

Press Mention

News from the EU and UN on the rights of the older people

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Pensioners' advocacy at European and UN level has continued during the summer months. The following events are of particular interest to us:

1) Equality becomes a priority for the new European Commission

Following the European Parliament elections in June, Ursula von der Leyen has been re-elected as President of the new Commission. In June, she announced her proposal for the Commission's political guidelines for the years 2024-29, which will form the basis of the new Commission's programme.

The guidelines emphasise, among other things, that the EU should be a *"Union for Equality"*, that a Commissioner with special responsibility for equality should be appointed and that intergenerational justice should be strengthened in the coming years.

AGE is pleased to note that the importance of equality is emphasised, but is concerned that age equality and the rights of older people are not specifically mentioned in the guidelines.

AGE has therefore sent an open letter to Ms von der Leyen recommending that a clear mandate be given to the future Commissioner for Equal Opportunities to develop and take responsibility for the realisation of a European Age Equality Strategy. With this, a Europe for all ages can be realised.

2) Older People's rights resonate at the United Nations

We pensioners have for many years, through our European association AGE, been trying to get people to realise the need for the United Nations to actively support the improvement of the situation of the older people. This could best be done with a *UN Convention on the Rights of Older People* (similar to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). There is still too much discrimination against older people, including in the workplace and in the digitalisation of society and the economy.

Recently, a historic step was taken at a UN meeting, where it was agreed to encourage Member States to promote, protect and recognise the rights of older people, preferably through an internationally legally binding UN convention.

The decision can be characterised as a milestone in the efforts to improve the situation of us pensioners. The issue will now be referred to the UN General Assembly to consider the next steps. The process is very long, but there is a brighter light on the horizon.

Filip Hamro-Drotz Interview

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You can stop the perpetuation of ageism!

Please read our one-pager on communicating on older persons in a non-stereotypical way.

About AGE Platform Europe

AGE Platform Europe is the largest European network of non-profit organizations of and for older people. We elevate older people's voice, bringing their experience and aspirations to the table to celebrate ageing and fight for equality at all ages.

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