First launched on 20\textsuperscript{th} of September 2021

Background

As human rights advocates from different backgrounds and regions of the world, we want a world where we can all age with rights, dignity and respect. The OEWGA can help to make this vision a reality by fulfilling its mandate to consider proposals for an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons and to present to the UN General Assembly a proposal containing the main elements of such instrument.

Since its creation in 2010, the OEWGA has held 11 working sessions. Throughout these discussions, the OEWGA has seen a wealth of evidence confirming the glaring deficiencies in the international human rights system as it relates to the human rights of older persons. This material has been presented by older persons themselves, experts from the UN system, civil society organizations, academia, governments, and national human rights institutions, who are also calling for the adoption of a convention to address these shortcomings.

The study launched by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the 11\textsuperscript{th} session confirms that the development of more specific norms and standards within a new dedicated international instrument is required to ensure that no older person, regardless of circumstance, is left behind.

Despite this evidence in support of a UN convention and the further impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the OEWGA has made little concrete progress towards identifying the elements of a possible new instrument and has not yet fulfilled its mandate in this regard. While there are many Member States which have actively supported a convention, the lack of consensus has prevented clear outcomes from the OEWGA.

While we recognize the importance of consensus and the need to continue to build this in the OEWGA, we also note that 146 States formally supported the Secretary General’s Policy Brief on the impact of COVID-19 on older persons and committed to fully promoting and respecting the dignity and rights of older persons. This is a strong foundation from which the OEWGA must now seek to move forward.

A new UN convention would explicitly and unambiguously recognize older persons as rights holders and strengthen our understanding of human rights in older age. It would provide valuable guidance for governments and others to ensure that age discrimination is prohibited in the law, services uphold the dignity of older persons, and attitudes and behaviors towards older persons are respectful.
The OEWGA Bureau, chaired by the Permanent Mission of Argentina since the OEWGA’s first session, is in a pivotal position to drive progress in this work. Thus, we call on the Bureau to take concrete steps to progress the work of the OEWGA in the inter-sessional period between the 11th and 12th sessions of OEWGA and we call on Member States to support the Bureau in taking those steps.

Recommendations for next steps

We support the proposal made by Argentina in the 11th session to establish an inter-sessional group to advance the work of the OEWGA. This group should be composed of experts from member states, civil society organizations, and national human rights institutions, with the involvement of the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons as well as other relevant experts among the UN human rights mechanisms and special procedures mandate holders. This group should be tasked to commence the drafting of the main normative elements of an international legal instrument during the inter-sessional period.

We believe that the OEWGA will greatly benefit from commencing the drafting of a proposed binding instrument without delay in an open and inclusive platform that places the participation of older persons, their knowledge, expertise and experiences at the centre of discussions.

The 12th session of OEWGA presents the Bureau with opportunities to take concrete steps. To advance a critical discussion of the adequacy of the normative framework of the international human rights system and its implementation mechanisms for the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons, the Bureau should include in the agenda of the 12th session a substantive discussion of the OHCHR’s analytical paper. Also, in moving forward, the Bureau should present a proposal containing a program and the modalities for the drafting of a new instrument to start no later than six months after 12th session of OEWGA.

We call on the Bureau to take up these recommendations and urge Member States, particularly the members of the Group of Friends of Older Persons, to engage actively in with the process to bring about these outcomes.

It has been a decade since the OEWGA commenced its work. The need to fulfill the OEWGA’s mandate has never been more urgent if we want to build the just and equal world we need for older persons today and for all generations to come.

We submit this open letter to the Bureau and to Member States of the UN as an expression of our steadfast commitment to assist in the fulfillment of OEWGA’s mandate. In this inter-sessional period leading to the 12th session of OEWGA, we will continue to seek and build
opportunities for formal and informal spaces for constructive discourse, including following up on these recommendations and call to action.

Signatories
(by country or country of HQ)
List of 31 March 2022

**Afghanistan**
1. Lawyers Union of Afghanistan

**Albania**
2. ASAG-Albanian Society for All Ages

**Argentina**
3. INPEA – Argentina
4. ILC - Argentina

**Australia**
5. Advocare Incorporated
6. Capacity Australia
7. Commonwealth Association for the Ageing - CommonAge
8. Community Legal Centres Australia
9. Elder Abuse Action Australia
10. EveryAGE Counts
11. International Longevity Centre Australia
12. LGBTIQ+ Health Australia
14. NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing
15. Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN)
16. Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders (PACE)
17. Seniors Rights Service
18. Senior Women 's Advocacy Network - Asia Pacific
19. SWAN- Asia Pacific
20. The Benevolent Society
21. The Senior Agenda Inc.

