

OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGING

Intersessional work

OLDER PEOPLE'S VOICE MUST BE HEARD

Older people are calling for a UN convention. It's time for governments to listen.

#Age With Rights/ ACTIVE AGING

Someone has said, "The tree grows longer over the years, rivers widen, likewise with age human beings gain immeasurable depth and breadth of experience and wisdom. That is why senior citizens should not only be respected and served they should be utilized as the rich source of society. "

A) Equality and Non Discrimination

The obligation to eliminate discrimination on the basis of age is not well recognized, properly understood or universally accepted, particularly age is not explicitly listed as a ground of discrimination. There is lack of clear guidance on how states should meet their equality and nondiscrimination obligations towards older persons. Lack of laws to prohibit discrimination on the basis of Age if at all recognized it is my charitable institutes helping older persons.

B) Violence, Neglect and Abuse

Older persons in all their diversity are subjected to different types of financial, physical, sexual, psychological violence and abuse and neglect, perpetrators and settings. Older persons face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and /or can be victims of violence, crimes, compounded by their gender, age or disability or on other grounds which affects their right to enjoy their human rights. Abuse of older persons can have serious consequences, including physical injuries, premature mortality, depression, cognitive decline, and financial devastation, placement in nursing homes or care centers. Older Women face physical, emotional, financial and sexual violence and neglect as they are perceived to be alone and powerless. These women have no choice but to continue living with their perpetrators. They do not receive necessary help, assistance or even fair hearing when they report the issues to the police or village chiefs. Rather they face barriers. Their family members can be the biggest threat to their safety. Recently NDTV has reported an advocate with the help of his wife and son abused his own mother in her own house. He was caught by police on the request of Daughter's intervention. It does not happen always frail women are thrown away from their own houses and police advises them to resolve the issue as its family matter.

The existing ineffective enforcement of laws to prevent elder abuse is a shame on society. A convention on the rights of older persons may clarify the scope of older

persons' rights to be free from violence, abuse and neglect and crime. It may also clarify that the Older Persons have a right to support services, as well as access to remedies and redress.

c) Long term care and palliative care:-

Long term care and palliative care have started showing its visibility in few cities but it a private business for Higher income groups ,other places the type of support services available to older persons vary and is limited and unaffordable to everyone except those with high income.

Lack of accessible information about care and support services eligibility, criteria, discrimination, bureaucracy and having to travel long distances are barriers to accessibility.

More over limited choice and control over the care and support they receive from family is the only option and support for many. Loss of income and deterioration in health makes them dependent on others.

No access to palliative care to die in peace free from pain and suffering

d) Autonomy and independence

To enjoy their right to autonomy an Older Person must be able to make their own choice about all aspects of their lives they must also have legal capacity to exercise their decisions. It is observed in many cases they are striped off from their rights and legal capacity by guardianship, measures which remove their ability to make decisions about their finances, employment, management and dispossessed of their property, who to vote for, where and with whom to live with, access to health services, family life, and participation in community, voluntary services and activities. Different people are preventing, or interfering with older Persons autonomy and independence, including service providers and family members. Some human rights organizations have recognized the right to autonomy in older age but these have limited resources or provide insufficient protection.

e) Social Security and Social protection:-

Older Persons are denied their right to Social Security and Social protection, whether they are women, men, older Persons with disabilities, from Low income groups, Middle Income groups or High income groups. Pensioners are unable to afford basic necessities to survive such as food, shelter, health care, medical facilities, safe drinking water, clothing, care and support, housing etc. They rely on others to support them. The older Persons are subjected to theft, threatening, intimidation, murder, imprisonment in own houses, humiliation, beating by spouses, sons, daughters-in-law, even own sons and grandsons and granddaughters, they are treated like an ATM machines to fulfill their financial needs, disrespect and fraud are common in all societies.

f) Education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building:-

Not respected, protected or fulfilled. The exclusion of Older Persons from learning and educational opportunities is a denial to their HR and prevents them from pursuing and realization of their Human Right to work, participate in social economic and cultural and political life and to health. To enhance skills and knowledge use to use smart phones to pay bills, buy things,

g) Right to work and access to labor market:-

Being old is the reason to refuse work, limited opportunities exist and disregard for past experience. Poor working conditions, limited jobs are available to Older Persons and failure to make accommodations for Older Persons wanting to stay in employment also restrict Older Persons access to work.

