There are **gaps** in protection of older persons in existing human rights standards and laws.

- “Age” is not recognized as a category of **discrimination** – unlike gender, race, ethnicity, language, religion.
- Age discrimination and **ageism** are widely tolerated throughout the world.
- Older persons are often treated as subjects or objects of welfare instead of as **rights holders**
- Older persons are often **vulnerable to deprivation and exclusion**, disproportionately during times of crisis.
- Single most pressing challenge to the welfare of older persons is **poverty**, characterized by homelessness, malnutrition, unattended chronic diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, unaffordable medicines and treatments, income insecurity.
- Older persons are at higher risk of **abuse and violence** – physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial – and the consequences are often more severe.
- Respect for older persons’ rights also **benefits society** as a whole.

**Everyone should grow old and prosper with dignity !!**

**WHAT IS THE ADDED VALUE OF A SPECIFIC CONVENTION TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS?**

A new, legally binding instrument would bring **clarity** to both the nature of older persons’ rights and the responsibilities necessary to protect them (think of specific conventions for children, women and persons with disabilities, which have made a HUGE difference to their lives and to society as a whole, around the world).

A convention on the rights of older persons would, among other things:

- **View older persons as rights-holders.**
- **Codify the rights** of older persons in one single document, recognizing the specific challenges related to ageing and serving as a tool for both empowerment and protection.
- **Establish** a common, global understanding of definitions and minimum standards of practice.
- **Act as an anti-discriminatory tool** to challenge prevailing negative stereotypes about old age.
- Require governments to **collect data, develop indicators, establish laws and policies, develop programmes** that take into account the rights and concerns of older persons.
- **Improve State accountability and transparency** with respect to actions taken for older persons, including with their active participation.
- **Raise public awareness** in respect of older persons’ rights.
- **Create societies and environments for all ages, where older persons are also able to contribute, prosper and enjoy their rights.**

**SUPPORT US !!!!! ➔ ➔ ➔**

The eleventh session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) is scheduled to take place 29 March to 1 April 2021 (postponed from 2020).

ECOSOC consultative status is not a requirement for participating in the OEWGA process. NGOs with an interest in older persons’ rights can be accredited to attend sessions, and submit statements, information and reports. Check United Nations website: https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/eleventhsession.shtml

Become a member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) and contribute to the unified voice around the world advocating for a convention to protect the rights of older persons: www.rightsforolderpeople.org

Contact your government authorities and urge them to support a convention.

Reports of the OEWG: A/AC.278/2011/4; A/AC.278/2011/5; A/AC.278/2012/1; A/AC.278/2013/2; A/AC.278/2014/2; A/AC.278/2015/2; A/AC.278/2016/2; A/AC.278/2017/2; A/AC.278/2018/2; A/AC.278/2019/2

Reports of the Secretary-General: A/67/188; A/68/167; A/69/180; A/70/185; A/72/161; A/73/213; A/74/170

General Assembly resolution 46/91 on United Nations Principles for Older Persons.

General Assembly resolution 46/91 on United Nations Principles for Older Persons.


USEFUL WEBSITES

https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
http://www.who.int/ageing - World Health Organization (WHO)
http://www.rightsforolderpeople.org - Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP)
http://www.helpage.org/what-we-do/rights - HelpAge International (HAI)
http://www.iagg.info – International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG)
http://www.ilc-alliance.org - International Longevity Center, Global Alliance (ILC, GA)
http://www.ifa-fiv.org - International Federation on Ageing (IFA)
http://www.inpea.net - International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)

Support efforts to start drafting a convention now !!!!!

Contact Co-Chairs, NGO/CoA-NY, Subcommittee to Promote a Human Rights Convention for Older Persons: Susan Somers: sbsomers5@aol.com and Frances Zainoeddin: fzainoeddin@msn.com. January 2021