

## **Call to Action from the Age With Rights campaign:**

***We urge governments to start drafting a UN convention!***

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### **What is the new ‘Call to Action’?**

The [Global Alliance of the Rights of Older People \(GAROP\)](#) is launching a new campaign Call to Action on 10<sup>th</sup> December, Human Rights Day 2024, as part of our [global Age With Rights campaign](#). **This Call to Action urges governments to agree to start drafting a new UN convention on the rights of older persons at the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva.** The Call to Action will be launched on 10<sup>th</sup> December with a public statement from the GAROP Steering Group.

A social media campaign supporting the Call to Action will involve social media posts by the GAROP Secretariat at least every Tuesday from 10<sup>th</sup> December with the aim of increasing the frequency as we get closer to the start of the Human Rights Council’s 58<sup>th</sup> session (24<sup>th</sup> February–4<sup>th</sup> April 2025). These social media posts will share existing videos, photos and quotes from Age With Rights campaigners around the world to build a sense of global solidarity and mobilization. We will also invite people of all ages and from all stakeholder groups to **contribute to an online conversation about what they would like their older age to be like**. The tone of this conversation is intended to be positive and hopeful and the content more personal and accessible in nature. The aim of this is to encourage broader engagement in the campaign and to get an online conversation trending in the run-up to the Human Rights Council’s 58<sup>th</sup> session.

We are also calling on advocates, organisations across our wider networks, and partners and allies supporting our cause, **to mobilise in support of the Call to Action over the coming weeks by incorporating this Call to Action into their upcoming engagements with governments at national level and in other international and UN spaces**, such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women, for example. Together, we can amplify our campaign voice and build greater awareness and support for the drafting of a UN convention by reaching governments in different spaces where our members and partners are engaging.

### **Why is this Call to Action so important right now?**

The [Open-ended Working Group on Ageing \(OEWG\) process](#) was concluded following its 14<sup>th</sup> session in May 2024, where it adopted **a decision**<sup>1</sup> identifying possible gaps in the international human rights framework and a UN convention as one option to

**address these gaps.** We consider this to be a successful outcome and the culmination of many years of hard work and evidence-building by many stakeholders, including governments, older people and civil society, National Human Rights Institutions and other stakeholders.

In August 2024 at its 78<sup>th</sup> session the General Assembly adopted **a resolution** asking **relevant UN bodies to further consider the recommendations in the OEWG's decision.** We see the Human Rights Council as the best place for the drafting of a new UN convention to take place, because this is where the governments' human rights expertise tends to be located and some important dedicated work on the human rights of older persons has already taken place there.

**There is therefore a real urgency around this Call to Action, because it is essential that we maintain this political momentum now and push for a decision to start drafting at the next Human Rights Council session.**

## **Who can support the Call to Action and how?**

The Age With Rights campaign and this Call to Action are open to any person and any stakeholder that wishes to get involved and support it. Anybody can engage with the conversation on social media and build the messaging into their work and advocacy on the rights of older persons.

Here are some simple ways in which you can help to spread the word and build support:

1. **Like and share social media posts** supporting our Call to Action and the Age With Rights campaign using the hashtags #AgeWithRights and #HRC58
2. **Add your voice to the conversation on social media** and share what you would like your older age to be like. You can also call for a UN convention to support this and tag your government and its permanent mission to the UN in Geneva in particular and other stakeholders. Here are some suggested posts:
  - a. *'I want to live an older age of dignity and fulfilment. Governments must start drafting a UN convention now to make this a reality. #AgeWithRights #HRC58'*
  - b. *'I have the right to live a life free of ageism and age discrimination in my older age. We need a UN convention now. #AgeWithRights #HRC58'*
  - c. *'I want the freedom to choose where I live and who I live with in my older age. A UN convention must be drafted to ensure this. #AgeWithRights #HRC58'*
  - d. *'As an older woman I must be protected from discrimination on the basis of age as well as gender. A new UN convention on the rights of older persons would complement and reinforce #CEDAW. Governments must start drafting now! #AgeWithRights #HRC58 #CSW69'*

3. **Incorporate key messages and ‘asks’ into briefings and events** you are planning with other partners at national level in the run-up to and throughout the Human Rights Council session or at regional and international events and UN sessions, such as side events or parallel events. For example:
- a. Urge any governments present to support starting a drafting process for a new UN convention on the rights of older persons at the Human Rights Council 58<sup>th</sup> session. Ask the government representatives present to take this request to their colleagues directly involved with the Human Rights Council.
  - b. [Share updates](#) with all stakeholders about the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing process and the call on governments to start drafting a UN convention to help raise awareness of this process and campaign.
  - c. Draw attention to GAROP’s social media campaign and online conversation in the run-up to the 58<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council session and encourage people to get involved.
  - d. Invite people to sign the online [Age With Rights campaign petition](#) and to gather [paper signatures](#) to support the petition if possible.

## Follow GAROP and join the conversation on social media

[#AgeWithRights](#)    [#HRC58](#)



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<sup>i</sup> The OEWG decision (14/1) can be found from paragraph 28 in this report of the 14<sup>th</sup> OEWG session