

# World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

## The Impact of COVID-19 on Violence, Abuse and Neglect of Older Persons

# WEBINAR



16 June 2020 (Tuesday)



08.00—09.00 EST (NY)

14.00—15.00 CET (Geneva)

[Register here](#)

The UN General Assembly designated 15 June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (res. A/RES/66/127). Elder abuse is one of the most hidden and underreported human rights violations.

COVID-19 has put a spotlight on older persons including distressing reports of instances of abuse and neglect of older persons in long term care institutions. Not only older persons are at a high risk of serious illness and mortality, but they are also stigmatized through abusive language in both the conventional and social media.

Despite the lack of reliable data on the actual scale of elder abuse in the community where the majority of older persons live, emerging reports reveal the high impact of the COVID-19 pandemic both in the rise of cases of abuse and in the disruption of the services and protective measures.

The UN Secretary-General in his Policy Brief *The Impact of Covid-19 on Older Persons* warned that *measures to restrict movement may trigger greater incidence of violence against older persons and all types of abuse – physical, emotional, financial and sexual as well as neglect.*

*The lack of adequate legislation at national level to protect the rights of older persons and the absence of a dedicated internationally agreed legal framework, contribute to the vulnerability of older persons and may have contributed to the inadequate responses to the COVID-19 crisis and that these gaps must be filled.*

Verbal abuse and hate speech:  
Do they lead to other types of abuse?

When do under or / and over-protection become abuse?

Have lockdowns increased the risk of financial exploitation?

What are examples of passive and active neglect?

### PARTNERS



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



World Health Organization



NGO Committee on Ageing GENEVA

GENEVA GoF-HROP  
Group of Friends of the Human Rights of Older Persons



Real Possibilities



United Nations New York

#PurpleDotChallenge  
#StandWithOlderPersons  
#StopElderAbuse  
@UNforAgeing

WEAAD2020 - Appreciates support of United Hebrew of New Rochelle

### Co-Moderators

- Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief Program on Ageing Unit, United Nations (UN DESA)
- Monica Ferro, Director, Geneva Office, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

### Opening remarks

- A Permanent Representative Member of the Groups of Friends of Older Persons, UN, NY (TBC)
- Robert Muller, Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN, Geneva  
Member of the *Group of Friends of the Human Rights of Older Persons, Geneva*

### Panelists

- Claudia Mahler, UN Independent Expert on The Enjoyment of All Human Rights by Older Persons
- Etienne Krug, Director of Department of Social Determinants of Health, WHO  
*WHO's New Guidance on Elder Abuse and COVID-19*
- Jilene Gunther, AARP Bank Safe  
*Fighting Financial Exploitation*
- Kikelomo (Kiki) Laniyonu Edwards, Dementia Care Society of Nigeria  
*COVID-19: Increasing the Risk of Abuse of Persons with Dementia*
- Michael S. Mulvery, University of Ottawa  
*An Outbreak of Ageist Discourse in Social Media*

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