



United Nations General Assembly



Easy to read

# Covid-19 and the problems it is causing for older people and their human rights

Covid-19 is an illness that many people in the world are getting. It is also called Coronavirus.



Report of the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons. Claudia Mahler



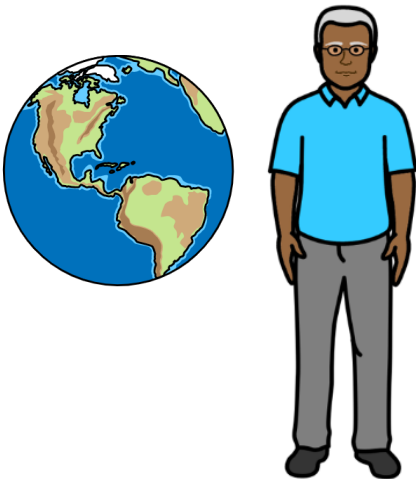
## About this report

My name is Claudia Mahler.



I am working for the United Nations (UN).

The United Nations is a group of countries that work together to make the world better and safer.



I am called an Independent Expert.

My job is to help to make sure that older people everywhere get their human rights.



Everyone has human rights.

Like the right to be safe and treated fairly.

Older people have the same human rights as everyone else.



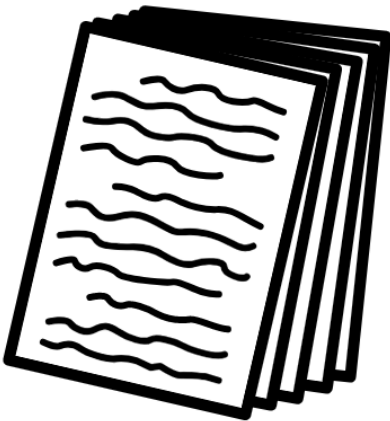
My report is about:

- Covid-19 and the problems it is causing for older people and their human rights.
- What countries should do to make sure that older people get their human rights.



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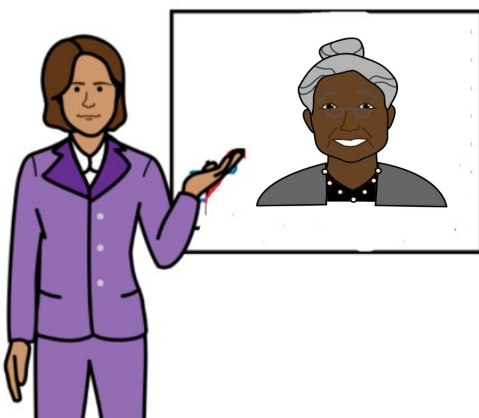
- My work and work from other experts
- Information that countries and organizations gave me



I have already done lots of work on the human rights of older people.

For example:

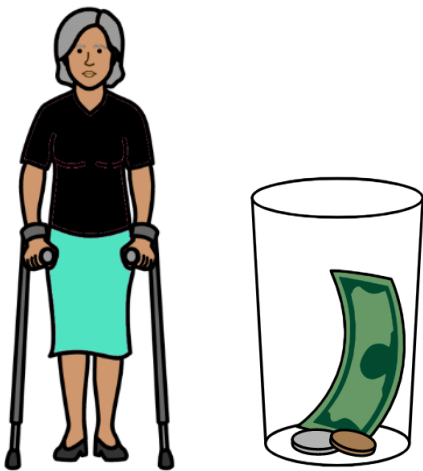
I have been writing reports about what is happening to older people and what needs to change.



I have taken part in important meetings around the world.

I have talked about how to make sure that older people get their human rights during Covid-19 and after it.

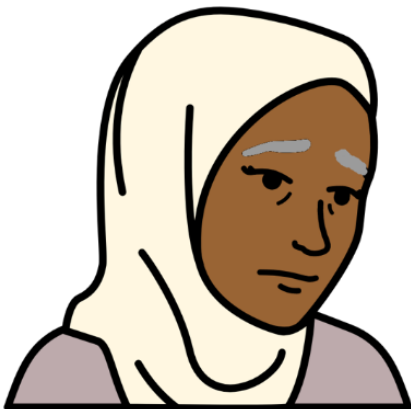
# How Covid-19 is causing big problems for older people and their human rights



Life was already hard for many older people before Covid-19.

