



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY (#WEAAD2025)

ADDRESSING ABUSE OF OLDER ADULTS IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES: THROUGH DATA AND ACTION

Monday, June 16, 2025
1:15 pm - 2:45 pm ET

2025 INTERNATIONAL WEAAD COMMEMORATION -
A VIRTUAL EVENT

WEAAD

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) has been observed annually on **June 15** since **2006**, following the initiative of the **International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)** in partnership with the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. In **2011**, the **United Nations General Assembly** officially recognized the day (UN Resolution 66/127), making it part of the international calendar for ageing and the human rights of older persons.

This virtual event, held in observance of WEAAD 2025, will focus on the **abuse of older adults in long-term care facilities**. Whereas most older people live in the community, institutional care is a reality for many. As the need for institutional care grows with global aging, so do concerns about safeguarding the rights, safety, and dignity of residents is of outmost importance.

Despite increased awareness, **many countries still lack reliable, disaggregated data**, and **staff shortages** or lack of adequate training, continue to create high-risk conditions for abuse and neglect. A **WHO-supported study** revealed that nearly **64% of institutional staff** admitted to abusive behavior in the previous year, highlighting the urgent need for systemic change.

By emphasizing both good practices and existing shortcomings, the conference will contribute to stronger, evidence-based efforts to protect the rights and dignity of older people in institutional care.

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SPEAKERS

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- **Welcome remarks:** **Amal Abou Rafeh**, Chief of the Programme on Ageing Section, UN DESA
- **Moderator:** **Sara Salman** - Population Affairs Officer at UN ESCWA
- **Theatrical Interlude:** Waiting for the rain directed by: **Lazar Jovanov, Demir Mekic, Branka B. Bajic**
- **Panelists:**
- **Setting the Scene:** **Natasa Todorovic, MPH**, INPEA Reg Rep Europe, Red Cross of Serbia
- **Ms. Claudia Mahler, PhD**, UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, **TBC**
- **Lucia Vidovičová, PhD**, Masaryk Univ | Faculty of Social Studies, Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs RILSA, INPEA Rep to Czech Republic
- **Wenche Malmedal, PhD**, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Department of Public Health and Nursing NTNU, INPEA Rep to Norway
- **Eilon Caspi, PhD**, Gerontologist and Elder Mistreatment Researcher, Director, Dementia Behavior Consulting LLC
- **Robert Brent, PhD**, Professor Emeritus, Fordham University, and LTC Ombudsman
- **Closing:** **Susan B. Somers, JD, President**, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

REGISTER

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_SCRK0leT6ScGJCTnhL58Q

For questions, please contact:

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