**Response on the Call for inputs: Violence, abuse and neglect against older persons**

1. ***Legal, policy and institutional frameworks***:

Norway does not have any specific law that protect older persons, like they do have in many other countries.

According to **Act relating to equality and a prohibition against discrimination** (Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act), Chapter 2, section 6 “Discrimination on the basis of gender, pregnancy, leave in connection with childbirth or adoption, care responsibilities, ethnicity, religion, belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age or combinations of these factors is prohibited”. «Ethnicity» includes national origin, descent, skin colour and language.

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/NLE/lov/2017-06-16-51>

The Anti-Discrimination Tribunal is an independent administrative body that does not represent or assist either party. It is a neutral organization. Its task is to deal with the cases that are submitted to the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal. <https://www.diskrimineringsnemnda.no/spr%C3%A5k/5451>

1. ***Manifestations of violence****: what forms of violence, abuse and neglect are older persons facing? In which settings does it happen? Please provide detailed information.*

See answers under Q4

1. ***Intersectionality****: how does violence, abuse and neglect affect specific groups of older persons (e.g. older women, older LGTBI persons, older persons belonging to ethnic and indigenous groups, older refugees and internally displaced persons, older persons with disabilities, etc.) Please provide detailed information.*

There is a lack of data concerning these groups.

1. ***Data****: are data available at national and local level about violence, abuse and neglect of older persons? Are national surveys about violence including experiences of older persons? If available, please provide figures and data.*

There are two national studies on violence, abuse and neglect of older persons from Norway, one from home dwelling persons 66-90 years, the other from nursing home settings. In addition, a recently published prevalence study on violence and abuse in the Norwegian population included persons up to 75 years old. Only the summary is published in English so far: <https://www.nkvts.no/content/uploads/2023/02/NKVTS_Rapport_1_23_Omfang_vold_overgrep-2023.pdf>

**I. Violence and Abuse against Elderly People in Norway- a national prevalence study**

<https://www.nkvts.no/english/report/violence-and-abuse-against-elderly-people-in-norway/>

This survey from 2017 is a national cross-sectional study in which 2,463 people aged 66 to 90 (1,232 men and 1,231 women) responded to a postal questionnaire. The total response rate was 45.9%.

The report describes the results of the first national prevalence survey on personal safety and quality of life among elderly women and men in Norway. The prevalence of violence and abuse after the victim of violence has turned the age of 65 years and in the past year is described. In addition, an account of how many of the respondents stated that they have been exposed to severe physical violence or severe sexual abuse earlier in life is provided.

The report also points to some possible associations between exposure to violence and socio-demographic conditions, perceived health, and quality of life, and whether exposure to violence earlier in life has an impact on such exposure in later years.

The overall prevalence of violence and abuse against elderly people living at home aged 65 and over was between 6.8% and 9.2%. There were no significant differences between the men and women.

There were no significant differences in the prevalence of violence and abuse between the younger group (aged 66 to 75) and the older group (aged 75 to 90).

The overall prevalence of violence, abuse, and neglect during the past year was between 5.2% and 7.2%. These gender differences were also small.

The results of this study indicate that between 56,500 and 76,000 people in Norway living at home have been victims of abuse after the age of 65 years.

Violence and abuse towards older persons in Norway is a serious social and public health problem.

The study has revealed clear relationships between violence, ill health, and physical and social functioning. The study shows that older people who have been victims of severe physical violence or severe sexual abuse earlier in their lives are more likely to be victims of violence in their older years.

1. **Elder abuse in Norwegian nursing homes: a cross-sectional exploratory study**

This is the first study, as far as we know, to study all aspects of abuse (physical, psychological, financial, sexual, as well as neglect) and to include acts committed by several offenders or perpetrators, such as staff, relatives, and co-residents.

This study has a quantitative design, we used a questionnaire that the participants filled in themselves. We randomly draw 100 nursing homes; this is 10% of all nursing homes in Norway. All in all 3693 nursing staff responded, which gave us a response rate of 60%.

