

“Active and Healthy Ageing 2012”

Human Right-based approach State of the Art, Process and Challenges

15th International Day of Older Persons
3 October 2011
United Nations

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THE PARADOX

Ageing in Europe and in the World ↗↗ (N+%)
Emergence of 4-5 generations of which 2-3 generations of retirees
who want and can have a life long healthy and active ageing
vs
no age-specific binding human rights of older persons
no ethical framework

Silent revolution vs silent involution

Structural elements

What exists currently at the UN on older persons?

- ❖ Specific UN institution or institutional structure: **none**
- ❖ Specific budget : **very scarce** – **disproportional to the importance of ageing**
 - ✓ 2 fixed official lead positions + secretariat - no budget 1. UNDESA, 2. WHO
 - ✓ Production of official ad hoc documents: WHO, UNFPA, UNHCR, DESA Pop. D.
 - ✓ Organisation of UN events on ageing: WAA, IYOP99,
 - ✓ UNOHCHR: new independent expert, rapporteur on health, Cedaw
- ❖ Official focal points = **none**
- ❖ Ageing issues in other UN agencies = **none, or ad hoc**
- ❖ Multilateral agencies: **very scarce** (e.g. very few documents (e.g. World Bank))

Operational elements

Ageing in the UN Development Agenda

- Older persons not on the majority of UN spec progr/agencies agenda, reports, conferences
- No mention in the MDGs and global plan of actions
- No life long perspective on many topics ILO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNWomen, etc
- No age or generation perspective to the Right to Development
- No specific item on the Human Right Council...*yef...*

BUT

Event-based operations such as WAA-MIPAA → UNECE working group

PROBLEM

no mainstreaming - no interaction – included in 'vulnerable groups'

« Chronic Human Right-based Approach Deficit »

What about human rights of older persons?

LANDMARKS: HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSON AT THE UN

1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Art. 2 = no mention "[...] without any distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, [...] or other status.

Art 25. mention of social security: [...] right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

OHCHR

1990: International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families [resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990]

Art. 1 The present Convention is applicable, except as otherwise provided hereafter, to all migrant workers and members of their families without distinction of any kind such as sex, race, colour, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or other status.

OHCHR – Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

1995: General Comment no. 6: The economic, social and cultural rights of older persons

2008: General comment 19: The right to social security

2009: General comment 20: Non-Discrimination in Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 2, para. 2) Specific provisions of the Covenant such as : Article 3 Equal rights of men and women, Article 8 Rights relating to work, Article 9: Rights to social security

CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979

2010: General Recommendation No. 27 on older women and protection of their human rights. :

Movement towards a Convention → 2 meetings April and August 2011

What about human rights of older persons?

No age-specific binding instruments at the United Nations

How can Human rights advance at the United Nations EU-Science-scientific associations = NGOs

(Non-governmental organisations)

- they have a key role to play
- they give a constant reality-check to both
- they are the bridge between NGOs and Policy-makers

Call for a convention on Human Rightsin 1999 ...in 2002 now a large group of NGOs and countries support the idea

Un Chronicle in 2002
Danielle Bridelle, Chair of the NGO committee on Ageing at the United Nations in Geneva



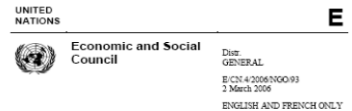
Opinion
Ce que l'ONU devrait faire en matière de vieillissement de la population mondiale

Une convention pour protéger leurs droits ?
Par Danielle Bridelle



NGO Statement on the Rights of Older Persons (Geneva, UN 2006)

signed by 25 NGOs
Engl/French



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sixty-second session
Item 14 (d) of the provisional agenda
SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS
Joint written statement* submitted by World Movement of Mothers (W.M.M.), International Council of Women (ICW-CIF), Brhama Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU), Zenia International, and International Federation of Associations of the Elderly (IFAPE), non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), Indigenous World Association (IWA), Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA), Worldwide Organization for Women (WOW), International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW), World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WUCWO), World Federation of Methodist and United Church Women (WFMUCW), Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO), Interfaith and International Federation for World Peace (IFWP), International Organization for the Development of Education (OIDEL), Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) and International Federation of University Women (IFUW), non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG), International Association for Counseling (IAC), World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), Institute for Planners' Studies (IPS), International Council of Nurses (ICN), and International Inner Vision (IIV), non-governmental organizations on the Register
The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

