

Open Letter from Civil Society Organisations to the Chair of the OEWG on Ageing

Ambassador Mateo Estrémé
Chair, Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing

2 November 2015

Dear Ambassador Estrémé,

As civil society organisations we have actively participated in and followed with interest and concern discussions at the United Nations to better promote and strengthen the rights of older persons.

We commend the efforts of Member States to address this important area of human rights, in particular the deliberations of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG) and the establishment of the Human Rights Council Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.

As the UN General Assembly Third Committee turns its attention to drafting the resolution on the follow up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing at the 70th session of the General Assembly, we urge Member States to maintain the focus on strengthening the protection of the rights of older persons. Due to unprecedented demographic change and the sharp increase in the number of very old persons, it is more urgent than ever to tackle ageism and ensure adequate protection to enable everyone to enjoy their human rights and live in dignity in old age.

This resolution is an opportunity for Member States to:

- Reaffirm the full mandate of the OEWG on Ageing as agreed by the General Assembly under previous resolutions.
- Ensure the completion of the OEWG on Ageing's task of compiling proposals for the main elements of a new legal instrument to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Ensure the continuation of the work of the OEWG on Ageing with a 7th session in 2016.

The undersigned civil society organisations believe that these elements must be firmly embedded within the resolution of the 3rd Committee in 2015 to give credibility and legitimacy to the constructive discussions that have taken place between Member States to date.

We look forward to the UN's continued engagement on these urgent human rights matters and anticipate that the resolution of the 3rd Committee will reinforce the message that the UN is firmly aware of and supportive of protecting the rights of older persons, and most importantly is willing to take action.

For any correspondence regarding this letter, please contact Ken Bluestone from Age International at ken.bluestone@ageinternational.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Undersigned Civil Society Organisations

Organisation	Name	Country	Website
AARP	Erica Dhar	USA	www.aarpinternational.org/
Action on Elder Abuse	Gary Fitzgerald	United Kingdom	www.elderabuse.org.uk/
ADET	Dosse Sossouga	Togo	www.noracismadet.com
Age Action Ireland	Eamon Timmins	Ireland	www.ageaction.ie
Age International	Chris Roles	United Kingdom	www.ageinternational.org.uk
AGE Platform Europe	Anne-Sophie Parent	Belgium	www.age-platform.eu
Age UK	Katherine Hill	United Kingdom	www.ageuk.org.uk
Ageing Nepal	Krishna M. Gautam	Nepal	www.ageingnepal.org
Ageing Support Forum	Masud Ibn Rahman	Bangladesh	www.asfbd.org
Ageing with a Smile Initiative (ASI)	Balla Musa Joof	The Gambia	www.asigambia.weebly.com
Agewell Care Initiative	Juliet Barong Agbor	Nigeria	www.agewellcareinitiative.com
Alzheimer's Disease International	Mike Splaine	United Kingdom	www.alz.co.uk
Arthritis and Osteoprosis Victoria	Linda Martin	Australia	www.arthritisvic.org.au
Association Camerounaise pour la Prise en Charge des Persons New Agees	Paulette Metang	Cameroon	
Association VIVA _ Valoriser et intégrer pour vieillir autrement	Anne-Claude Juillerat Van der Linden	Switzerland	www.association-viva.org
Australian Multicultural Community Services	Elizabeth Drozd	Australia	www.amcservices.org.au
Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association	Nan Bosler	Australia	
Brazilian Bar Association – OAB – Rio de Janeiro	Helton Yomura	Brazil	http://www.oabrij.org.br/
Center for Community Advancement and Family Empowerment(CECAFE), United Methodist University (UMU)	Sam Togba Slewion	Liberia	www.umulib.org
Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland Galway	Dr Eilionoir Flynn	Ireland	www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/index.html
Comité Latinoamericano de Geriatria e Gerontologia – IAGG	Marianela Hekman	Brazil	

