

Human Rights of Older Persons

United Nations Convention, a solution to prevent the worldwide age discrimination

The world is aging. In 2050, the number of older adults will outnumber that of children under 15. However the world is not prepared to support older adults yet. Age discrimination is prevalent in the world, but the existing international human rights systems do not adequately address the violation of human rights. Current international society needs a legally binding framework, which can be applied to the ratified countries to advocate and support older adults' human rights issues in their countries.

Source: Ageing in the Twenty-First Century: A Celebration and A Challenge Executive Summary
<https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA-Exec-Summary.pdf>

LIVES OF OLDER ADULTS IN THE WORLD



NO AMBULANCE

"We cannot send an ambulance to people aged over 50."

In Kyrgyzstan, older people are unable to access the appropriate medical services.



NO RESPECT

*"That pain is usual in old age.
Just take these painkillers."*

In Kenya, doctors do not properly take care of older patients. Rather than providing appropriate examinations or medications, doctors merely provide painkillers, and sometimes they avoid touching older age patients.



NO HOUSING

*"I cannot lease my apartment to older people.
They are frail and easily make fire and gas accidents.
And the apartment price will fall down if they die in this building."*

In South Korea, older people are prevented access to appropriate housing even if they are qualified and can afford them. Landlords tend to refuse to give a lease merely because the possible tenants are old.

However, none of these cases were addressed in the country due to the absence of or limited human rights standards within the country.

What do we need?

We need an international framework, a **CONVENTION** that has juridical force, to encourage each country to develop and monitor the fulfillment of older adults' human rights in the country.

What is a Convention?

According to United Nations, an international convention is an agreement between different countries that is legally binding to the signatory States. A convention can play important roles to establish legal standards on the age discrimination, to clarify the application of human rights in old age, to provide political framework, and to develop the human rights obligations and accountabilities.

Source: United Nations: <http://www.un.org/en/index.html>; HelpAge International: www.helpage.org

What we can do?

Since 2010, the UN Open-ended Working Group on Aging (OEWG) has been working on the development of a new convention to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons. The main purpose of OEWG is to examine the existing framework, to identify the gaps, and to develop appropriate instruments and measures to address such gaps. Please join the following petition and campaign actions to raise governmental attention on issues and the work that OEWG practices!

Sources: Open-ended Working Group on Ageing: <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/index.shtml>

Join the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People

The Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) is a network of organizations from across the world, that have come together to strengthen and promote the rights of older persons.



Please join GAROP to show your organization's supports on older people's human rights issue. If so, your organization can be a part of an international advocacy movement.

To become a member of GAROP, please visit the following site:
<http://www.rightsofolderpeople.org/become-a-member/>

Source: Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People <http://www.rightsofolderpeople.org/>

Join the Age Demands Action Campaign by Raising Your Human Right Umbrella!



Umbrella means the structure to protect human rights from the rain, any form of denial of human rights.

Raise your human rights umbrella!

You can get involved in the Global Age Demands Action campaign by standing beneath an umbrella, taking a photograph of yourself or with older adults and sharing the picture on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram with using #ActionAllAges. You can also share your picture with HelpAge International (HAI) on Twitter or Instagram.

- HAI Twitter: <https://twitter.com/helpage>
- HAI Instagram: <https://instagram.com/helpageint/>

Source: HelpAge International <http://www.helpage.org/get-involved/campaigns/ada-global/>

For More Information About Human Rights & Older Persons

Please visit the following websites:

- **UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing**
<http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/index.shtml>
- **HelpAge International**
<http://www.helpage.org/>
- **Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People**
<http://www.rightsofolderpeople.org/>