**Multistakeholder Meeting on the Human Rights of Older Persons**

**29-30 August 2022**

**International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) statement**

**Session 1**

**Limitations and gaps of selected human rights norms and obligations**

**Monday 29 August 2022**

Read by **Silvia Perel-Levin**

Many older persons, particularly older women suffer intolerable levels of violence, abuse and neglect both at home and in institutions.

Ageist, Age-based discriminatory laws and policies deepen inequalities and deny our full participation in social, cultural, economic and political life.

Existing international legal frameworks have failed to prevent violence and abuse of older persons. Our rights have not been protected before or during the COVID 19 pandemic. We are not included in recovery efforts.

We continue being subjected to violence, abuse and neglect without a proper response. We do not always have where to go, who to complain to. We are not listened to.

Many older persons are deprived of their liberty at home or in institutions, coerced and ill-treated. Often, by those we are supposed to trust best. Violence, abuse and neglect of older persons is too often seen as a natural, unpreventable fact, denying our most basic rights, denying our dignity.

While existing treaties could cover violence, abuse and neglect of older persons, including financial abuse, they mostly don’t. They have addressed some aspects but there is no real follow up and older persons remain invisible in concluding observations.

A specific new provision that applies to all forms of violence against, and neglect, exploitation and abuse of older persons would address these gaps.

A UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons will reaffirm and that we all, at any age, have the right to live free of violence of any kind. Madrid Plan of Action is not a human rights instrument and it is not binding

Distinguished panelists? How do the rights to life-long learning and to live free of violence intersect? And how would a Convention treat the intersections?