

14th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Guiding questions for the focus area on “accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)”

Replies provided by:

Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works (MTIP)

NCPE – National Commission for the Promotion of Equality

National legal and policy framework

1. What are the national legal provisions and policy frameworks that recognize older persons’ rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)? This could include, but is not limited to:

a) the right of older persons to adequate housing, including land, property and inheritance.

b) the right of older persons to access and enjoy, on an equal basis with others, the physical environment, transportation, information and communications (including ICTs), and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas (e.g. buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, schools, housing, green spaces, medical facilities and workplaces; information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services).

Concession Agreement stipulates that all buses need to be accessible to persons with disability (especially mobility)

In this respect buses are low floor, having priority seating and other amenities that aid transportation. There are also design guidelines re infrastructure.

c) policies/programmes that enable older persons to live independently and to be included in their communities as they age.

2. What are the challenges and barriers faced by older persons for the realization of their right to accessibility, infrastructure use and habitat (transport, housing and access) at the national and international levels?

New infrastructure is designed and implemented in accordance with guidelines. Issue rests with the older infrastructure.

Data and research

3. What data, statistics and research are available at the national level regarding older persons’ rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (public transport, housing and access)?

Data available regards usage.

Equality and non-discrimination

4. What measures are being taken to eliminate ageism, ageist stereotypes, prejudices and behaviours that hinder older persons’ rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)?

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) is an equality body that works to safeguard equality on the ground of age, among other grounds, in employment; banks and financial institutions, as well as education as per the Equality for Men and Women Act, CAP 456 of the Laws of Malta.

5. What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to submit complaints and seek redress for denial of their rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)

Complaint structure open to all passengers without discrimination.

Additionally, the NCPE Commissioner is thus empowered to investigate complaints of alleged discrimination as per the remit. The following complaints were received on the ground of age throughout the years.

Complaints on the ground of Age				
Year	Women	Men	Ex Officio Investigations	Total
2012	1	0	0	1
2013	1	2	0	3
2014	0	9	0	9
2015	0	2	0	2
2016	0	1	0	1
2017	1	1	0	2
2018	1	0	1	2
2019	1	0	0	1
2020	0	1	1	2
2021	0	0	1	1
2022	0	1	0	1
2023	1	1	0	2
*2024	0	0	0	0
				27

*to date

Policy Work

The NCPE gives feedback to laws, policies and strategies issued for public consultation, evaluating the impact of the proposed actions on different social groups, and proposing the integration of measures that can combat discrimination and achieve equality in practice, in the context of the Government policy on the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy.

Particularly, input was given to the public consultation on the National Strategic Policy for Active Ageing.

Communications and PR

In order to raise awareness on equality rights and responsibilities including on age, the NCPE:

- **Provides training on equality** – Age, as a ground of discrimination and a social identity linked to inequalities, is mentioned in training sessions given to different stakeholders.
- **Publishes articles** particularly related to international days, including on the International day of older persons and the World elder abuse awareness day.
- **Develops social media posts** to highlight the above international days.
- **Disseminates newsletters on specific topics**, with highlights on different grounds, including age, such as:
 - Equality in the media (2021) (stereotypes, ageism).
 - Equality and the COVID-19 pandemic (2020) (the pandemic posing a particularly severe threat to the lives and health of older people).
 - Equality in sport (2022) (ageism in sport).
- **Organises conferences** to discuss topical issues with different stakeholders. The 2022 Conference marking International Women’s Day and the Annual Conference focused on intersectionality on different grounds, including age.