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5th AGE Annual Conference

Wednesday, 7 June 2017, 10.00 - 18.00

Interpretation in English, French and Italian

Venue: Hotel HUSA President

44 Boulevard du Roi Albert II – 1000 Brussels,

www.husapresidentpark.com – Tel. +32 (0)2 203 20 20



Inequalities and abuse in old age: Time to Act!

“The impact of ageism should not be underestimated. Ageism is the root of the marginalization, social exclusion and isolation of older persons. It is also intimately linked to violence and abuse against them in public and private spheres as scapegoating and stereotyping nourish subconscious motives.”

Ms. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, United Nations Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of All Human Rights by Older Persons

The right to be respected and treated with dignity, to take part and be included in society may seem straightforward to some people, but can be a real challenge for some older people. And this is all the more true in these tough times, when fundamental rights tend to be overshadowed by economic concerns and the persistency of the common challenges faced by the EU.

Nowadays more than ever it is important to create societies where everyone has a role to play, is valued and supported to lead an active and autonomous life regardless of age, gender, race or ethnic origin, religion, disability or sexual orientation. Dignity, solidarity and equality are both values and priorities for action.

To build a truly inclusive society for all ages and a safer future for all generations in Europe and in other parts of the world, everyone needs to be empowered to participate fully and enjoy life in full respect of their rights while fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

Conference objectives

AGE Platform Europe’s annual conference seizes the momentum of European Commission’s year of actions on violence against women, the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and the



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growing acceptance within the EU that more needs to be done to ensure an equal protection of older people's rights and combat elder abuse. Building on AGE's policy work in these areas and aiming to collect experiences and views that will shape our future work, the event will bring together representatives of European Union countries, European institutions and civil society to discuss how human rights in old age can be materialised using the existing framework, and consider the added value of further measures, such as a new United Nations (UN) treaty.

The conference is intended to be as interactive and inclusive as possible allowing participants to take the floor and lead the discussions. This is why we only foresee very few introductory presentations. The two thematic sessions will include a moderated dialogue with a few panellists and an open debate with the participants. At the end of each session two rapporteurs - one representing the voice of older people and the other equipped with human rights expertise - will present the main substantive and normative issues discussed.

The conference concludes with a capacity-building session aiming to raise awareness among older people's organisations on how they can use the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to advocate for their rights.

The outcomes of this conference will feed into AGE's work and will help frame the next steps of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG), as well as action at national and EU level.



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9.15 – 10.00: Registrations

10.00 – 10.15: Welcome by Marjan Sedmak, AGE President

10.15 – 11.15: Opening session

Moderator: Robin Allen, Queen's Counsel – Cloisters

▪ **Aging, Ageism, and Ageivism: A New Perspective on the Human Rights of Older Persons**

Keynote speech on the human rights of older persons and a new UN convention by **Dr. Israel Doron**, Head of the Department of Gerontology at University of Haifa

▪ **Panel discussion on EU action on the rights of older persons:**

Ana Carla Pereira, Head of Unit for the Modernisation of Social Protection Systems, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Johan ten Geuzendam, Adviser, Directorate on Equality and Union Citizenship, Directorate-General for Justice, European Commission

11.15 – 11.45: Coffee break

Introduction to the two following thematic sessions

11.45 – 13.15: Thematic session 1: Equality and non-discrimination in old age

Moderator: Robin Allen, Queen's Counsel – Cloisters

▪ **Dr. Matthias von Schwanenflügel**, Director General 'Demographic Change, Senior Citizens and Welfare, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany

▪ **Bridget Sleap**, Senior Rights Policy Adviser, HelpAge International

▪ **Anne Gaspard**, Executive Director, Equinet

Interactive discussion with the panellists and participants



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Rapporteurs: **Dee Masters**, Cloisters and **Laura Christ**, member of AGE Taskforce on human rights and non-discrimination and Older Women's Network Europe

13.15 – 14.45: Lunch break

14.45 – 16.15: Thematic Session 2: Elder abuse, violence and neglect

*Moderator: **Bridget Penhale**, University of East Anglia*

- **Jim Pearson**, Director of Policy and Research, Alzheimer Scotland
- **Dr. Claudia Mahler**, Senior Researcher and Policy Adviser, German Institute for Human Rights
- **Marcel Floor**, Ministry for Health, Wellbeing and Sports, Netherlands

Interactive discussion with the panellists and participants

Rapporteurs: **Nevena Peneva**, Fundamental Rights Agency and **Dr. Heidrun Mollenkopf**, AGE vice-president, member of AGE Taskforce on human rights and non-discrimination and BAGSO

16.15 – 16.45: Coffee break

16.45 – 17.45: Training session: How older people and people with disabilities can work together using the UN Convention of Rights for Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to drive change on the ground

*Moderator: **Anne-Sophie Parent**, AGE Secretary General*

- Relevance of UNCRPD for older people – How they can use it in their advocacy and how they can work with organisations of people with disabilities at national and EU level: **Ana Peláez**, European Disability Forum Vice President, UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities member 2008-2016
- Older people in the work of the Academic Network of European Disability: **Paula Pinto**, ANED Research Team and University of Lisbon
- Improving access to financial services and payment methods for older persons and people with disabilities – A Dutch case study: **Michiel van Doeveren**, Senior policy advisor, De Nederlandsche Bank N.V.

Interactive discussion with participants

17.45 – 18.00: Closing remarks: **Marjan Sedmak, AGE President End of Conference**