

23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Covid -19 pandemic made the violations of human rights of older persons more visible and painful also in Europe. As European National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organisations we would like to present to you a joint statement of NHRIs and NGOs from different parts of the World prepared for the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Open-ended Working Group of Ageing (OEWGA) on 29<sup>th</sup> of March till 1<sup>st</sup> of April this year.

According to the UN resolution (A/RES/76/139) OEWGA is responsible of fulfilling its mandate to *present to the General Assembly, at the earliest possible date, a proposal containing, inter alia, the main elements that should be included in an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons, which are not currently addressed sufficiently by existing mechanisms and therefore require further international protection.*<sup>1</sup>

Therefore we call European Governments and European Commission to:

- 1) *actively participate in the upcoming session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing, including by considering whether a new instrument would make a significant and tangible difference to the lives of older persons.*
- 2) *support the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution on the impact of COVID-19 on the human rights of older persons and the need for a new UN convention.*
- 3) *support the establishment of a drafting group that will develop proposals for a new convention.*<sup>2</sup>

Yours Sincerely,

Group of European National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organisations

Please find the list of signatories below

Attachment: Joint statement for the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing on behalf a group of National Human Rights Institutions of A status and Civil Society Organizations supporting the work on the new convention on the rights of older persons

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<sup>1</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/RES/67/139>, point 2.

<sup>2</sup> Age Platform Europe, Human Rights must be for all ages. The EU must lead the rallying for a UN convention. p.19-20, [https://age-platform.eu/sites/default/files/UN\\_convention\\_EU-leads\\_Full-report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://age-platform.eu/sites/default/files/UN_convention_EU-leads_Full-report_FINAL.pdf).

Signatories of the cover letter:

National Human Rights Institutions

1. Belgium - Unia (Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities)
2. Croatia – Ombudswoman
3. Georgia - Public Defender of Georgia
4. Germany - German Institute for Human Rights
5. Netherlands - The Netherlands Institute for Human Rights
6. Poland - Commissioner for Human Rights
7. Romania - Romanian Institute for Human Rights
8. Serbia - Protector of Citizens of the Republic
9. Slovakia - Slovak National Centre for Human Rights
10. Slovenia - the Human Rights Ombudsman
11. Ukraine - Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

CSO:

1. Germany - BAGSO - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Seniorenorganisationen
2. Poland - Alzheimer Polska
3. Poland - "AT OUR HOME" Association
4. Poland - Fundacja Activus
5. Poland - Fundacja Nowe Centrum
6. Poland - Fundacja Ukryte Skrzydła
7. Poland – Podlascy Seniorzy
8. Poland - "Pro Salute" Association
9. Poland - Shipyard Foundation
10. Poland - Siedleckie Stowarzyszenie Pomocy Osobom z Chorobą Alzheimerą
11. Poland - Stowarzyszenie Pomocy Iskierka
12. Poland – Stowarzyszenie Uniwersytet III wieku w Łazach
13. Poland - The Union of Polish Metropolises
14. Spain – Spanish Confederation of Older People's Organizations (CEOMA)
15. United Kingdom - National Pensioners Convention
16. United Kingdom - NAWO - National Alliance of Women's Organisations
17. United Kingdom - Older Women's Network, Europe