

Questions and issues for contributions to Secretary-General report pursuant General Assembly resolution 65/182

Question 1: Information on the current situation of the human rights of older persons, including particular challenges and threats that may prevent the full realization of their rights.

Answer: The 3 main challenges and threats older persons face and which in turn may prevent realization of their rights include:

- Failure to access various social and healthcare services due to physical or mental impairment;
- Poverty;
- Abuse.

Question 2: Information on existing legislation, policies and programmes to protect and promote the human rights of older persons.

Answer: There is no legislative framework which protects the rights specifically of older persons.

Question 3: Information on existing legislation, policies and programmes to address discrimination against older persons, including measures to address multiple discrimination (e.g. discrimination based on age and gender).

Answer: There are no policies that address discrimination specifically for elderly persons.

Question 4: Information on existing legislation, policies or programmes to address violence and abuse against older persons in the private and public spheres.

There is no legislation / national policy re abuse of elderly persons.

The Dept. of the Elderly and Community Care has set up a policy for cases of abuse arising within a residential home setting such as St. Vincent de Paule or Government Residential Homes.

Question 5: Information on existing legislation, policies and programmes addressing old age-sensitive services and facilities, such as those related to mobility, age-adequate design, long-term care, primary health care and adult and continuous education.

There are no legislation / policies related to old age services although our community services target primarily persons over 60 years of age.

Question 6: Information on existing legislation, policies and programmes concerning social protection measures as well as right to work and right to social security with regard to older persons.

In Malta, the Social Security Act (Cap. 318) provides for the payment of contributory retirement pensions which can be divided into two schemes, the flat rate pensions and the two-thirds pensions. The flat rate pensions are awarded to pensioners who also receive a service pension and to pensioners who have a low pensionable income. The two-thirds pensions are awarded to all other pensioners.

The Act also provides for the payment of a non-contributory retirement pension to those who do not have the minimum number of contributions paid or credited provided they satisfy the capital and income means test.

Malta has in recent years introduced a comprehensive pension reform program with the main objective of safeguarding the future sustainability and adequacy of Malta's pension system. Malta has in fact started to implement this process in a gradual manner, with the adoption of a set of parametric reforms to the Pay As You Go component of its pension system in 2007. Indeed, measures have already been introduced to increase the national retirement age which is being gradually raised to sixty-five years and also the extension from thirty to forty years of the social security contribution period on which pension entitlements are worked out.

Similarly, changes introduced to the Social Security Act in 2008 made it possible for persons reaching the statutory pension age to continue working while claiming their pension without any limits on their income from employment. Following such changes, there has been a substantial increase in the number of people in Malta who are opting to continue working after reaching retirement age

Question 7 - 9:

No information is available on these questions.

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