**2023 Human Rights Council Thematic Report on Violence, Abuse and Neglect of Older Persons**

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| **1. Legal, policy and institutional frameworks** | | | |
| Is there a non-discrimination law that prohibits discrimination based on age? | **Yes** | **No** | **Comments** |
|  | No |  |
| Is there a legislation on violence against persons and/or domestic violence that includes violence, abuse and/or neglect of older persons | **Yes** | **No** | **Comments** |
| Yes |  | The Domestic Violence Act 2020 was passed by the National Assembly on May 26, 2020 and assented on 9th June 2020.  The Act is to “prohibit acts of violence in the domestic context, to provide protection of aggrieved persons, to provide penalties therefor and to make provision for services for aggrieved persons and perpetrators of domestic violence and for matters connected therewith and related thereto.”  However, the Act is still lacking of a commencement date as there is a need to develop and establish certain procedures and establishment of facilities.  ***(see attached Act)*** |
| Does the law establish a specialised independent body receiving complaints of discrimination based on age? | **Yes** | **No** | **Comments** |
|  | No |  |
| Is there a national plan, policy or strategy to address violence against older person, that is overseen by a national mechanism to monitor and implement it? | **Yes** | **No** | **Comments** |
| Yes |  | The Family Department has a National Policy on Population Ageing (2018).  The Policy also has a Plan of Action that addresses neglect, abuse, violence or older persons.  (***see attached Policy)*** |
| ***\*Please provide detailed information and relevant documents, if applicable.*** | | | |
| **2. Manifestation of violence** | | | |
| What forms of violence, abuse and neglect are older persons facing?  In which setting does it happen? | **Comments** | | |
| * Forms of violence, abuse and neglect include physical, emotional, verbal, psychological, financial abuse, neglect, self-neglect and social isolation. * It usually happens within family settings.   ***(see attached data report)*** | | |
| ***\*Please provide detailed information.*** | | | |
| **3. Intersectionality** | | | |
| How does violence, abuse and neglect affect specific groups of older persons (e.g. older women, older LGTBI persons, older person belonging to ethnic and indigenous groups, older refugees and internally displaced person, older persons with disabilities, etc. | **Comments** | | |
| * With regards to elderlies, violence, abuse and neglect causes them to feel isolated whereby they develop a fear of reporting on the abuse towards them.   The cases are usually reported unanimously by neighbours, family members and friends.   * With regards to persons with disabilities, the abuse and violence causes the individuals a lot of trauma and they are afraid to come forward. Moreover, in Seychelles, stigmatization is still very common and parents prefer to keep their children or family members with a disability at home for fear of labelling. And sadly, they end up not developing. * Abuse on persons with disabilities is usually done, through EDD’s Helpline either by neigbours, who prefer their identities to remain unknown and also by other friends and family members of the person being abused. | | |
| **4. Data** | | | |
| Are data available at national and local level about violence, abuse and neglect of older persons? | **Yes** | **No** | **Comments** |
| **Yes** |  | ***See attached reports for EDD’s Helpline.*** |
| Are national surveys about violence including experiences of older persons? | **Yes** | **No** | **Comments** |
|  | **No** |  |
| ***\*If available, please provide figures and data.*** | | | |
| **5. 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? | **Comments** | | |
| The Elderly &Disabled Division (EDD) which was established in 2021 under aegis of the Family Department of the Ministry of Youth, Sports & Family (MYSF), up till now, has no laws that allows it to take direct actions against any issues relating either to the elderly or the disabled.  However, EDD works collaboratively with law enforcement and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies that already have legislations/policies in place to ensure that the proper actions are undertaken concerning issues relating the violation of the rights of the elderlies as a result of violence, abuse and neglect. | | |
| **6. Access to information** | | | |
| How do you raise awareness about violence against older persons in the public? | **Comments** | | |
| The Elderly & Disabled Division undertakes intensive awareness campaign which includes tv-spots, radio programmes and outreach programmes annually. | | |
| How does information about access to essential services (e.g. healthcare, legal assistance, social services, access to shelter) is made accessible and available for older persons? | **Comments** | | |
| Through various media mediums including tv-spots, radio announcement, articles as well through working with NGOs affiliated with the elderly, and, at community level through the District Administration. | | |
| **7. Please provide examples of good practices for preventing, monitoring and address violence and abuse against older persons.** | | | |
| **Examples of good practices** | | | |
| 1. Provide accommodation, in certain cases, whereby an abused elderly is removed from a family setting and placed in Government-owned facilities where there is proper care and monitoring; 2. Liaise with banks, in relation to financial abuse, for proper corrective actions to ensure that proper and safe management of their finances; 3. In cases of neglect/self-neglect, emotional, physical, verbal and psychological abuse the elderly is referred to the Quality of Life Division which is also under the aegis of the Family Department, whereby they received counseling. | | | |
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