

Human Rights and Older People (Raymond Saner & Lichia Yiu, 2018, CSEND)

International conventions have been negotiated to protect the rights of the child (CRC or UNCRC) see:

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_on_the_Rights_of_the_Child).

Another convention protects the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD) see: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html> . However no such convention exists so far that would offer protection of older people!

Different initiatives have been launched to bring to the public's attention that older people often experience severe discrimination (Ageism) and appalling situation in elderly care institutions and even at home in the context of family.

The following institutions are contributing to the international efforts to create policies and international agreements that could lead to an international convention for the protection of older persons:

1. **Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.** The Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing was established by the General Assembly by resolution 65/182 on 21 December 2010. The working group will consider the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identify possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures.
(<https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/>).
2. **The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR).** For the first time the Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly focused on the human rights of older persons. It identified four main challenges older persons are facing in terms of human rights as discrimination, poverty, violence and abuse as well as the lack of specific measures and services. The report further stresses several key areas for responses to the challenges as strengthening the international protection regime, elimination of financial exploitation and employment discrimination, establishing adequate care facilities

and participation in political

life.<https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/olderpersons/pages/olderpersonsindex.aspx>

3. **United Nations Economic Commission of Europe Working Group on Aging (UNECE–WGA).** The Working Group on Ageing is an intergovernmental body which was first convened in 2008. It is made up of national focal points on ageing representing the member States of the UNECE region, along with representatives from international organizations, NGOs and academia.
<https://www.unece.org/population/wga.html>
4. **The World Health Organisation (WHO)** focuses on Ageing and Health. The Department of Ageing and Life Course organises its work according to the 5 strategic priority areas identified in its Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health 2016–202 such as commitment to action, age–friendly environments, health systems that meet the needs of older people, long–term–care systems and data and research. <http://www.who.int/ageing/en/> and its publication titled Ageing focuses on the rights of older people and health related aspects of Ageing see:
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/186463/9789240694811_eng.pdf;jsessionid=CD4094A4741FD432B2B35373C77022E2?sequence=1
5. **Different NGOs** focus on the Rights of the Older people such as the **GAROP** (Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People)–
<http://www.rightsofolderpeople.org/>; **The Grey Panthers** –
(<http://www.graypanthersnyc.org/>); **The NGO Committee on Aeging** based in Geneva (<http://ageingcommitteegeneva.org/>); and other NGOs such as the Centre for Socio–Eco–Nomic Development, **CSEND**, an ECOSOC accredited NGOs (<http://www.csend.org/active-ageing-aging-with-dignity-and-the-sdgs/466-csend-geneva>)