For example, many older people in the world could not get the things they need.

Like health care, education and enough money to live on.



But Covid-19 has made things worse.

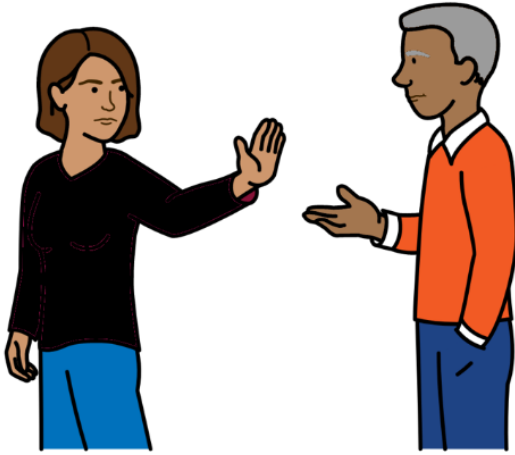
It has showed that many older people are not getting their human rights.



**Many older people do not get the right health care and support**

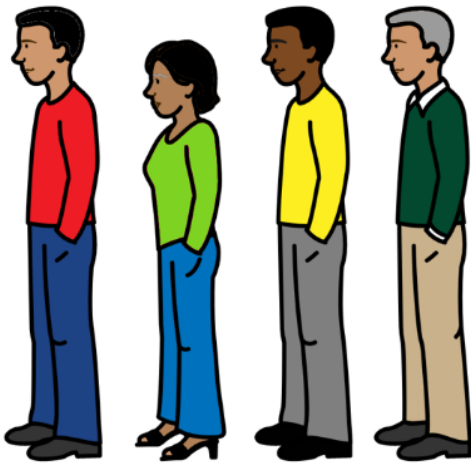
More older people get very ill or die from Covid-19 than younger people.

But many older people have not got the health care and support they need during Covid-19.



Many poorer countries already had problems giving people enough health care and support before Covid-19.

Covid-19 has made that worse.



Many health services might get very busy or stop during Covid-19.

Many older people have not got the health care they need because of that.



For example, health workers might give health care to younger people first.

They might think that older people are less important.

## Problems in care homes



Many older people live in homes called care homes.

Many care homes have not been safe for older people during Covid-19.

For example, many care home workers have not had the right things to keep older people safe from Covid-19.

Like gloves and face masks.



Many older people were left without the care they need in care homes.

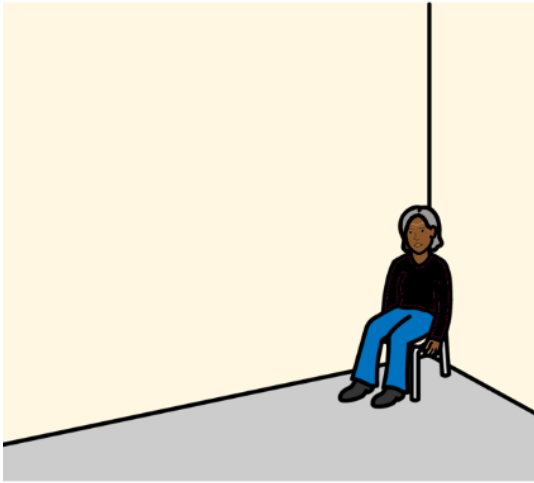
Some older people died because of that.

## Older people are often left on their own

Many people in the world had to stay at home when Covid-19 was very bad.

Countries said that was to keep older people safe.





But many older people were left on their own.

They could not see family or friends.

That made many older people very sad and lonely.

## **Many older people are hurt or treated very badly**



Many older people have been unsafe when they had to stay at home.

There have not been enough checks to make sure that older people are safe.

That has made it easier for people to hurt older people without anyone knowing.



It has also been hard for many older people to get help or support if they are treated badly.

For example, because their usual support has not been there during Covid-19.





## Information is often hard to get or understand

Many older people have not got the information they need during Covid-19.

That includes information about:

- Their rights
- How to keep safe and get the right support



Information is often hard for older people to understand.

And lots of information they might need is on the internet.

But the internet is hard for many older people to use.

