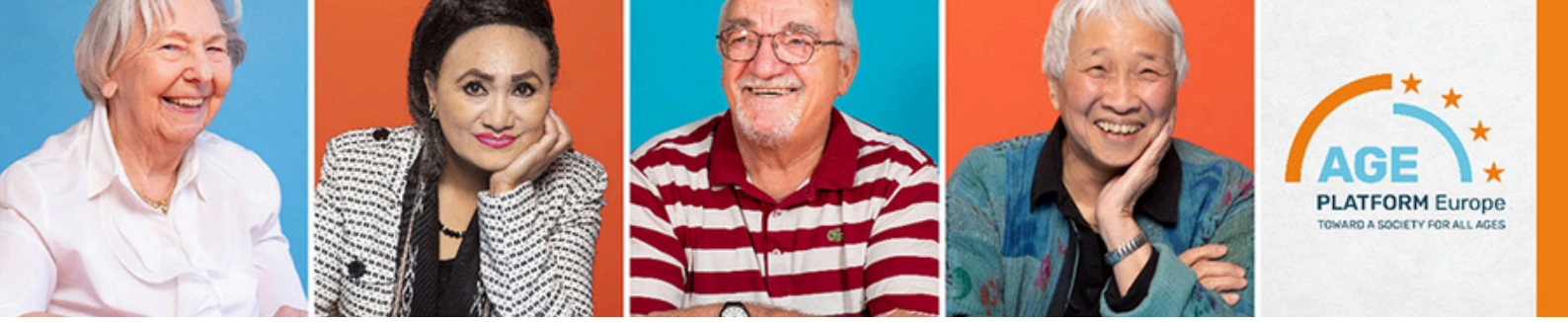


Shaping the UN Convention

This document summarises AGE Platform Europe's key messages from its submission to the UN call for input on the new legally binding instrument on the rights of older persons. Older persons continue to face ageism, discrimination and barriers to the full enjoyment of their rights, shaped by inequalities accumulated across the life course and leading to exclusion, neglect and rights violations. A new legally binding instrument offers a key opportunity to strengthen protection, promote equality and make rights more visible, accessible and enforceable, so that older persons are better able to claim their rights, participate in public life and influence decisions that affect them.

Why it matters

A new legally binding instrument can transform how rights are understood, protected and realised in older age.

- Challenge ageist norms, perceptions and discriminatory practices.
- Strengthen accountability for rights violations affecting older persons.
- Empower older persons to claim their rights and shape decisions.
- Improve awareness and coherence of human rights frameworks.
- Contribute to a more inclusive, equal and rights-based society for all ages.

"The LBI would empower older persons to claim their rights, participate meaningfully in public life, and shape decisions that affect them."

A strong Human Rights Framework

Older persons must be recognised as full rights-holders entitled to enjoy all human rights equally.

- Rights violations often result from legal, social, environmental and institutional barriers.
- Ageism should be recognised as a systemic root cause of violations in older age, operating across laws, policies, institutions, social norms and practices.
- Addressing ageism requires legal, policy, cultural and societal change.
- The instrument should clarify the support, safeguards and enabling conditions needed to ensure that rights can be enjoyed equally in older age.
- The LBI should not weaken existing human rights standards.

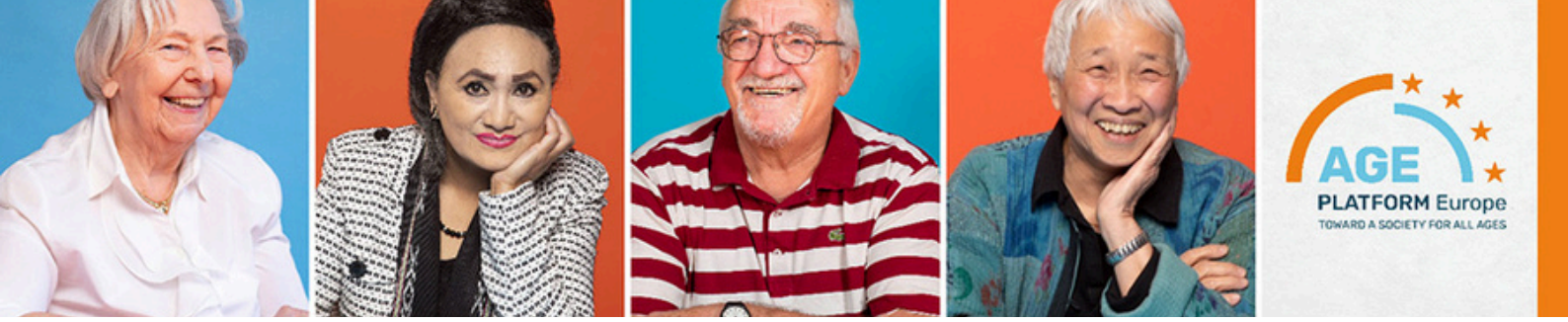
"The LBI would empower older persons themselves, reinforcing their ability to claim their rights, participate meaningfully in public life, and shape the decisions that affect them. It would contribute to greater awareness of their rights and help make existing human rights frameworks more effective and coherent in addressing the reality of living longer lives and intersecting forms of inequality."

A life-course and intersectional approach

- Inequalities and disadvantages in later life are often linked to earlier experiences across the life course.
- Human capacities, circumstances and needs may evolve over time, without changing the universal nature of human rights.
- Experiences in later life cannot be separated from inequalities linked to gender, disability, ethnicity, income or place of residence.
- The LBI should recognise diverse and context-specific experiences of ageing.
- The instrument should avoid a purely chronological definition of "older persons" and instead use a flexible and inclusive understanding.



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Core Guiding Principles

Dignity
Equality
Autonomy
Participation
Inclusion

- Dignity — rejecting assumptions that older persons have reduced worth or capacity.
- Equality and non-discrimination — addressing all forms of discrimination and their underlying causes.
- Autonomy and independence — respecting will and preferences while ensuring support to exercise rights.
- Participation and inclusion — fostering belonging, intergenerational relations, and the meaningful involvement of older persons and their organisations...

"While foregrounding these principles, the LBI should also acknowledge that some individuals or groups may require additional support and safeguards to exercise their rights on an equal basis with others."

Why participation matters

- Older persons and their organisations should be meaningfully involved in the drafting, monitoring and implementation of the LBI.
- Policies affecting older persons should be developed with older persons, not for them.
- Participation helps ensure the instrument reflects older persons' lived realities, priorities and diverse experiences.
- The LBI should promote belonging, intergenerational solidarity and mutual respect.



Structure

Preamble
Principles
Rights
Implementation

Key Thematic issues

- LBI should cover the full range of human rights, while clarifying how they apply to the lived realities and experiences of older persons.
- It should address both longstanding gaps and emerging challenges, including care and support, violence, abuse and neglect, work, economic security, social protection, education and lifelong learning.
- It should also respond to newer or evolving issues, including digital inclusion, AI and new technologies, climate change, disasters and humanitarian emergencies.
- This should be understood as an illustrative, non-exhaustive list, with the instrument remaining broad enough to address other rights issues affecting older persons.

Implementation and Accountability

•The LBI should include strong monitoring and reporting mechanisms.
•States should ensure effective access to remedies for rights violations.
•Implementation should involve civil society and organisations of older persons.
•The instrument should support collection of disaggregated data and evidence.

"The new instrument must make it significantly more difficult to ignore or minimise rights violations affecting older persons."