h) Access to health and Justice:-

Social inclusion optimizing older persons opportunities to have meaningful relationships it is intrinsically linked to enjoyment of full spectrum of human Right to health and access to health services

i)Economic Security:- Economic Security is also far fetched dream nowadays. New online frauds are reported every day, people are losing their life long learning to the hackers and governments just ignore. Banks are unapproachable in the branches. Weak eyes, listening barriers are making them simple targets for frauds.

j)Accessibility, Infrastructure and habitat:-

Affordable old age homes, geriatric hospitals, and palliative services must be started by Governments and it should get same charges as the pension provided by governments to EWS pensioners.

k) Participation in public life and decision making processes is important.

Virtual meetings and briefing must be conducted at all levels to ensure diverse voices and rich contributions directly from older people, civil societies and others. Older Persons must be encouraged to participate in social group activities, laughter groups, Compassionate Community Care activities, visiting older persons and spending some time to listen to their story.

We at Gharonda fully support the full, effective and meaningful participation of Older persons and civil societies ,pursuant to the decision adopted by the Open Ended Working Group on Aging (OEWGA).

Globally there is increase in longevity, life expectancy and Ageism. India will have 324 million older persons by 2050.

Are we ready for this explosion of older persons in the years to come? Our Transport system, public health system, roads, internet and phone services, community services, older persons societies, health and medical facilities, insurance for all, water and habitats, laws and safety measures at place?

There are many senior citizens who are pensioners, many who get medical and travel benefits, but there are many more who cannot afford two square meals a day, who are sick and do not get any medical assistance, who are below the poverty line but do not get assistance or paltry assistance and finally those elders who are being abused by those who are required to take care of them. It is almost 12% pensioners and 88% unorganized groups such as farmers, laborers etc.

In India Senior citizens are the most neglected lot. No political party announces any new schemes for them. State and Central Governments spend very small amount for the welfare of the human rights of fast growing section. Their problems are invisible and respect and dignity at stake.

Independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity of older persons are unseen even though India has NAOP-1991 and Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens' Act. 2007-MWPSC Act. But it is ineffective as implementation is not effective and elder friendly and does not assure justice to all who abuse the elders for their pension, property, jewelry and goods and their personal security legal help cell and sensitization of police is very crucial.

All the participants of Gharonda and AISCCON's 21st conference organized at Pune, Maharashtra on 10th & 11th October, 2023 are of the opinion:

To strengthen the protection of older person's rights and safety the following points must be taken into consideration.

- Increase in Interest Rates on Fixed deposits for Senior Citizens Savings in post offices and banks.
- Old age Pension scheme (IGNOAPS) should be increased to minimum Rs.7500/- to EPS category as per the recommendation of Koshare committee.
- Income tax relaxation to Older Persons 60+ and Super Senior Older Persons must be raised to Rs. five lakhs and Rs seven lakhs at least.
- Unified and One National Programme for health care for all Older Persons (without discrimination of financial status) should be implemented all over the country and implementation must be followed at all levels..
- Fare Concessions in all modes of travel -by Air, rail, city and state bus service provider must be provided and age friendly transportation must be available to older persons. Enforcement of traffic discipline at zebra crossings to facilitate older persons to cross streets must be strictly followed.
- Shelters for abandoned older persons/ Old Age homes run by govt. must be built in all big cities and as per the demand.

