

청춘 ASAA 합창단

Memorial Concert of
the Grey Youth Choir

in Commemoration of
the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



Monday, 15 June 2015, 6:30 PM

UN ECOSOC Chamber



Sponsored by the Permanent Mission of
the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

Elder Abuse Awareness

The population of older persons has been increasing all over the world, and it is expected to reach two billion by 2050. In this regard, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) provides policy guidelines and recommendations to protect their full and dignified participation. One of the main objectives of the MIPAA is to protect all forms of neglect, abuse, and violence against older persons. In the same vein, the General Assembly pronounced 15 June to be 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day' through its resolution 66/127.

In many parts of the world, both developing and developed countries, elder abuse is likely to be underreported—mistakenly considered to be a private matter. The World Health Organization estimates that four to six percent of older persons worldwide have suffered from some form of abuse. Elder abuse is a violation of human dignity that the international community must work to address.

Governments should enact stronger legislation to protect the abused and prosecute the perpetrators. Governments, municipalities, and communities should educate and raise awareness about the mistreatment of older adults.

The Government of the Republic of Korea has been engaging with public and implementing policy measures to address the issue of elder abuse. The 8th World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in 2013 coincided with the World Congress of the 20th International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics held in Seoul, Korea. The Government of the Republic of Korea promulgated a 'comprehensive policy on prevention of elder abuse' in October 2014, which requires the concerted engagement of a wide range of public entities for effective prevention, instant response, physical and mental health care, financial and social assistance, and protection and monitoring to eradicate elder abuse. Along these efforts, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea is honored to present a concert at United Nations Headquarters featuring the Grey Youth Choir to commemorate the 10th World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

The Grey Youth Choir: Harmony of Ageless Hope and Inspiration

The Grey Youth Choir—a renowned senior citizen choir group in Korea—is coming to perform at the United Nations Headquarters on 15 June 2015. The 48-members of the Choir, who are mostly in their 60s and 70s, have inspired many Koreans with their harmonies of ageless hope and inspiration. The Grey Youth Choir hopes to touch the hearts of many more by performing on the occasion of the global community’s observation of the 2015 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

The Grey Youth Choir was first introduced in 2011 on a Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) television program. The program auditioned 3,500 elders and formed a choir group of the chosen 40. From the youngest age of 52 to the oldest of 84, the members of the Choir have motivated many Koreans with their courage and passion to realize their long-held dreams for singing and reaffirmed their strong will to contribute to society. The success story of the Grey Youth Choir reminds everyone that the elders never retire as active members of society and have a great deal more to give and share. Since its establishment, the Grey Youth Choir has been performing actively in various occasions, such as the performance at the Blue House (the Executive Office and Official Residence of the President of the Republic of Korea) for the presidential inauguration, the Special Stage for the International Women’s Day, and the New Year Concert for Peace and Unification.

