World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses

Thursday, 15 June 2023, 1:15pm – 2:30pm
United Nations Headquarters, New York
Trusteeship Council Chamber

Background

The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is observed on 15 June. It was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 66/127 in 2011, following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), who first established the commemoration in 2006. WEAAD represents the one day in the year when the world voices its opposition to elder abuse, a human rights violation, and enhances the recognition of the dignity of older persons and their right to live free of fear and violence.

In the context of last year's commemoration of WEAAD, the WHO in partnership with UN DESA, OHCHR, UNFPA, UN WOMEN and with support from INPEA, published Tackling abuse of older people: five priorities for the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021–2030. The resource outlined key priorities to prevent and respond to abuse of older persons and, hence, contribute to improving their health, well-being and dignity. This year, the commemoration will provide an update on the implementation of the priorities.

Ahead of the milestone of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), this year's commemoration of WEAAD will also connect with the year-long campaign to promote and recognise the 75th anniversary. As the month of June of the campaign will focus on showcasing the UDHR by raising awareness on its legacy, relevance and activism as relates to women's rights, the theme of the 2023 WEAAD commemoration in the United Nations Headquarters in New York is entitled **Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age - Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses.**

The Event

An expert panel will provide updates on closing the circle, taking into account "**policies**" through relevant outcomes of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA); "**universal laws**" and how a legally binding instrument can provide standards to prevent and combat elder abuse; as well as updates on the implementation of the five priorities of the Decade to tackle the abuse of older people through "**evidence-based**" gap maps, population based surveys and cost-effective solutions.

The event is sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations. It will be broadcasted live and on demand on UN Web TV.

The Programme

Opening remarks (5mins)	**H.E. María del Carmen Squeff**, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations and Chair of the General Assembly Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
Keynotes (10 mins)	**Julia Ferre**, Programme on Ageing Section, UN DESA *MIPAA 4th Review and Appraisal: What we know about elder abuse and gender-based violence* **Rio Hada**, Chief, Equality, Development and Rule of Law Section, OHCHR New York Office *Addressing gaps in international legal framework for the protection of older persons against all forms of violence* **Christopher Mikton**, Technical Officer, Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing Unit, WHO (virtual) *Updates on addressing priorities for the Decade of Healthy Ageing to tackle elder abuse*
Moderator (3 mins)	**Bethany Brown,** Programme on Ageing Section, UN DESA
Panel members (30 mins)	**Claudia Garcia Moreno,** Unit Head, Addressing the needs of populations in vulnerable situations, Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health, WHO *(virtual)* *Updates on developing a survey module to better measure violence against older women (Ghana pilot)* **Elsie Yan,** Department of Applied Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University *(virtual)* *Updates on the establishment of the 'Intervention Accelerator' to prevent elder abuse* **Claudia Mahler**, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons *(virtual)* *Older women deprived of liberty*
Moderated interactive discussion (15 mins)	Q&A
Key takeaways (5 mins)	Panel members and moderator
Closing (3 mins)	**Susan Somers**, International Network for the Protection of Elder Abuse

For questions please contact:
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