**Inputs submitted by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe**

(Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation Division)

**Mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older**

**persons**

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

The Secretariat of the Council of Europe extends its gratitude to the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons for the opportunity to provide written inputs to inform her next report to the Human Rights Council on violence, abuse and neglect of older persons.

This contribution is based on [Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)2](https://rm.coe.int/1680695bce) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member States on promotion of human rights of older persons. The Appendix to Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)2 sets out and explains general principles that States should implement, and contains examples of national good practice in relation to each of these principles. The recommendation is accompanied by an explanatory report.

**Legal, policy and institutional frameworks**

Section II of the Appendix to CM/Rec(2014)2 reiterates the principle of non-discrimination towards older persons, and calls for national anti-discrimination legislation to make explicit reference to “age”.

Section IV of the Appendix to CM/Rec(2014)2 calls on States to protect older persons from violence and abuse in whatever setting.

**Intersectionality**

Section II of the Appendix to CM/Rec(2014)2 calls on States to take effective measures to prevent “multiple discrimination” against older persons. Paragraph 15 of the accompanying explanatory report makes clear that this expression is equivalent to “intersectionality”.

1. **Access to justice**

Section IV of the Appendix to CM/Rec(2014)2 calls on States to carry out an effective investigation into credible claims that violence or abuse against an older person has occurred, or when the authorities have reasonable grounds to suspect that it has. It also recalls the right to an effective remedy, with the possibility of adequate redress for harm suffered.

1. **Access to information**

Section IV of the Appendix to CM/Rec(2014)2 calls for awareness-raising of medical staff, care workers, informal carers or other persons providing services to older persons, with the aim of helping these groups to detect violence or abuse, advising them on measures to take if they suspect that abuse has taken place, and encouraging them to report abuses to the competent authorities. Those reporting abuse should be protected from retaliation.