

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

Limitations and gaps of selected human rights norms and Obligations

Multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons

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Presented by: Dr. Juergen Focke / HelpAge Deutschland (focke@helpage.de)

Thank you Madame Chair!

HelpAge Deutschland would like to thank the Office of the High Commissioner for organizing this first-ever meeting to discuss strengthening the human rights framework for older persons.

Limitations and gaps we are discussing in this session - we don't have to beat around the bush. Existing international human rights treaties fail to apply standards to the human rights abuses, experienced by older persons. The gaps have been pointed out and are well known.

Two examples: Covid has acted as a burning glass in this regard, the Delegate from Argentina mentioned it earlier in this session, gaps were extensively described in UN Secretary General Guterres' policy brief, and 146 states have endorsed them with their signatures.

One of the best example of gaps/discrimination is - how the elderly were restricted in their right to **freedom of movement** in the pandemic; no state has come up with this nonsensical and inhumane idea for any other vulnerable group.

Finally, the Ukrainian war shows, what discrimination older people experience in their **freedom of movement** to flee the war scenario and we should be so honest with ourselves - neither the national decision makers nor the EU or the United Nations had good solutions or legal binding documents at hand to solve this challenge so far.

Standardization and codification of the rights of older people in a single document is therefore essential to fill the gaps.

I think we agree; MIPAA and or the SDGs are a good basis and can show the pace- but they cannot compliment a legal binding document.

In the formulation of such a resolution, it must not refer to purely formal legal aspects of human rights but must be formulated in an all-encompassing way – for example, including all social, financial and health facets as well too but not limited.

Abbreviated HelpAge has done this in its Strategy 2030 under the three keywords - Give older Persons:

- Dignity
- Voice
- and Wellbeing.

Thank you very much!