Community Development Volunteers for Technical Assistance (CDVTA)	Francis Njuakom Nchii	Cameroon	www.cdvta.org
Company of the Daughters of Charity of Vincent de Paul	Soeur Monique Javouhey	France	www.filles-de-la-charite.org/fr/
Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	Hedwig Johl	Italy	www.buonpastorint.org
COTA Australia	Ian Yates	Australia	www.cota.org.au
COTA Victoria	Sue Hendy	Australia	www.cotavic.org.au
Crescendo Worldwide Network for an Human and Christian Ageing - Réseau mondial Crescendo pour une vieillissement humain et chrétien	Hélène Durand Ballivet	Switzerland	www.rcrescendo.org
DaneAge	Bjarne Hastrup	Denmark	www.aelresagen.dk
Department of Healthy Aging and Life Quality of Rio de Janeiro City - SESQV	Alexandre Brandão	Brazil	http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv
Department of Healthy Aging and Life Quality of Rio de Janeiro City - SESQV	Claudio Lozana	Brazil	http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv
Department of Healthy Aging and Life Quality of Rio de Janeiro City - SESQV	Flavia Furtado	Brazil	http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv
Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers)	Evelyn von Steffens	Switzerland	www.un.op.org/
Encore.org	Betsy Werley	USA	www.encore.org
Federal Chamber of Deputies - Brazil	Cristiane Brasil	Brazil	http://www.camara.gov.br/internet/Deputado/dep_Detalhe.asp?id=93472
FIAPA (Fédération Internationale des Associations des Personnes Agées)	Alain Koskas	France	www.fiapa.net
50plus Hellas	Dr.E.Mestheneos	Greece	www.50plus.gr
Friends of International Federation on Ageing (FOIFA)	Hisashi Hozumi	Japan	www.foifa.or.jp
GAROP Australia	Sue Hendy	Australia	www.rightsofolderpeople.org.au
Geriatric Clinic, BLDE University	Dr Anand P.Ambali	India	www.bldeuniversity.ac.in
Global Salvation Ministry Foundation	Rev. Peter Okyere	Ghana	www.globalsalvationministryfoundation.org
Grantmakers in Aging	John Feather, Ph.D.	USA	www.giaging.org
Gray Panthers	Jack Kupferman	USA	www.graypanthersnyc.org

Heales	Didier Coeurnelle	Belgium	www.heales.org
Hellenic Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics	Ioannis G. Karaitianos	Greece	www.gerontology.gr
HelpAge Germany	Michael Buente	Germany	www.helpage.de
HelpAge Ghana	Ebenezer Adjetey-Sorsey	Ghana	
HelpAge International	Bridget Sleep	United Kingdom	www.helpage.org
HelpAge International España	Neil Smith	Spain	www.helpage.es
Human Health Aid-Burundi	Nyamiye Hermenegilde	Burundi	www.humanhealthaid.jimdo.com
Human Rights Watch	Dierdrich Lohman	USA	www.hrw.org
IAGG (International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics)	Heung Bong Cha	Belgium	www.iagg.info
ICJW (International Council of Jewish Women)	Rachel Babecoff	Australia	www.icjw.org
ILC Argentina	Lia Daichman	Argentina	
ILC Australia	Julie Byles	Australia	
ILC Brazil	Alex Kalache	Brazil	www.ilcbrazil.org/
ILC Canada	Louise Plouffe	Canada	www.ilccanada.org/
ILC Czech Republic	Dr Iva Holmerova	Czech Republic	www.cello-ilc.cz/
ILC Dominican Republic	Rosy Pereyra	Dominican Republic	
ILC France	Francoise Forette	France	www.ilcfrance.org/
ILC India	Anjali Rajee	India	www.ilcindia.org/
ILC Israel	Sara Carmel	Israel	
ILC Japan	Kunio Mizuta	Japan	http://www.ilcjapan.org/english.html
ILC Netherlands	A.H.M. Wouters	Netherlands	www.ilcnetherlands.org/
ILC Singapore	Mary Ann Tsao	Singapore	www.tsaofoundation.org/
ILC South Africa	Jaco Hoffman	South Africa	www.ilcsa.uct.ac.za/
ILC UK	Baroness Sally Greengross	United Kingdom	www.ilc-uk.org.uk
ILC USA	Ruth Finkelstein	USA	http://www.aging.columbia.edu/international-longevity-center
INPEA (International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse)	Susan B. Somers	USA	www.inpea.net

International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care	Katherine Pettus	USA	www.hospicecare.com/home/
International Association of Charities (AIC) - Association internationale des Charités (AIC)	Françoise Gaudemar	Belgium	www.aic-international.org
International Council of Nurses	Lesley Bell	Switzerland	www.icn.ch
International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FIAMC) - Fédération internationale des associations médicales catholiques (FIAMC)	François Blin	Italy	www.fiamc.org
International Federation of Social Workers	Michael Cronin	Switzerland	www.ifsw.org
International Federation on Ageing	Jane Barratt	Canada	www.ifa-fiv.org
International Movement for the Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieux: (MIAMSI) - Mouvement international d'apostolat des milieux sociaux indépendants (MIAMSI)	Dominique Lemau de Talancé	Italy	www.miamsi-rome.org
Irish Centre for Social Gerontology	Prof Thomas Scharf	Ireland	www.icsg.ie
Janaseva Foundation	Dr. Vinod Shah	India	www.janasevafoundation.org
Law in the Service of the Elderly	Israel Doron	Israel	www.elderlaw.org.il
Life Ascending International – Vie Montante Internationale	Marta Melo Antunes	Portugal	www.mcr-viemontante.ch/fr/romand/vminternationale.html
Little Sisters of the Poors - Petites Sœurs des Pauvres	Sr Maria del Monte Ruiz Garcia	France	www.infobretagne.com/congregation-soeurs-pauvres.htm
Make Mothers Matter - MMM	Marie-Liesse Mandula	France	www.makemothersmatter.org
Malaysian Private Sector Retirees' Association (MAPSRA)	Silva Rajoo	Malaysia	
Middle-East Academy for Medicine of Aging	A.Abyad	Lebanon	www.meama.com
Mothers Legacy Project	Afton Beutler	USA	www.motherslegacy.org
Multiple Sclerosis Limited	Robyn Hunter	Australia	www.ms.org.au
Municipal Council of protection for the elderly – COMDEPI – Rio de Janeiro	Flavia Machado	Brazil	http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv/comdepi/rj
National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)	Amanda Alford	Australia	www.naclc.org.au
NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva	Silvia Perel-Levin	Switzerland	www.ageingcommitteegeneva.org/

