**Template letter to contact governments about Oviedo convention**

We (add name of organisation) are contacting you to call for the withdrawal of the

draft additional protocol to the Oviedo Convention of the Council of Europe on involuntary treatment and placement of people with mental disorders, which we believe violates the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities.

We join other NGOs, UN human rights experts and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe that have raised their concerns about how the adoption of the protocol would undermine human rights standards.

* **Its text and spirit violate the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**, that has been ratified by 46 of the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe, including all the Member States of the European Union (see statement of the experts of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities attached).
* **It would lead to further institutionalisation and forced treatment**. These practices are condemned by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
* **It would create a legal conflict between the obligations of States** at the regional level (Council of Europe) and at the international level (United Nations).

We believe that by creating a special scheme allowing room for restrictions to human rights the draft protocol goes against personal dignity and autonomy that need to be guaranteed regardless of age or disability. This is why we ask you **object the draft protocol** and instead focus your efforts on developing alternative measures to forced treatment and institutionalisation, in collaboration with organisations of older persons and persons with disabilities.

Thank you

(Name and signature)