**Bangladesh**
22. ASD-Bangladesh (Association for Sustainable Development in Bangladesh)
23. Forum for the Rights of Elderly, Bangladesh (FREB)
24. HelpAge International Ba
25. KOTHOWAIN (Vulnerable Peoples Development Organization)
26. Nagorik Odhikar Sangrakkhan Forum (NASAF)
27. Participatory Human Rights Advancement Society
28. Resource Integration Center RIC
29. Sir William Beveridge Foundation
30. UTHAN (Unprivileged To The Humanitarian Action Need)
31. Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

**Barbados**
32. Barbados Association of Retired Persons

**Belarus**
33. Public Union of Belarusian pensioners "Nasha Pakalenne"

**Belgium**
34. ABVV Senioren
35. AGE Platform Europe
36. Entr’âges
37. Finance Watch
38. GroenPlus
39. Neos vzw
40. OKRA, trefpunt 55+
41. S-Plus
42. Unia (Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities)
43. Vief vzw
44. Vlaamse Ouderenraad vzw

**Belize**
45. HelpAge

**Brazil**
46. Instituto Qualivida
47. Vitrine100Idade

**Bulgaria**
48. Tulip Foundation

**Burundi**
49. Alzheimer Comunity Support of Burundi
50. Human Health Aid Burundi

**Cameroon**
51. ACAMAGE
52. Ageing and Health Cameroon Association
53. Association pour la diffusion des droits humains aux peuples autochtones (Humanitarian Law Agency)
54. Nehelp Cameroon
55. Positive and Healthy Ageing Association Cameroon

Canada
56. Active Aging Canada
57. Age Knowble
58. Business Launch Solutions
59. Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry
60. Canadian Coalition for Seniors’ Mental Health
61. Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)
62. Canadian Geriatrics Society
63. Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNPEA)
64. Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of British Columbia FAO
65. Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario
66. FAO
67. Fountain of Health Association
68. Grandmothers Advocacy Network
69. Health Promotion Canada
70. Institute of ethno-gerontology-Toronto, Canada
71. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON AGEING
72. International Longevity Centre Canada
73. LoveSong Housing
74. National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE)
75. National Pensioners Federation
76. Near North Palliative Care Network
77. Ontario Association of Councils on Ageing
78. Pass It On Network
79. School of Nursing, Univ of Victoria
80. Women10 Living Fit Inside Out

China
81. Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Congo
82. Association Amitié Seniors et Jeunes

Costa Rica
83. AGECO

Croatia
84. Association for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Elderly People

Czech Republic
85. CELLO ILC

Dominican Republic
86. ILC-DR
Fiji
87. Asia Pacific Forum on Families International

Finland
88. Svenska pensionärsförbundet

France
89. FIAPA
90. OLD'UP
91. International Inner Wheel
92. International Longevity Center- France (ILC-France)
93. 2Y2R Too Young to Retire - Pass It On Network

Gambia
94. Ageing with a Smile Initiative

Ghana
95. Source of Hope Foundation

Georgia
96. Association Anika
97. Centre for Training and Consultancy
98. Coalition Homecare in Georgia
99. Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
100. Georgian Association of Social Workers
101. Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association
102. Georgian Platform on Care
103. Hand in hand
104. IDP Women Association Consent
105. Mac Georgia
106. Taoba
107. The Center of Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSRDG)
108. The Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia
109. TSU Georgian National Association for Palliative Care
110. Young Pedagogues Union

Germany
111. BAGSO - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Seniorenorganisationen
112. German Institute for Human Rights
113. HelpAge Deutschland

Greece
114. 50plus Hellas
115. ANTAMA
116. GIVMED | Share medicine Share life
117. People Behind
Iceland

118. U3A Reykjavík

India

119. Agewell Foundation
120. Ashakiran JHC Hospital
121. Association for Social Solidarity and Empowerment Training Trust
122. DadiDada Foundation
123. Dignity Foundation
124. ELDERS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
125. Federation of senior citizens’ associations of Tamilnadu
126. FREMSS ODISHA
127. Gharonda
128. Govt KNM Arts and Science College, Kanjiramkulam Trivandrum
129. GRAVIS
130. Indian Society of U3As
131. International Association for Religious Freedom Co-ordination Council for South Asia
132. International Longevity Centre India
133. JSS Medical College and Hospital, JSSAHER, Mysore
134. JYESTH Nagarik Sanghatana, Royal College, Mira Road
135. NIMHANS
136. Peace Rural Development Society
137. Shehjaar Homes for Senior Citizens
138. Silver Inning Foundation
139. Sneha Sandhya Age Care Foundation
140. Society for Community Organization and Rural Education (SCORE)
141. Society for Serving Seniors