Overall, 76% of nursing staff reported that they had observed at least one incident of abuse/neglect committed by other members of staff, and 60.3% of staff admitted they had perpetrated at least one incident of abuse/neglect the past year, which is quite close to the global prevalence reported by Yon et al. 2019. Neglect and psychological abuse were most commonly reported (46.9% and 40.5%), and regarding psychological abuse, often reported acts were: yelling at a resident, arguing with a resident, making critical remarks to a resident, and threatening to stop taking care of a resident. Regarding neglect, the most frequent acts were neglecting oral care, ignoring residents when they called, deliberately delaying care of a resident, and prohibiting a resident from using the alarm. 9.6% reported acts of physical abuse and 0.4% reported having committed some kind of sexual abuse.

Resident- to resident aggression was observed by 88.8 % of the staff, and most common was psychological or verbal acts (88%), and physical acts (69.4%). Regarding relativs to resident abuse, 45.6% of the staff reported to have observed such and the majority (44.8%) reported psychological or verbal acts.

*Publications from this study:*

Botngård, A., Eide, A.H., Mosqueda, L., Blekken, L., & Malmedal, W. (2021) Factors associated with staff-to-resident abuse in Norwegian nursing homes: a cross-sectional exploratory study. BMC Health Services Research, 21(244), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-021-06227-4>

Botngård, A., Eide, A.H., Mosqueda, L., & Malmedal, W. (2020). Resident-to-resident aggression in Norwegian nursing homes- a cross-sectional exploratory study. BMC Geriatrics, 20(222), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-020-01623-7>

Botngård, A., Eide, A H., Mosqueda, L., & Malmedal, W. (2020). Elder abuse in Norwegian nursing homes: a cross-sectional exploratory study. BMC Health Services Research. 20(1), 1-12. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12913-019-4861-z>

1. ***Access to justice****: how does the State fulfil its obligations to ensure older persons’ access justice, and to obtain remedies and reparations, when their human rights have been violated as a result of violence, abuse and neglect?*

Health & Social Services Ombudsman.

<https://www.pasientogbrukerombudet.no/>

Protective Services for the Elderly (PSE) – National Helpline

<https://dinutvei.no/en/english/what-is-protective-services-for-the-elderly-national-helpline/>

SafeEst (TryggEst in Norwegian) aims to help prevent, uncover, and deal with cases of violence and abuse against adults who need help to protect themselves. If you are experiencing mental health problems, cognitive challenges, serious or chronic illness, problems with alcohol or drug abuse or advanced age, you have a special right to help.

<https://dinutvei.no/en/english/what-can-tryggest-help-with/>

1. ***Access to information****: How do you raise awareness about violence against older persons in the public? How does information about access to essential services (e.g. healthcare, legal assistance, social services, access to shelters) is made accessible and available for older persons?*

There is very little done in this aspect. There are some websites informing the public about how TryggEst aims to help prevent, uncover and deal with cases of violence and abuse against adults who need help to protect themselves as shown under Q5.

1. *Please provide examples of* ***good practices*** *for preventing, monitoring and address violence and abuse against older persons.*

TryggEst is a national model developed by The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs for municipalities to uncover and handle violence and abuse against adults in vulnerable life-situations. High age is a risk factor, and older people are the group for which the most cases are reported to TryggEst. The purpose of TryggEst is to ensure that cases are uncovered, not overlooked, or forgotten, and that the follow-up of victims is a collaboration between relevant services. TryggEst requires cooperation across services and agencies. Municipalities that use TryggEst have uncovered, on average, 6-8 times more cases of violence and abuse than before they introduced the model. TryggEst can be understood as "safeguarding of vulnerable adults". As of March 2023, the TryggEst-municipalities so far cover 32% of the Norwegian adult population.

<https://bufdir.no/vold/TryggEst/?utm_campaign=tema-domener&utm_medium=redirect&utm_source=tryggest.no&utm_content=tryggest.no>

Trondheim March 1st 2023

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