- Geriatric care and affordable and assessable Medical facilities with the diameter of 2 kilometers in rural and urban areas must be provided.
- Free and timely vaccinations/immunization for preventable diseases for older persons must be the responsibility of Government at state and center level. Advocacy for it must be done in Media to keep older persons healthy to reduce burden on govt. resources.
- It is the demand of AISCCON members and GHARONDA That a separate ministry exclusively for senior citizens at center and state level must be created to meet the requirements and fulfill the needs of older persons of India. The Lack of participation of older persons in decision-making processes is made painfully excluding Older Persons .For small things sanctions, information, permissions, training, they have to run from pillar to post Representatives of NGO's are not given time to meet ministers to express their problems. It is suggested that older persons should be involved in the decision making policies and processes, and their concerns and perspectives must be fully interrogated and their consultation must become a part of laws made for them in all policies if these are related to older persons.
All the political parties must include Older Persons Welfare Schemes in their Agenda.
- Data Center of older persons must be maintained at Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samittee, Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation, Taluka level, District level, State level, Union territories and Center level .An inter-ministerial committee must coordinate with all relative ministeries. We we depend mostly on data presented by Help age India or other organizations which is not a government agency .
- Education and information and training must be organized on National TV .There is only song and entertainment program, two hours TV must be made for information, advocacy and education of Older Persons.
- All the welfare schemes must be announced on Door Darshan National TV, Regional languages TV Door Darshan in all the languages of states and repeated regularly Exclusively two hours in afternoon's must be dedicated to Older Persons on all National TV Channels.
- Open book exams and lifelong learning centers should be opened for Older Persons to learn computers, first aid, art painting, digitally competent Indian Older Persons Should be the target of skill India program, computer literate citizens will be proud and self-sufficient to take care of their requirements .Diplomas and Degree courses must be introduced digitally without Age bar and previous formal education bar.

There is an urgent need for a comprehensive International legally binding instrument that protects the rights of older persons to participate in public life and decision-making processes. Participation in the implementation, monitoring and reporting mechanisms established at national levels would provide a way for

older persons to hold their governments to account and the recommendations from these mechanisms would feed into policymaking and reform processes.

Attended National seminars conducted by AISCCON and as a member of AISCCON.

Attended numerous webinars and virtual conferences organised by ICCA, IFA (Age-Friendly Environments ECHO), GAROP, EAPO, NIMHANS, WISHWA and

This reports will be sent to AISCCON .