NGO Statement on the Rights of Older Women (Geneva, UN 2009)

signed by 34 NGOs
Engl/Fren/Spanish

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
Distr.: GENERAL
A/HRC/16/NGO/95
27 February 2009
ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPANISH ONLY

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Tenth session
Agenda item 3
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Joint written statement* submitted by HelpAge International (HAI), International Alliance of Women (IAW), International Council of Women (ICW-CIF), International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), International Federation of Associations of the Elderly (IFAPE), International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW), International Federation on Ageing (IFA), Sociologist International (SI), Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFPI), Zenia International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW), World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), Worldwide Organization for Women (WOW), African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters (ACHHRP), American Psychological Association (APA), International Council of Psychologists (ICP), International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), International Federation of University Women (IFUW), World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association International (PPSEAWA), Solar Cookery International (SCI), The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO), Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), World Federation of Mental Health (WFMH), non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Society for Human Rights (ISHR), Gray Panthers, Indian Council of South America (ICSA), International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG), International Association of the Third Age Universities (IATUA), UNESCO Centre Basque Country (UNESCO ENEA) and World Union for Progressive Judaism

UNECE Ministerial conference Review of the Madrid Intl Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA+5)

78. Main Conclusions and Recommendations of the Research Forum

Call for OP Human rights and Ethics in the recommendations of the Research Forum
(CIOMS, WHO, UNESCO)

We urge member States to establish a stronger framework for the rights of older persons, as well as intergenerational legislation, taking into consideration the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, by: (a) appointing a rapporteur at Human Rights Council on the neglect, abuse and treatment of older persons, and (b) establishing a working group, within the Human Rights Council, to draft a convention on the rights of older persons and to mainstream ageing into the agenda of the Council.



Crucial Statements call for very precise actions...

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva

- A rapporteur on violation of rights of older persons
- Mainstreaming of ageing in the agenda of all UN agencies, esp. HRC
- Create a specific item on rights of older persons , not only in "vulnerable groups"
- A Convention on the rights of older persons

Leon Ministerial conference (2008) = Scientific and NGO statement

- UNESCO bioethical guidelines = section on old persons
- Ethical framework in in the development and research agenda ERC, CIOMS
- Human Rights framework for older persons

IAGG European Region = scientific statement

- Bologna 2011: The Bologna Declaration calling for Human Rights R&D

ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSON AT THE UN

2010

- January 2010: Working paper prepared by Ms. Chinsung Chung, member of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on « **The necessity of a human rights approach and effective United Nations mechanism for the human rights of the older person.** »

- 16 November 2010 (A/C.3/65/L.8/Rev.1): the UN Third Committee of the General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution on ageing deciding **"to establish an open-ended working group, open to all States Members of the United Nations** - Resolution A/RES/65/182

2010 Annual Report of OHCHR on Older persons and social protection - Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona Independent Expert on human rights and extreme poverty.

2011

UN New York: Open-ended working group conducted 2 meetings April and August 2011
OHCHR: Special Rapporteur on the right to health (older persons) – Anand Grover
OHCHR- HRC: 16 September - panel discussion on the realization of the right to health of older persons

2012

Regional Ministerial Conference on Ageing for the appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action+10 (MIPAA+10) . Vienna Meeting MIPAA+10
2012 European Year on Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

1 October : United Nations International Day of Older Persons
29 April: European Day of Solidarity between Generations

Challenges

- ❖ Policy and legislation/HR (EU-UN)
- ❖ Reality check - Evidence-based policy: socio-demography, epidemiology, culture and inclusion (e.g. AAL)
- ❖ HR revolution: 4-5 generations
- ❖ Prejudice, discrimination and denial of OP
- ❖ Financing



Political and structural recommendations addressing systematically the missing components of older persons and men in the UN agenda and UN agencies

Political, socio-economic and cultural dimensions

Empowerment in UN agencies to implement HR

Human Rights = LL include old age
ILO = work – LL older worker – no social security
UNHCR = older refugee and displace person
IOM = older migrant
UNESCO = science & tehnology & ethics of OP
OCHA & ai= humanitarian aid, emergency OP
WHO = ageing, LL reproductive rights, chronic D
UNAIDS = older persons and AIDS prevention
World Bank = poverty in older persons, etc

Revisiting the UN agenda with OW

→ Mainstreaming gender and age Matrix
→ LL women's right based approach

- MDGs

All UN agenda, WA, texts and agenda

Example for older women

- Beijing Platform of Action
- ICPD
- CEDAW, etc

**Require UN to include age and gender equality
Require a UNAGE! (like UNICEF)**

Thank you...

