



National Commission for Human Rights

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SUBMISSION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF RWANDA FOR THE 14 TH SESSION OF THE UN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING

National and local legal and policy framework

1. What are the national and local legal provisions and policy frameworks in your country that guarantee?

a) Right to equality and prohibition of all forms of discrimination against older persons on the basis of age, alone or combined with other grounds, in the context of participation in public life and in decision-making processes;

- Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda provides equality before the law and protection from any kind of discrimination;
- Law n°39/2013 of 16/06/2013 establishing the Rwandan Elder's Advisory Forum and determining its mission, organization and functioning
- Law N° 50/2018 of 13/08/2018 Amending Law N° 31/2009 of 26/10/2009 on the Protection of Intellectual Property

b) elimination of all forms of ageism and age discrimination from laws, frameworks, programs, policies, strategies and practices regarding participation in public life and in decision-making processes;

- Law n° 058/2023 of 04/12/2023 amending Law n° 027/2019 of 19/09/2019 relating to the criminal procedure

c) right to freedom of expression, including freedom to seek, receive and impart information;

- Law n° 04/2013 of 08/02/2013 relating to access to information allows **every** person right of access to information in possession of a public organ and some private bodies

d) right of peaceful assembly;

- The Constitution of Rwanda guarantees the right to freedom of peaceful and unarmed assembly without discrimination (art.40)

e) right to freedom of association;

- The Constitution of Rwanda guarantees the right to freedom of association for all (art.39)

f) right to take part in the government of one's country, directly or through freely chosen representatives;

- Organic law n° 001/2023.ol of 29/11/2023 amending organic law 29/11/2023 n° 001/2019.ol of 29/07/2019 governing elections which specifies there is no age limit for vote for eligible persons;

g) active, free and meaningful participation of older persons and their representative organizations in all matters related to participation in public life and in decision-making processes;

- Law n°39/2013 of 16/06/2013 establishing the Rwandan Elder's Advisory Forum and determining its mission, organization and functioning

h) access to prompt remedies and redress when older persons' above-mentioned rights are violated.

- Law N° 027/2019 of 19/09/2019 relating to the criminal procedure empowers the victim to institute a civil action and orders the accused to pay damages without any discrimination.
- National Legal Aid Policy (October 2014) emphasis the legal services to older persons including legal assistance and legal aid, on an equal basis with others without discrimination.

2. What steps have been taken to ensure participation in public life and in decision-making processes without discrimination?

- Representativity in Political positions, Rwanda Elder Advisory Forum; and Non-Government Organizations.
- Participation in community programs such as Community work, Citizen Forums, elections, elaboration of performance contracts and budgeting;
- Celebration of the International Day for Older Persons

Data and research

3. What data and research are available regarding older persons' participation in public life and in decision-making processes? Please indicate how national or sub-national data is disaggregated by sex age and inequality dimensions, and what indicators are used to monitor older persons' participation in public life and in decision-making processes.

- The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
- The NCHR conducted a qualitative survey in January 2023 and used the following indicators: *participation of the elderly in elections, in citizen forums and in community works.*

Equality and non-discrimination

4. What are the challenges and barriers that older persons face regarding participation in public life and in decision-making processes, including the impact of intersectional discrimination and inequality based on age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, migratory status and other grounds?

There is no intersectional discrimination and inequality based on age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity and migratory status.

Accountability

5. What judicial and non-judicial mechanisms are in place for older persons to complain and seek redress when their right to participate in public life and in decision-making processes is violated?

- Regular community outreach program held to hear, receive and deal with claims of people without age discrimination
- The National Commission for Human Rights receives, examines and investigates complaints relating to any kind of human rights violations
- The Mediation Committees (abunzi) which is the free and affordable justice mechanism established to mediate all citizen without discrimination and to settle disputes in their jurisdictions.
- National courts are structured and try cases of violation of different rights including right to participate in public life and in decision-making processes.

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