NGO Committee on Ageing New York	Janet Sigal	USA	www.ngocoa-ny.org/
NGO Committee on Ageing Vienna	Gertraud Dayé	Austria	
Nsindagiza	Elie Mugabowishema	Rwanda	
NWT Seniors' Society	Leon Peterson	Canada	www.nwtseniorssociety.ca
NYC Partnership for Family Caregiving Corps	Rev. Gregory Johnson	USA	www.corporatecaregivers.com
Observatory Sports Training Laboratory - Federal University of Rio de Janeiro - UFRJ	Roberto Simão	Brazil	http://www.eefd.ufrj.br/lab-observat%C3%B3rio-do-treinamento-desportivo
Older Women's Network, Europe	Elizabeth Sclater	Italy	www.own-europe.org/
Palliative Care Victoria	Odette Waanders	Australia	www.pallcarevic.asn.au
Physical Activity and Health Promotion - Rio de Janeiro State University – LABSAU/UERJ	Nadia Lima	Brazil	http://www.iefd.uerj.br/1labsau.htm
Prefeitura RJ	Flávia Machado	Brazil	flavimac@uol.com.br
Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc.	James Farrell O.A.M.	Australia	www.qails.org.au
Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM)	Kenneth Edmund Mugayehwenkyi	Uganda	www.reachone-touchone.org
Research Center in Aging - Castelo Branco University - UCB	Helio Furtado	Brazil	http://www.castelobranco.br/portal/
Rio de Janeiro State University - UERJ	Sandra Sahb	Brazil	http://www.uerj.br/idiomas.ph
Rosetticare	Mrs. Kikelomo Lanionu Edwards	Nigeria	www.rosetticare.com
Sage Seniors Association	Robert E. Laing	Canada	www.mysage.ca
Sage Support and Advocacy Service for Older People	Mervyn Taylor	Ireland	www.sage.thirdageireland.ie
Saldarriaga-Concha Foundation	Lucas Correa-Montoya	Colombia	www.saldarriagaconcha.org
Sanctuary for Longevity Project	Alicia de Jong Salinas Davis	United States-Mexico Border	
Simkool Network	Aka Tigori	Switzerland	www.simkoolnetwork.com
Sociedade Brasileira de Geriatria e Gerontologia	Joao Bastos Freire Neto	Brazil	www.sbgg.or.br
Solar Cookers International	Julie Greene	USA	www.solarcookers.org

South Sudan Older People Organization	Donato Ochan Hakim	South Sudan	www.southsudanolderpeople.org
The Alzheimer Society of Ireland	Colette Kelleher	Ireland	www.alzheimer.ie
The Asociación Gerontológica Argentina	Félix Eduardo Nallim	Argentina	
The John Marshall Law School International Human Rights Clinic	Sarah Davila-Ruhaak	USA	www.humanrights.jmls.edu
The work health and survival project	Dr Ilise L Feitshans	USA	
Third Age	Aine Brady	Ireland	www.thirdageireland.ie/
Turyak Seniors Council	Mete Bora	Turkey	www.turyak.org
TURYAK Seniors Council Association	Kuzeyhan Ozdemir	Turkey	www.turyak.org/en/index.html
Uganda Reach the Aged Association	Frederick Ouma Bwire	Uganda	www.ugreach.org
Uniting AgeWell	Valerie J Lyons	Australia	www.unitingagewell.org
Universidad Isalud	Silvia Gascon	Argentina	www.isalud.edu.ar/
University of the Third Age - Rio de Janeiro State University – UNATI/UERJ	Renato Veras	Brazil	http://www.unatiuerj.com.br/
Water Health Education & Environmental league	Razaullah Khan	Pakistan	
Woodhull Freedom Foundation	Ricci Joy Levy	USA	www.woodhullfoundation.org
World Catholic Association for Communication (SIGNIS) - Association mondiale catholique pour la communication (SIGNIS)	Daniel van Espen	Italy	www.signis.net
World Granny	Caroline van Dullemen	Netherlands	www.worldgranny.nl
Život 90	Dr Oldrich Stanek	Czech Republic	www.zivot90.cz