

SAVE THE DATE

Side event:

“Elder abuse vs. violence against older persons: what are the differences and what are the solutions?”

Organized by the
Group of Friends for Older Persons (GoFOP)¹

In commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Monday, June 15, 2015 – 1:15pm to 2:30pm
Conference Room 11- United Nations Headquarters

According to WHO, Elder abuse can be defined as "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person". Elder abuse can take various forms such as physical, psychological or emotional, sexual and financial abuse.

In many parts of the world elder abuse occurs with little recognition or response. This social problem is usually hidden from the public view and it can be considered mostly a private matter. Nevertheless, elder abuse is an important public health and societal problem that demands a global multifaceted response.

As HelpAge has stated, as people get older, they face specific violations to their rights in relation to age discrimination, for example, in access to health care, in employment, in property and inheritance rights, in access to information and education and in humanitarian responses, among other contexts.

In this framework, the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons has made a call for inputs from different actors with the objective to collect information about whether the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) has enhanced the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons or whether it has had a negative impact and which rights have been affected. A comprehensive report on this issue will be presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2016.

¹ The Group of Friends for Older Persons (GoFOP) is a cross-regional initiative created in 2014, with the purpose of promoting and mainstreaming the rights and dignity of older persons, from a holistic human-rights and development approach, within the United Nations. The current members of the Group are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Uruguay.

The Group of Friends for Older Persons intends to mark the **10th Anniversary of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** by exploring these differing experiences older people face, and discussing root causes and solutions to improving their protection, empowerment and their Human Rights.

Moreover, the GOFOP organizes this event with the intention of promoting the future discussions to be held on the 6th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (July 14-16, 2015), in which member states, UN System and civil society will address the proposals and measures, best practices and lessons learned that will contribute to promoting and protecting the rights and dignity of older persons, as a follow-up to resolution A/RES/69/146.

The panel will include 4 main speakers. Additional participants will come prepared with short interventions to be delivered from the floor to open an interactive debate.

Speakers:

- H.E. Rubén Zamora, Permanent Representative of El Salvador and Chair of the GOFOP (moderator).
- Mr. Leni Montiel, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development.
- Mr. Charles Radcliffe, Chief of the Global Issues and Inter-Governmental Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- H.E Mateo Estremé, Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina and Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (tbc).
- Ms. Bethany Brown, HelpAge International.
- Closing remarks by a member of the GOFOP.

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