



**Workshop on the protection and support
for victims of elder abuse on the occasion of the 12th World
Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

Wednesday, 14 June 2017

9:30 – 15:30

Brussels office of the Council of Europe

Avenue des Nerviens 85, 1040 Brussels

Programme

9:30 – 10:00	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Humbert de Biolley, Deputy Head Brussels office of the Council of Europe• Johan ten Geuzendam, Adviser at European Commission's DG Justice• Anne-Sophie Parent, Secretary-General of AGE Platform Europe• Levent Altan, Director of Victim Support Europe
<p>Part 1: Elder abuse and victims issues: specific needs of victims and available rights</p> <p>Moderator: Liesbeth De Donder, Free University of Brussels (VUB)</p>	
10:00 – 10:15	<p>Needs of victims and victim support: an overview Levent Altan, Director of Victim Support Europe</p>
10:15 – 10:30	<p>Elder abuse: causes, characteristics, specific needs of victims and the obstacles to access protection and support Bridget Penhale, University of East Anglia, member of AGE task force on Dignified Ageing</p>
10:30 – 10:45	<p>What rights for victims of elder abuse under the 2012 Victims'</p>

	<p>Rights Directive? Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska, Directorate-General for Justice, European Commission</p>
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15 – 12:15	<p>Open discussion: participants will be asked to share their thoughts about the following points. A dynamic discussion will be ensured by the moderator, Liesbeth De Donder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main obstacles you can think of for older persons who suffer abuse to access protection and support? • How can we break the silence around elder abuse and better identify victims? Which are the most important actors in identifying possible cases of abuse, both at home and in care settings? • How do the obstacles to reporting and protection and the possible solutions vary according to whether the older victim lives at home or in a residential setting? • What additional obstacles to reporting do older victims with physical and/or mental disabilities/impairments face? How can these obstacles be overcome? • Victims are often older persons with care needs and in situations of dependency living in care settings. How can professionals be best trained to identify abuse? What reporting systems could be put in place in residential care settings? • How can organisations of older persons support the access of older victims to their rights? • Could organisations of older persons learn from the experience of other groups, such as women and children when it comes to abuse and violence, especially at home?
12:15 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
<p>Interventions to support and protect victims of elder abuse: advantages and limits</p> <p>Moderator: Liz Lloyd, University of Bristol, member of AGE task force on Dignified Ageing</p>	
13:30 – 14:00	<p>Helpline services: the experiences of Respect Seniors in Belgium and Telefono Anziani Maltrattati in Italy</p>

	<p>Francesca Carpenedo, Solimai, Italy, member of AGE task force on Dignified Ageing</p> <p>Nicolas Berg, Respect Seniors, Belgium</p>
14:00 – 14:15	<p>Restorative justice for cases of elder abuse Emanuela Biffi, European Forum for Restorative Justice</p>
14:15 – 15:15	<p>Open discussion: participants will be asked to share their thoughts about the following points. A dynamic discussion will be ensured by the moderator, Liz Lloyd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are all possible interventions equally adequate for all forms of abuse (physical, financial, sexual, etc.)? If not, what interventions can be the most appropriate for each of the different forms of elder abuse, and both for abuses taking place at home and those in care settings? • To what extent are mediation and restorative justice appropriate mechanisms, knowing that in most cases there is an unequal relation of power between the offender and the victim? • What should be the role for police and criminal law? Is it appropriate to 'criminalise' cases of elder abuse as soon as they are detected? Where should we put the border between psycho-social/mediation mechanisms and police interventions? • Offenders are often informal carers, and most often involuntarily. How much tolerance should be allowed in case of abuse by an informal carer? What kinds of support should informal carers who have perpetrated abuse access offered in order to prevent further abuse? • Emphasis is often put on preventing elder abuse through the promotion of older persons' dignity rather than on how to proceed once abuse has taken place. How useful do you think that the preventative argument can be in a context of ageing and cuts in care budgets?
15:30 – 15:30	<p>Conclusions and wrap-up by Anne-Sophie Parent, Secretary-General of AGE Platform Europe</p>