somers: [sbsomers5@aol.com](mailto:sbsomers5@aol.com) and Frances Zainoeddin: [fzainoeddin@msn.com](mailto:fzainoeddin@msn.com)

Reference: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, Urban and Rural Population by Age and Sex, 1980-2015 (version 3).