

## Concept Note

# ***Mainstreaming ageing in the human rights-based approach – It's more than just social inclusion***

Side event during the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing  
(OEWG-A)

Thursday, 6 April 2023, 1:15-2:30pm, Conference Room 8

## **Organizers**

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany,  
HelpAge Deutschland and BAGSO – Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-  
organisationen (German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations)

HelpAge and its Network organizations as well as BAGSO work together with older men and women towards better services, policies and changes in attitudes as well as respectful reflection of the specific needs of older persons. We strive for older people to have access to income and health care and to be included in humanitarian relief programs. In short: that human rights count for older people as well and that they are treated with due respect.

The global ageing population has become a critical issue, and governments worldwide have been challenged to address the various social, economic, and health-related issues that come with ageing. In this regard, the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) has been established and mandated to 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.

Gaps have been described in *The Policy Brief* from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in May 2020<sup>1</sup>, in the final report of the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Rome 2022<sup>2</sup>, and the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: “Summary of the multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons”<sup>3</sup>, which are an important reference source for the 13. Session of the UN OEWG-A. In addition, the Office of the UN- High Commissioner for Human Rights published a so-called gaps paper<sup>4</sup>, analysing gaps in the protection of human rights with regard to older persons.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2020/05/COVID-Older-persons.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE-AC.30-2022-2-E\\_0.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE-AC.30-2022-2-E_0.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/615/30/PDF/G2261530.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>4</sup> <https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/elevanth/OHCHR%20HROP%20working%20paper%2022%20Mar%202021.pdf>

This year's session focusses with two sectors, “Right to Health” and” Social Inclusion”. Having two focus areas for each session is a good approach, but it does not solve the fundamental problem stated in the documents, since it is not a matter of granting older people particular rights, but of guaranteeing them the full enjoyment of all human rights and participation in all areas. Can the application of mainstreaming ageing, one of the key principles of MIPAA and the Rome Ministerial declaration, in the implementation of the human rights treaties substantially close the gaps described in the a.m. documents?

## Programme

### Opening remarks

- Nicole Zündorf-Hinte, German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

### Key note

- Craig Mokhiber, Director of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) Office in New York

### Panellists

- Bill Mitchell, Community Legal Centres Australia (CLCA)
- Margaret Young, Chair of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP)
- Rosemary Bongole Nakasinde, Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) (to be confirmed)

### Q & A and discussion

### Moderator

- Heidrun Mollenkopf, Board Member of the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations

Funded by: