QUESTION FOR SESSION 1 – FOR DR. RABHERU

UN OHCHR MULTI-STAKHOLDER GROUP ON AGING

**Question:**

During the pandemic we saw horrendous examples of age based human rights violations around the world which illustrated that gaps in human rights provisions for older persons have dire consequences.

Sadly, these continue, even in countries with long standing human rights legislation against ageism such as Canada.

Last week, the government of my province Ontario, tabled Bill 7 which places the health care difficulties faced by the government, squarely on the backs of older persons.

Indeed Bill 7 would allow the forced relocation of older person from hospitals to LTC facilities anywhere in the province, including far from their families and communities.

In other words, this Bill violates basic human rights, including the right : 1) to consent, 2) to autonomy and 3) to choose where you live.

How could a Convention help counter legislations which violates human rights such as Bill 7?

**Answer:**

Firstly, regarding Ontario’s Bill 7 I do not believe that forced relocation outside of one’s community would be hoisted on any other age group, or any gender, race, religion, colour or creed.

In other words, would we ever decree that children would be forcibly moved to a institution outside their community?

Of course not! We need a Convention on the rights of older persons that sets out that ageism is unacceptable, and we would have the tools to fight it when it does occur.

If we had a proper legally binding instrument, parameters would be in place to ensure that legislation that violates human rights do not get passed into law.