Human Rights and the Health of Older People

John Beard
21st Century Challenges: Ageing

The graph illustrates the proportion of the population aged 65 and over from 1990 to 2050 for various countries. Key countries include Japan, Spain, USA, China, India, Brazil, Australia, and Thailand. The trend shows a significant increase in the elderly population across all countries, with Japan leading in the proportion of those aged 65 and over by 2050. The data highlights the demographic changes and challenges associated with an aging population for the 21st century.
From Burden to Boon

- Health promotion across the life course – the importance of HEALTH

- Access to age-friendly primary health care
  - Screening, early detection and amelioration of chronic disease
  - Access to medications
  - LONG TERM CARE (home and institutional)

- Creating environments that foster engagement
  - Economic
  - Social
  - Physical
The Right to Care 1

Hypertension Prevalence and Treatment

- Mexico
- India
- S Africa
- Ghana
- China

- Hypertensive
- Aware
- Treated
## LATIN AMERICA: RIGHTS PROTECTED UNDER NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON OLDER PERSONS, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Right to equality and non-discrimination</th>
<th>Right to life and to die with dignity</th>
<th>Right to physical, mental and emotional integrity and dignified treatment</th>
<th>Right to participate in the social, cultural and political life of the community</th>
<th>Right to an adequate standard of living and to social services</th>
<th>Right to physical and mental health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- X indicates the right is protected under national legislation.
- Blank indicates the right is not protected under national legislation.

**References:**
- World Health Organization
- Global Conference on Ageing 2010
OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED BY STATES PARTIES WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS

- The obligation to respect human rights: States parties must refrain from interfering with the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in human rights instruments.

- The obligation to protect human rights: States parties must prevent third parties from infringing economic, social and cultural rights by, for example, promoting environmental protection by businesses and punishing discrimination in private institutions.

- The obligation to promote human rights: States parties must take affirmative action to ensure the genuine exercise of rights. This obligation entails the organization of the entire governmental apparatus in such a way as to ensure that it is capable of providing legal guarantees for the free and full exercise of human rights (Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Velásquez Rodríguez case, 29 July 1988).

The Right to Care 2

Percentage of Women who Have Final Say in Decision-making Regarding Their Own Health Care 2001-2005

Source: Closing the Gap in a Generation
Human rights and the health of older people

- Social protection floor

- Discrimination Due to Age
  - Employment
  - Insurance
  - Rationing
  - Emergency response

- Access

- Health promotion across the life course

- Long term and palliative care