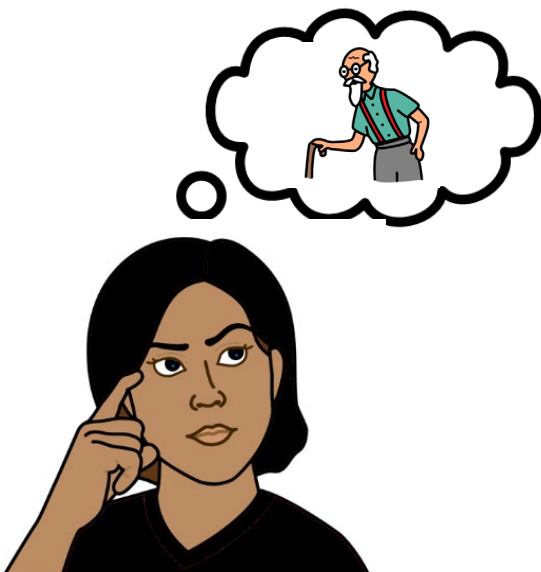
## Unfair ideas

Many people have wrong ideas about older people.

All older people are different.

But many people think that all older people are weak and cannot do much.

They might think that older people are a problem for the country because of that.







These wrong ideas stop older people from getting their human rights.

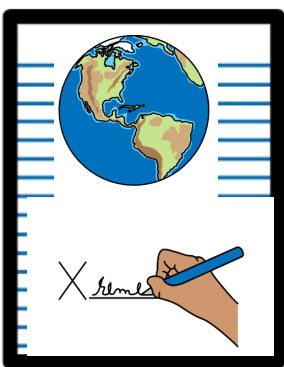
## **There is not enough information about older people**



There is not enough information about what is happening to different groups of older people and what they need.

That makes it hard to make plans and rules that are right for all older people.

## **There are not enough laws about the human rights of older people**

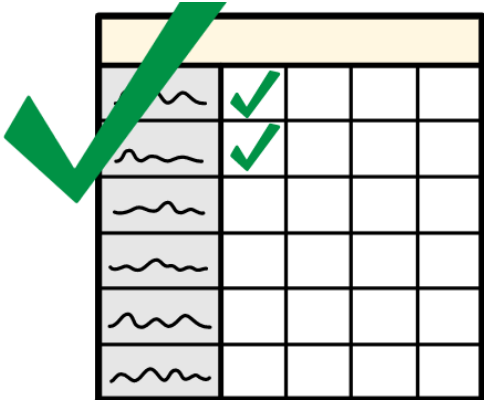


There is no human rights law for the whole world just about the human rights of older people.

That means there is no law that clearly says that countries must treat older people fairly.

Many countries have not made good laws for their own countries about the human rights of older people because of that.

# What countries must do to make sure that older people get their rights



Many countries have agreed to make sure that older people get their human rights now and after Covid-19.

Countries and organizations should do the following things:

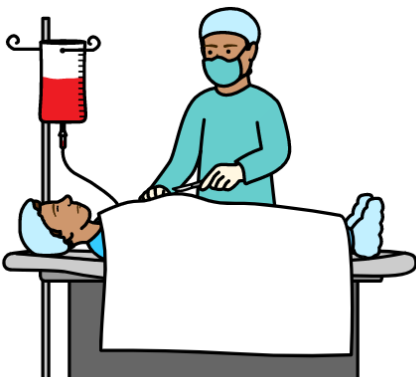
Make sure that older people are treated fairly and get their human rights when they need health care.

Older people should get all the health care they need.

No one should stop them from getting that health care.

That includes good health care when there are big problems like Covid-19.

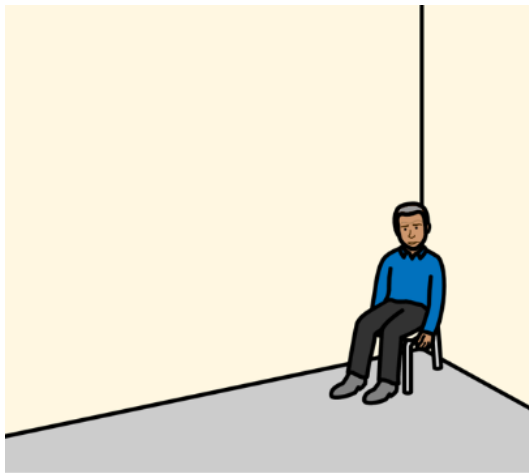
And good health care when older people are very ill and might die.





