



Fédération Internationale des Associations de Personnes Âgées
ONG dotée du statut consultatif auprès de l'ONU, du statut participatif à l'OMS, à l'UNESCO et à la Conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe • Fondateur et Administrateur de l'Association AGE • Association reconnue comme Etablissement d'Utilité Publique selon Décret du 6 Décembre 2006

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8th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing: July 5th to 7th 2017

Theme: "Neglect, Violence and Abuse": **Elder Abuse and fight against the exclusive control**

The Fiapa is an International Federation of Associations of the Elderly which has existed for more than 35 years in 25 countries on each of the continents. The fight against all elder abuse, especially financial maltreatment and stranglehold has always been one of our areas of action, work and research.

Indeed, it is a very complex problem in which the relations of predator to victim deserve to be observed with great finesse. All this constitutes work to be systematically updated by making proposals, by setting up diagnoses and recommending solutions that are best suited to prevent this delinquent problem.

Overview and actions already undertaken

In 2008, an investigation report by the FIAPA member federations in France, Italy, Spain and Belgium was launched as part of the European DAPHNE program. It showed an **alarming increase** in financial malpractice against the elderly, at home and in institutions, and highlighted the notion of "clever delinquency".

In France, in 2011, as part of a mission report on financial maltreatment against elderly people, mandated by the Ombudsman of the French Republic, FIAPA also stated the need to conduct research to have a better understanding of the phenomenon.

At the end of 2016, the Secretary of State for the Elderly in France asked FIAPA and the 3977 Federation of Fight Against Elder Abuse to carry out a mission to update knowledge on these abuses and propose operational measures aimed to the professionals to enable the detection, reporting, management and follow-up of financial maltreatment. The national report of this mission will be published in June 2017.

In 2016, FIAPA is launching the first training seminars "Better understanding financial abuse to be more vigilant" with professionals and experts. In April 2017, at the International Symposium "The Rights of Our Elders in the World" in Cuba, attended by 180 delegates from 17 countries, a specific workshop was dedicated to this topic and the Vice-President of Fiapa, ANAP Italy, presented a questionnaire which will be completed by the different countries.

Warming

FIAPA encourages the inclusion of the fight against violence and abuse, without forgetting financial exploitation, in legal instruments.

At the 54th Session of the Commission on Social Development in February 2016 and at the 7th Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in December 2016, FIAPA presented a draft convention on the protection of the elderly. The objective is to claim the fundamental rights of older people so that they can fully and freely enjoy their citizenship rights by including deterrence, mediation and repression.

Nevertheless, the phenomenon remains little or poor measured, always underestimated without dedicated and operational structure. **Why are we still there?**

The communication and reporting tools available and/or to be implemented remain weak despite the multiplication and the diversity of the situations noted. **Why?**

Request to the ageing group:

We believe that a Convention would bring concrete results to the promotion of the human rights of older persons and would complete existing instruments and institutions.

In terms of protection and support for people in situations of fragility, and especially with regard to abuse, the priority objectives for FIAPA, its members and its associative and institutional partners are:

- relevant alert systems,
- operational measures aimed at professionals to enable the detection, reporting, management and follow-up of financial maltreatment,
- specific training for professionals,
- prevention and support for family caregivers,
- changes in mentality on the citizenship of seniors through an approach of information, prevention and search for consent,
- appropriate legislation. We need to be able to take measures to ensure access to rights and legal protection for seniors, an enhanced protection of property and an expanded scope of responsibility!

Our work demonstrated that the victims of financial maltreatment will undoubtedly be increasing in the years to come, not least because of the ageing of the population, but also by the proliferation of medico-social emptiness and the loss of the social link. It's urgently call for voluntary measures.

Taking this extremely complex issue at the source to prevent fragile people from falling into poverty, indebtedness and the risk of unworthiness means giving ourselves the ways to act beforehand to prevent this global problem that requires that we mobilize!

One way to eradicate poverty is to prevent it.