Dr. Asha Vijai Rao

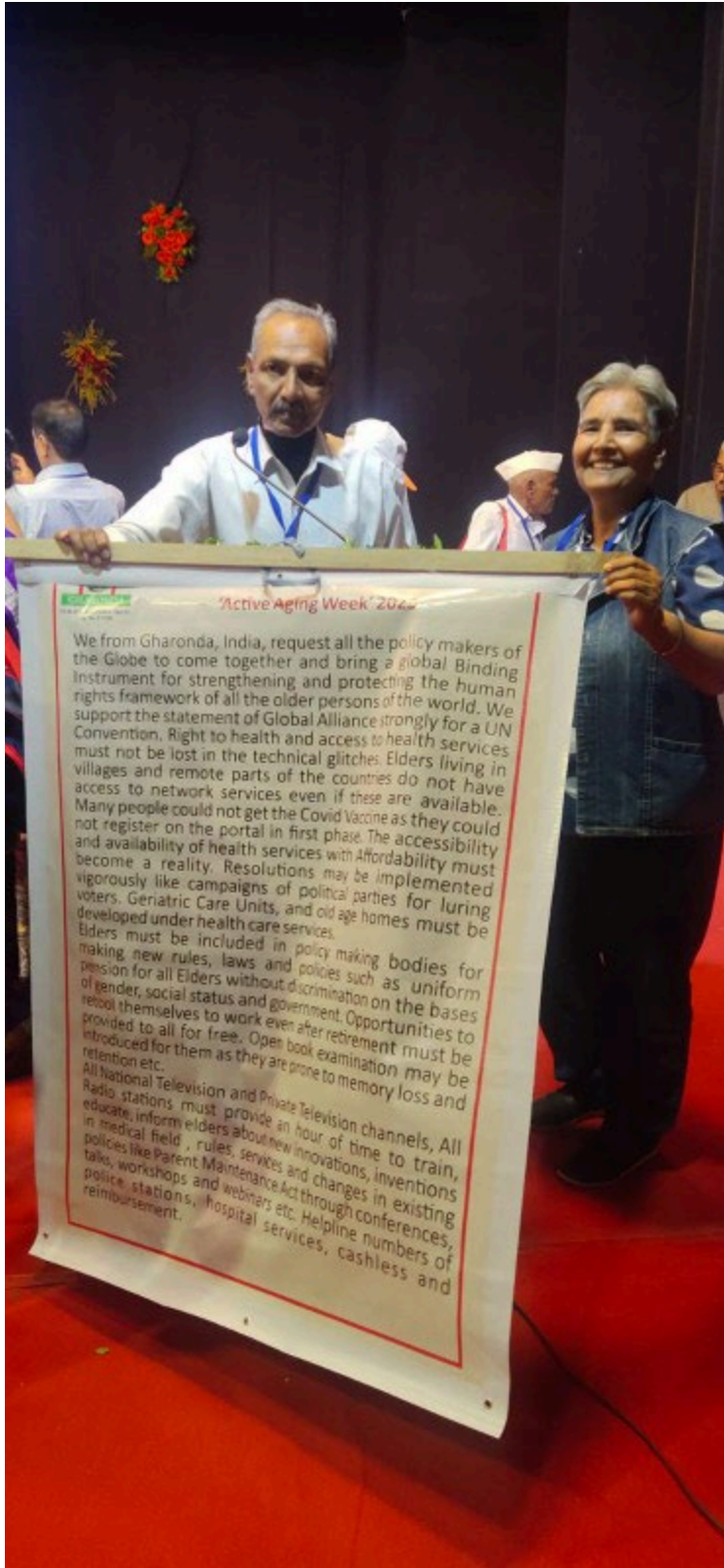
GHARONDA and AISCCON

Information collected from various sources including the Souvenir 'VARISHTANAND' of AISCCON

MY SINCERE THANKS Dr Vinod Shah, JANSEVA FOUNDATION ,PUNE, for my internship as the student of First Geriatric Care Course of TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES LLC,MUMBAI AND INVITATION TO ATTEND AANAND MELAVA ON 9TH OCTOBER 2023.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE WONDERFUL NATIONAL Level Conference at Pune ON 10 & 11 OCTOBER, 2023 under the leadership of PRISIDENT V.K.BHADANE,AISCCON and my mentor Dr.Namdeorao Dafal,Ionawala,Maharashtra, Joint Secretary,AISCCON





Active Aging Week 2022

We from Gharonda, India, request all the policy makers of the Globe to come together and bring a global Binding Instrument for strengthening and protecting the human rights framework of all the older persons of the world. We support the statement of Global Alliance strongly for a UN Convention. Right to health and access to health services must not be lost in the technical glitches. Elders living in villages and remote parts of the countries do not have access to network services even if these are available. Many people could not get the Covid Vaccine as they could not register on the portal in first phase. The accessibility and availability of health services with Affordability must become a reality. Resolutions may be implemented vigorously like campaigns of political parties for luring voters. Geriatric Care Units, and old age homes must be developed under health care services. Elders must be included in policy making bodies for making new rules, laws and policies such as uniform pension for all Elders without discrimination on the bases of gender, social status and government. Opportunities to retool themselves to work even after retirement must be provided to all for free. Open book examination may be introduced for them as they are prone to memory loss and retention etc. All National Television and Private Television channels, All Radio stations must provide an hour of time to train, educate, inform elders about new innovations, inventions in medical field, rules, services and changes in existing policies like Parent Maintenance Act through conferences, talks, workshops and webinars etc. Helpline numbers of police stations, hospital services, cashless and reimbursement.



#OlderNotOver

- We are the champions for social Change
- Ageism Awareness, Elder Abuse Awareness
- Advancing Older Persons Immunization
- Integrated Care Programs for Older Persons
- Age Friendly Environments
- Ask & Involve Older Persons to Address the Needs Of Older Persons: Housing Insecurity
- Eviction, Homelessness
- Financial Abuse & Lack of Awareness and Multiple Fraudulent Apps, Increasing Insensitivity
- Mental Health Problems
- Psychological Problems
- Medical Problems Due To Climatic Changes
- Policies Rendered Useless Due To Lack of Information & Education, Legal Help Centers
- Government's Affordable & Accessible Old Age Homes, Health Care & Wellness Programs
- Dedicated & Exclusive Door Darshan Channel for Senior Citizens
- With Quality Programs to develop their cognitive behaviour, Separate Minister & Ministry for Increasing Population of Older Persons.