Check to make sure that care homes are safe for older people.

Some checks stopped during Covid-19. But they should start again.



Make sure that older people are not forced to be on their own.

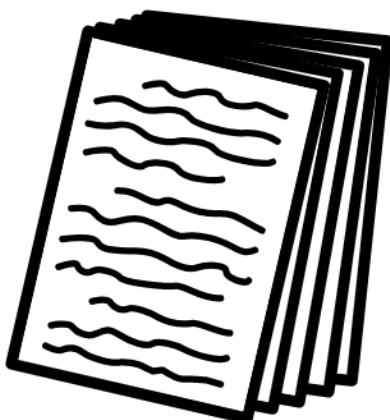
For example, if the government says that people have to stay at home because of Covid-19.

Older people should be able to choose if they want to see people in a safe way.



Get better information about what different groups of older people need.

For example, older women and older people with disabilities.



Then make good plans for the country that include older people.

For example, make good plans for the country about the health care that all older people need.



Remember that older people are very important and should not be left out.

Look at all the important things that older people are doing during Covid-19.

For example, giving people care and being leaders in their communities.



Make sure that older people can have a big say in what happens to them.

For example, they should help to make plans about health care, Covid-19 and the future.



Make sure that all older people are safe and treated fairly.

And work to stop wrong ideas about older people straight away.

Older people are often hurt or treated very badly because of these wrong ideas.



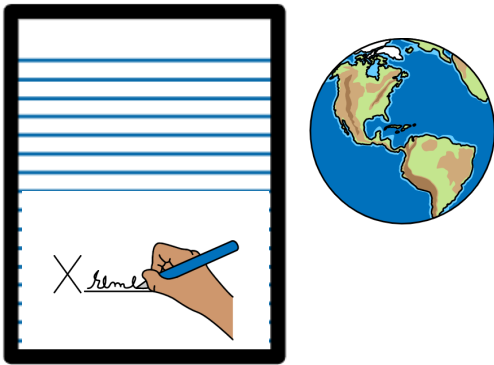
Make sure that older people get information they can understand about Covid-19, their human rights and the support they can get.



That means giving older people information in different ways.

Like the radio and different languages.

And supporting older people to use the internet.



There should be a new law in the world just about the human rights of older people.

That will help older people to get all their human rights, like:



- Making their own choices about their health care and other things

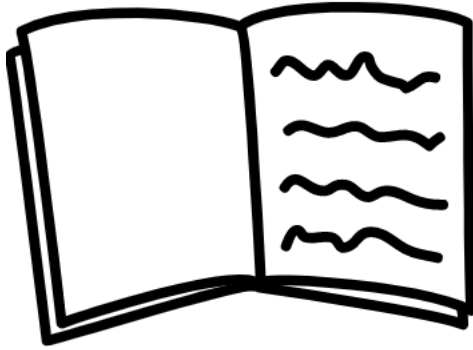
- Having good health care when they need it

- Getting the right support if someone hurts them or treats them badly

- Having enough money to live on.

That means money from working in a job or money from the government





This is an easy to read report. We use the words **older people** in this report.

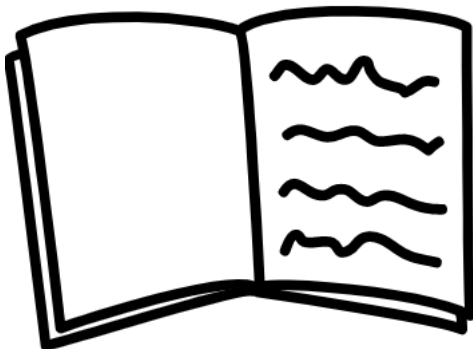
This report includes the main points from a bigger report.

The bigger report uses the words **older persons**.



The bigger report is on this website. It does not have easy words and pictures. It is called "Impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons":

<https://tinyurl.com/Covid-19-Older-People>



I have also written another report about how older people are treated very badly. And what countries should do to make sure that older people get their human rights.



The report has easy words and pictures like this one.

It is on this website:

<https://tinyurl.com/easy-to-read>