



The Uganda Reach The Aged Association

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Submission on Education, Lifelong learning and capacity Building to the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing by Uganda Reach the Aged Association.

1. Uganda recognizes education as a basic human right and in this regard provides education at all levels. The right to lifelong learning, Education and skills building is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. For example, Article 30 of the Constitution grants the right to education. The National policy for older persons also emphasizes the need for promotion of equitable access to basic and continuous education for all through conducting the training needs for all older persons and designing modules for older persons. The National Adult literacy policy calls for promotion and protection of the right to adult literacy services for all. At African Regional Level, Article 16 of the Protocol to the Africa charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of older persons in Africa states that; "States shall provide opportunities for older persons to have access to education and to acquire ICT skills"
2. **Scope of the right:** Older persons have a right to education, life-long learning and skills building on an equal basis on with others without discrimination so as to be able to live autonomous and independent lives and fully enjoy their rights.
 - a) **Availability:** Older persons have a right to all forms of education life-long learning and skills building including but not limited to tertiary education, vocational training and retraining, digital and new technology based education, adult education, informal, recreational and community based education, legal literacy skills, training in literacy, numeracy and technological competences. The existing standards include the Uganda Constitution, National Adult Literacy policy, the National Qualifications Framework Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training Curriculum.
 - b) **Accessibility and Adaptability:** Older persons have a right to equal access to opportunities of education and skills building available to the general public and to learning opportunities adapted to their specific needs including duration of study. In this regard some adult education programs tailored to what the older persons want to learn. A good example is the Functional Adult Literacy Program. The government has also come up with a special adult education program to address the needs of older persons with seeing difficulties. A National qualifications framework has also been developed for older persons who need to shift from the non-formal to the formal education system. Older persons take shorter time to complete the formal education program. Older persons who want to spend longer duration on the training are also

Vision: A dignified self-fulfilled poverty-free ageing Uganda
Mission: To champion the realization and preservation of a dignified quality of life for all persons in Uganda
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assisted. The existing standards include the National Adult Literacy Policy, Functional Adult Literacy Curriculum and National Qualifications Framework, Secondary School Curriculum and Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training Curriculum.

c) Accessibility:

Older persons have a right to opportunities of education. Changes are made to enable older person's access education more easily. For instance, all adult education programs to older persons are free. Adult education programs are arranged according to the days and time convenient to the older learners. Older learners do not like traveling long distances to attend classes. Some of the learning venues include resident homes, community centers, religious centers etc.

d) Older persons have a right to participate as teachers and sources of knowledge for life learning, education and skills building programs.

Older persons should have opportunities to participate in discussion making processes regarding the shape, content of long-life programs. Existing standards include the National Qualification Framework, Functional Adult literacy curriculum and the national policy on Adult literacy, business, and technical and vocational training policy.

3. State Obligations.

State parties shall take measures to ensure that, older persons are not discriminated against.

For instance, older persons should have access to opportunities in all forms of life-long learning and skills building.

- a) Older persons should have the same opportunities as others to benefit from scholarships and other educational study grants.
- b) Reasonable accommodation of an individual's requirements should be provided e.g. older persons with disabilities.
- c) Negative ageist stereotypes and prejudices about older person's ability should be eliminated.
- d) Systems and mechanisms should be put in place so that all older persons are able to upgrade their acquired knowledge and skills and utilize them for the benefit of all.

4. Specific Considerations

Safeguards should be put in place to protect against breaches of the rights education, life-long learning and skills building including breaches of privacy and security of data on digital online and new technology based learning platforms.

Public Private Partnerships should be strengthened as the private sector complements to the government efforts.



Systems should be put in place to enable older persons move with the fast technological advances.

More resources should be allocated by states parties to promote and protect older person's rights to lifelong learning, education and skills building

5. Non state parties such as private sector need to strengthen collaboration with states parties in the promotions and protection of rights of older persons to education, lifelong learning and skills building.

6. Implementation.

The best practices include development human rights based adult education programmes for older persons.

Development of tailor made programmes to address the diverse needs of older persons

The main challenge is negative ageist stereotypes and prejudice about older persons' ability in matters that affect their lives

Training of professionals in andragogy.

Yours Sincerely



PP Frederick Ouma Bwire
Chief Executive Officer

