



A life free from violence, abuse and neglect in older age

Hybrid side event
54th session of the Human Rights Council

Friday 15 September 2023, 14h00-15h00
Conference Room XXV - Palais des Nations
Join us online: bit.ly/45wBiwK

Background

In Resolution 33/5, the Human Rights Council recalled “the need to combat the various forms of violence against older persons, a widespread phenomenon that includes discrimination in the public sphere, linguistic and employment discrimination, lack of access, isolation, neglect, financial exploitation, physical and psychological violence and the withholding of basic needs, and physical attacks”.

Violence and abuse against older persons take different forms and occurs in all types of settings, including within families and at home, in the community, in long term care and health care settings, at the workplace, in public spaces, in the media, in the digital space, and in emergency and humanitarian settings. A wide range of actors, including family members, intimate partners, caregivers, legal guardians, health professionals, government workers and financial representatives may be identified as perpetrators. In many instances, such violence and abuse often are unnoticed and/or unspoken, and remain highly taboo in society.

In 2023, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Dr. Claudia Mahler focused her [thematic report to the 54th session of the Human Rights Council on violence against, abuse and neglect of older persons](#). In this report, the Independent Expert discusses the definition of “abuse of older persons”, as well as examines the existing international and regional legal protection standards applicable to the issue as well as identify their gaps. She further analyses the different manifestations of abuse in old age and reviews prevention and protection measures, while providing some promising practices. Exploring the interactions with social factors such as gender, sex, race, ethnicity, indigenous identity, disability, religion, social status, place of origin and immigration status, remains crucial while addressing abuse

of older persons. Finally, the Independent Expert provides some recommendations to states and other relevant stakeholders on ways to protect older persons from violence while upholding their human rights, and ensuring access to justice, remedies and reparations for older victims and survivors.

At the occasion of the presentation of her report to the Human Rights Council, the Independent Expert in partnership with International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, wishes to invite all interested parties to a side event in the margins of the 54th session, to discuss her findings and move the discussion forward on the best options to ensure older persons fully enjoy all their human rights and to live free from violence and abuse. This event is co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Argentina, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Israel, the Philippines, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Slovenia, International Longevity Centre Canada, and the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons.

Modalities of the event

Along with the Independent Expert, an expert panel will provide some remarks on the report and provide recommendations and promising practices on how to further uphold the right of older persons to live free from violence, abuse and neglect.

The event will be hybrid using the UN Webex platform.

Room: Palais des Nations, Conference room XXV

Or join online: bit.ly/45wBiwK

Meeting number: 2747 637 3669

Password: *PskKgteA362*

The event will only be in English.

Suggested agenda (50 minutes)

Moderated by: Silvia Perel-Levin, INPEA

Opening remarks: H.E. Mr. Héctor Virgilio Alcántara, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic in Geneva

Discussion with:

- Claudia Mahler, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
- Anthony Okechukwu Ojukwu, SAN, Executive Secretary of Nigeria's National Human Rights Commission
- Bridget Sleep, Senior researcher on older people, Human Rights Watch

For further questions, please contact hrc-ie-olderpersons@un.org