Iraq

142. Wasit Health Organization

Israel

143. ILC – Israel
144. The Association of Law in the Service of the Elderly

Italy

145. ANAP - Confartigianato
146. Anziani e non solo soc. coop. soc.
147. ATDAL OVER 40
148. Helpage Italia
149. International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN)
150. MOVIMENTO GIOTTO
151. TAM telefono anziani maltrattati
152. 50&Più
Japan
153. Japan Support Center for Activity and Research for Older Persons

Jordan
154. Amman Center for Human Rights Studies

Kenya
155. Ageing Concern Foundation (ACF)
156. KARIKA AGEING & HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME
157. Kenya Small Scale Farmers Forum
158. MICOP CBO Kenya
159. OPRANE Kenya

Liberia
160. Liberian Association of Retired Persons
161. National Senior citizens Organization of Liberia
162. National Old Folks of Liberia
163. Liberia United to Promote Society Safety and Development

Madagascar
164. Dis Moi Madagascar

Malawi
165. Help the Aged Malawi

Malaysia
166. World Silambam Association (WSA)
167. World Yoga Association
168. Silambam Asia

Malta
169. University of Malta

Mauritius
170. Agalega Island Council
171. Halley Movement Coalition
172. Droits Humains Ocean Indien (Dis-Moi)
173. Dis-Moi, Rodrigues
174. Global Rainbow Foundation
175. Senior citizens council
176. State and Other Employees Federation

Moldova
177. Association Women for the Contemporary Society

Myanmar
178. Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Nepal
179. Ageing Nepal
180. Dilasa Abhiyan
181. Free Forum for Rights
182. National Senior Citizen Federation
183. Senior Citizens Welfare Association

Netherlands
184. JNF50PLUS Foundation
185. Older Women’s Network, the Netherlands
186. Stichting Mission Lanka

New Zealand
187. Fantsuam Foundation
188. New Zealand Society of Diversional and Recreational Therapists Incorporated

Nigeria
189. Age Nigeria Foundation
190. Alternative Health care Initiative
191. Azar Initiative Empowerment for the Less Privileged
192. EL-AGED CARE LTD/GTE
193. DAGOMO Foundation Nigeria
194. Sound Health Development Initiative (SHIN)
195. Universal Peace and Violence Amelioration Centre

Pakistan
196. New World Hope Organization (NWHO)

Peru
197. Nietos Itinerantes

Philippines
198. Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE)
199. Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
200. Confederation of Older Persons Associations of the Philippines, Inc. (COPAP)
201. Seniors sa Panahon ng COVID - SENIORS for SENIORS (SPC-S4S)

Poland
202. Centrum Inicjatyw Lokalnych
203. Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Poland
204. ELELEOS Prawosławny Ośrodek Miłosierdzia
205. Fundacja DOM
206. Fundacja Ukryte Skrzydła
207. Foundation Center for Initiatives for Society
208. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
209. KSP2050 Białystok
210. Miejska Rada Seniorów w Sejnach
211. Miejska Rada Seniorów w Sokółce
212. Ogólnopolska Federacja Stowarzyszeń Uniwersytetów III Wieku
213. Ośrodek Wspierania Organizacji Pozarządowych
214. Podlaska Redakcja Seniora
215. Polska 2050
216. Polski Związek Emerytów Rencistów i Inwalidów w Białymstoku, Koło nr 15 w Choroszczy.
217. Polski Związek Emerytów, Rencistów i Inwalidów Oddział Okręgowy w Białymstoku
218. Rada Seniorów Miasta Augustowa
219. Rada Seniorów w Dąbrowie Białostockiej
220. Rada Seniorów Gminy Czarna Białostocka
221. Rada Seniorów Gminy Podgórzyn
222. Rada Seniorów Gminy Supraśl
223. Rada Seniorów Reda
224. Rada Seniorów przy Marszałku Województwa Podlaskiego
225. Stowarzyszenie mali bracia Ubogich
226. Stowarzyszenie Podlascy Seniorzy
227. Stowarzyszenie Szukamy Polski
228. Stowarzyszenie UTW w Augustowie
229. Stowarzyszenie Uniwersytet Trzeciego Wieku w Sokółce
230. Świętokrzyski Uniwersytet Trzeciego Wieku
231. Towarzystwo Inicjatyw Twórczych „ę”
232. UMK Toruń
233. Warszawska Rada Seniorów
234. WRZOS
235. Wydział Nauk Politycznych i Studiów Międzynarodowych, Uniwersytet Warszawski
236. Związek Tatarów Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej Oddział Bohoniki

