Article 2

We celebrate rising life expectancy in many regions of the world as one of humanity’s major achievements.

We recognize that the world is experiencing an unprecedented demographic transformation and that by 2050 the number of persons aged 60 years and over will increase from 600 million to almost 2 billion and that the proportion of persons aged 60 years and over is expected to double from 10 to 21 per cent.

The increase will be greatest and most rapid in developing countries where the older population is expected to quadruple during the next 50 years.

This demographic transformation challenges all our societies to promote increased opportunities, in particular opportunities for older persons to realize their potential to participate fully in all aspects of life.
Approach

- It's has been perceived since ages that age old beliefs have created such traditions which stand nullified in the current age.

- The corruption of ideologies need to be rectified and the value of human being in young and old age respected.

- Viewing it from cultural perspective simplifies recreating the current human rights understanding.
Respect traditions of the society, but not at the cost of loss of individual dignity.

His practical and dynamic advice was:

"It is good to swim in the waters of tradition, but to sink in them is suicide".
Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.
Age & Social Exclusion

- Lets not forget that the only constant in the universe is CHANGE

- However the process of change is not only slow but always resented

- Therefore it is important to first define and understand this CHANGE of....

- Living life fully or.... in denial !!
Older Persons– Living in Denial

- The under developed countries based on their cultural beliefs have been conditioned for a way of life
- It is identified that old age is to be lived in seclusion – which leads to worldly denial
- It is a stage of
  - Minimum consumption
  - Minimum attachment
  - Maximum Service to others &
  - Complete life of spirituality - renouncement
Circumstance force old people to remain invisible

- Young try to shun them
- Families try and tolerate them
- Society ignores them
- Governments and policy makers neglect them as they remain invisible
United Efforts : Need of the Hour

- To assess the processes of population ageing globally
- To study the emerging socio-economic & demographic scenario
- To identify the responsible factors for changed social behaviors towards old people
- To create awareness about rights of older persons
- For advocacy, lobbying & collaboration for protection of rights of older persons
- To build sustainable support system for protection of Human Rights of Older Persons at international as well as national levels
The Gender Divide

- Older women have more critical problems than older men. Due to social and traditional family structure, they are forced to live with many limitations.

- Hence, they find themselves marginalized and isolated all the time.

- As women live longer than men, many of them have to live a life of a widow in their silver years. Widowhood in old age worsens the situation.
Human Rights & Status of Older women in India

- India has a population of approx. 60 million - older women (60+).

- Traditionally, in India women have a respectable place in almost all societies.

- But ground realities vary from this fact and human rights of older women are at stake today.
The Survey Finding

- 90% older women have virtually no knowledge of women rights, due to illiteracy or lack of exposure to outer world.
Illiteracy the biggest cause of minimal understanding of human rights for the elderly
The Survey Finding

- 44% older women were found living in inhuman conditions as per interviewers’ observations.
Rights of older people

- Rights of older people are embedded in international human rights conventions

- Human rights of older people violated in a number of different ways…
  - Elder abuse
  - Mistreatment
  - Age discrimination
  - ageism
Older people need

- Equal protection before law
- Own property and use it the way they want to
- Information, knowledge and education
- Work and remain gainfully engaged
- Participate in the process of governance
- Social security emotionally, legally and financially
- Health and social care services
Rights of older people

- By the year 2040 there would be more older people than the young in this world.
- The time has come now Ageism and Age discrimination are unacceptable.
- We all need a UN Convention on Human Rights of Older Persons.
Come let’s all join hands & work towards strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.

Thank you.