

Availability and accessibility:

2. What steps have been taken to ensure the availability of judicial and non-judicial mechanisms for older persons in urban, rural and remote areas in your country? Are there alternative dispute settlement mechanisms available?

Older people complain about not having enough information regarding their rights and access to justice. “I think that the real problem wasn’t my age, rather not having anyone to advise me on this procedure.”

59-year-old man.

Older people are limited in legal services and this results to violence, abuse and neglect by their families and the community. The UN and member states should avail legal services to older people in accordance with their specific concerns, including legal assistance and legal aid, on an equal basis with others.

Older people also face issues related to violence, abuse and neglect and no one cares as there is no binding law protecting them. In their words they say:

“We are denied our rights when it comes to the use of our property, because when an older person is sick and the treatment costs require selling of land, a house or any other property, we are told that it would be waste of resources. How can you say that we are all equal? There are those who are higher than others! Where can we take our complaints if there is no law related to the protection of older people?”

There are many other examples, leading to the conclusion for the UN to speed up a convention regulating specific measures to respond to specific needs/issues of older persons, so that the States are bound by those terms of a convention.