

Pensioners' associations' interest organization in Finland EETU ry – PIO rf

EETU ry -PIO rf is the representative organization of pensioners' associations and is a cooperative body of six national pensioners' organizations. Its member organizations are:

Finnish Pensioners' Federation, Pensioners, Pensioners' Central Union, National Senior Citizens' Union, Christian Pensioners' Union and Swedish Pensioners' Association.

The organizations have a combined membership of 300 000. In 2023, the presiding organization is Finnish Pensioners' Federation.

Petition

25.1.2023

Distribution:

*Krista Kiuru, Minister of Family and Family Services
Hanna Sarkkinen, Minister of Social Affairs and Health,
Minister of Foreign Affairs Pekka Haavisto
Minister of Justice Anna-Maja Henriksson*

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Pekka Haavisto
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Finland to promote the human rights of elderly

Dear Minister

EETU ry - PIO rf, the representative organization of national pensioners' associations, and the undersigned members of SOSTE's (Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health) Vahva (elderly work) network appeal to you to encourage the Finnish Government to take active steps to strengthen the basic and human rights of older citizens both nationally and internationally.

We remind you that under the auspices of the United Nations, there is a special program on the impact of ageing, Open-Ended Working Group on the Effects of Ageing (OEWG), which held its last session in April 2022.

We are concerned by the passivity shown by Finland towards the work of this working group at a time when many other EU countries are actively engaged in OEWG meetings raising the importance of strengthening the rights of older citizens.

The sad thing was that only a few of the UN's Member States were represented at the OEWG plenary session, the quorum of which was difficult to convince because of this inactivity.

As organizations and foundations representing elderly Finns, we appeal to you for Finland to actively intervene age discrimination by developing both the international and national legal system.

We are ready to contribute to the work of the OEWG, whose ultimate goal is an international human rights convention on the human rights of older persons. We want an age-friendly world where none of us lose our humanity as we grow older.

We now call on you, Minister Haavisto, to take the following steps to protect the rights of older people to promote the human rights of older people

- Finland will continue to actively participate in the sessions of the OEWG.
- For the establishment of a human rights treaty for older people Finland urges the Council of the European Union's Council Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) to convene an EU-level discussion on a common position of the Union.
- Finland will involve older people and their representative organizations in the work of the OEWG during the sessions and between the sessions.
- Communicate the importance of this work to the Finnish delegations in New York and Geneva.

Yours respectfully on behalf of EETU ry – PIO rf

Raimo Ikonen
Chairman
Finnish Pensioners' Federation

Simo Paassilta
Chairman
Pensioners' Central Union of Finland

Anneli Taina
Chairman
National Senior Citizens' Association

Matti Huutola
Chairman
Pensioners' Association

Leea Hiltunen
Chairman
KRELLI Christian Pensioners' Association

Ulla-Maj Wideroos
Chairman
Swedish Pensioners' Association

Other signatory organizations:

Anni Lausvaara
Executive Director
Finnish Federation of the Aging

Merja Mäkisalo-Ropponen
Chairman
Miina Sillanpää Foundation

Tiina Huusko
Chairman
The Bone Association

Sari Tervonen
Executive Director
Federation of Family Carers

Katja Brodulin
Director
Age Institute

Hanna-Leena Ojalainen
Chairman
VALLI-The Union for Senior Services