

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

Towards strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons

Multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons

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Thank you Mr. Chair!

HelpAge Deutschland would like to thank the Office of the High Commissioner for organizing this first-ever meeting.

Expectations were high and the question naturally arises, why didn't we meet earlier and made a decision? There are so many reports, documents, surveys existing, not least Secretary General Guterres' May 2020 policy brief signed by 146 states, that have highlighted the gaps - they have all been mentioned here several times.

Gaps are obvious - but nothing happened in last years – that is embarrassing. Not only against older persons – it's embarrassing against younger generations who will become older persons in the next decades and they will ask us: why didn't you do anything? Why didn't you take any action? And they are right.

It is now time to close the gaps and there must be the political will and the clear commitment to close them. Only you – the member states – have the political power and can strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons.

Human Rights organizations and Civil society certainly will support you.

We talk about and focus now on a *convention* as the only feasible legally binding instrument- there are states that have doubts or reject a convention, fine - but then they need to come up and submit a better solution. If not, step aside – and at a minimum: don't hamper us and the process.

Doing nothing and waiting is a human rights violation or to use another word. This is Ageism too.

Thank you very much.