**Portugal**

237. Adult development and aging research team University of Minho
238. APRe!
239. ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTUGUESA DE PSICOGERONTOLOGIA
240. Sociedade Portuguesa de Psiquiatria e Saúde Mental (Secção de Psiquiatria Geriátrica)
241. University of Coimbra

**Romania**

242. Romanian Institute for Human Rights

**Russia**

243. Primorsky region veteran Fund "Soldier"
244. Regional Public Foundation Assistance for the Elderly Dobroe Delo

**Rwanda**
245. NSINDAGIZA

Serbia
246. Gerontological Society of Serbia
247. Humana5 Network
248. Red Cross of Serbia
249. Redefinisanje
250. The Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia

Slovakia
251. Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

Slovenia
252. Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Associations

Somalia
253. African Relief Development Initiative (ARDI)
254. Somali HelpAge Association

South Africa
255. International Longevity Centre - South Africa
256. Samson Institute for Ageing Research

South Korea
257. ASEM Global Ageing Center
258. HelpAge Korea

Spain
259. Asociación Cicero
260. Confederación Española de Organizaciones de Mayores (CEOMA)
261. Fundación 26 de Diciembre
262. Grupo Servicios Sociales Integrados (Grupo SSI)
263. HelpAge España
264. International Sociological Association

Sweden
265. PRO Global/Pensioners without Borders

Switzerland
266. Alzheimer Switzerland
267. dream plan live it coaching
268. FAAG - Fondation pour la formation des aînées et des aînées de Genève
269. Greycells. Association of Former International Civil Servants for Development
270. NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva
271. Union for International Cancer Control
272. WPA Section of Old Age Psychiatry
Tanzania
273. CSYM HUDUMA*
274. ELIMINATE GENDER BIAS ORGANIZATION
275. The Goodsamatan Social Services Trust

Thailand
276. National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT)

Timor -Leste
277. Provedor de Direitos Humanos e Justiça (Provedor for Human Rights and Justice)

Togo
278. NGO: ADET

Turkey
279. Türkiye emekliler derneği
280. Women’s Coalition -Turkey (Kadin Koalisyonu)

Uganda
281. Community Restoration Initiative Project
282. Semuto Older Persons Development Association (SOPEDA)
283. URAA

Ukraine
284. D. F. Chebotarev Institute of Gerontology of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine

United Kingdom
285. Age International
286. Alzheimer's Disease International
287. HelpAge International
288. CEDAWinLAW.COM
289. OLDALONE UK
290. Older Women’s Network, Europe
291. Prama Foundation
292. Soroptimist International GBI
293. Soroptimist International

United States of America
294. AARP
295. Active Aging Consortium Asia Pacific
296. Alzheimer Association
297. Amer. Assoc of Family and Consumer Sciences
298. AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
299. CHANGING THE NARRATIVE
300. Community Networks for Aging in Place Alliance
301. Dementia Alliance International
302. Duluth Aging Support
303. Encore Network
304. Global Action on Aging
305. Global Ageing Network, DBA International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (IAHSA)
306. Global Social Service Workforce Alliance
307. Gray Panthers
308. Human Rights Watch
309. International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care
310. International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics
311. International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
312. International Society on Aging and Disease
313. Long Term Care Community Coalition
314. National Association of State Long Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP)
315. National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
316. New Aspect Coaching
317. PAHO/WHO Association of Former Staff
318. Sanctuary for Longevity Project
319. Seniors Circle of the People’s Party
320. Sisters of Charity Federation
321. The Dayton Foundation Del Mar Encore Fellows Initiative UNANIMA International
322. United Methodist Church-General Board of Church and Society
323. United Nations Association - Orange County
324. Wisdom of Age
325. Word of Life International Inc

**Uruguay**

326. Centro de Servicio Social El Pastoreo
327. REDAM - CAAM
328. REDAM - Cerro Largo

**Venezuela**

329. Convite AC

**Zambia**

330. Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias In Zambia -ADDIZ
331. Ricard Banda Foundation
332. Senior Citizens Association of Zambia
333. Support To Older People-Zambia
334. Zambian Center for Poverty Reduction and Research Limited

**Zimbabwe**

335. HelpAge Zimbabwe
336. Foundation Activus