



## Cercle des Seniors Actifs Europe

Association (Loi 1901) Registered 15/11/2007 n° W7511883881  
11, rue du Champ de Mars, 75007 Paris Tel +33 06 99 52 73 74  
[www.passitonnetwork.org](http://www.passitonnetwork.org) [moiraallan@yahoo.fr](mailto:moiraallan@yahoo.fr)

### 11th session of Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing Submission of Endorsed Written Statement from 2Young2Retire COVID-19, Older Persons, and Human Rights

---

COVID-19 shines a blatant spotlight on the inequities and discrimination against our older persons. System failures and rights violations are evident worldwide:

- **AFRICA.** On International Day of Older Persons 2020, WHO regional director stressed the needs in addressing long term care systems, social protection schemes and data gathering for policy intervention in sub-Saharan Africa where older person population in the region is projected to reach 67 million by 2025.<sup>1</sup>
- **CANADA.** 81% of COVID-19 deaths in Canada were in long-term care – nearly double OECD average in June 2020. This percentage reduced to 73% as of Jan 2021.<sup>2</sup>
- **INDIA.** Notwithstanding the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, abandonment of old age parents continues to rise; especially through the pandemic. In December 2020, Government of India announced implementation of a “Elder Line” to support abandoned older persons.<sup>3</sup>
- **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.** Over 15 million (or roughly 1 in 3) older adults aged 65+ are economically insecure, with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level at \$25,760 per year for a single person in 2021.<sup>4</sup>

These are only a few examples. Globally, older persons, citizens, journalists, civil societies, rights defenders, academia, and others also called out ageism, digital divide, barriers to service and information, isolation, abuse, discrimination at work, and the list goes on.

Although governments are acting to right the wrongs, we have yet to address the root causes - universally older persons are not recognized as rights holders and human rights related to aging and the latter life course are not codified, protected, and fulfilled.

- The 100-year life was beyond imagination in 1948 when Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted. Globally, age 60 and over population grew five



## Cercle des Seniors Actifs Europe

Association (Loi 1901) Registered 15/11/2007 n° W7511883881  
11, rue du Champ de Mars, 75007 Paris Tel +33 06 99 52 73 74  
[www.passitonnetwork.org](http://www.passitonnetwork.org) [moiraallan@yahoo.fr](mailto:moiraallan@yahoo.fr)

folds since then. In 2020, 1.05 billion rights holders are in this population group. This is 21% of the world population and expected to double by 2050.

- Existing international, regional, and national human rights instruments do not provide sufficient coverage on aging issues and older persons. UDHR, foundation for international rights instruments, did not prohibit “age” amongst its list of discriminating distinctions.
- Ageism is rampant. During COVID, discriminatory care decisions, prejudiced age-based social media comments, and cavalier attitude on the value of older lives intensified.
- Age is a human identity. As we champion equality in gender, race, and disability, let us not forget “age”. We codified rights of a child in a convention because of vulnerability and potential at start of life. We codified rights in gender, race, and disabilities because of intersectionality throughout life course. So how can we ignore rights in older age – a time when physiological, social-economic circumstances may require protection and the abundance of experiences has the continued potential to grow and give to human race.

With this, we call on our Member States to support a convention on the rights of older people and we urge drafting immediately. Failure to do so deny older persons to “age with rights” today and deny the same for the rest of us tomorrow!

1. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/africa-who-urges-support-for-elderly-amid-pandemic/1991924>
2. <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/covid-19-rapid-response-long-term-care-snapshot-en.pdf>;  
<https://hillnotes.ca/2020/10/30/long-term-care-homes-in-canada-the-impact-of-covid-19/>
3. [Abused, abandoned, neglected: A law protects senior citizens in India, but not many know of it | The News Minute](#); [Cases of senior citizens abandoned by kids on the rise- The New Indian Express](#);  
<https://thefederal.com/news/bring-to-c-3-and-move-the-tractors-to-wb/>;  
<https://thelogicalindian.com/trending/centre-to-start-pan-india-helpline-for-elderly-persons-on-january-26-25486>
4. [Get the Facts on Economic Security for Seniors; Poverty Guidelines | ASPE \(hhs.gov\)](#)

			Do you endorse Statement #2 to the United Nations from Pass It On Network - On COVID 19, Older Persons and Human Rights?
Timestamp	Name	Country	
3/17/2021 18:16:24	Ermira Pirdeni	Albania	Yes
3/18/2021 14:07:01	Silvia Zweifel	Argentina	Yes
3/18/2021 14:27:10	Dra. Mercedes Jones	Argentina	Yes
3/17/2021 17:58:06	Dianne Delchau	Australia	Yes
3/17/2021 18:17:18	Jacqueline Stark	Austria	Yes
3/18/2021 7:57:55	Liliane Charenzowski	Belgium	Yes
3/24/2021 10:50:31	SAUL FAINGAUS BEKIN	Brasil	Yes
3/17/2021 20:21:20	Barbara Nogueira	Brazil	Yes
3/17/2021 21:05:54	Datin Jacqueline WM Wong	Brunei Darussalam	Yes
3/17/2021 18:02:15	Helen Hirsh Spence	Canada	Yes
3/18/2021 12:50:30	Patricia Spadafora	Canada	Yes
3/20/2021 11:59:37	Agnes Mikkelsen	Canada	Yes
3/22/2021 0:38:45	Margaret Young	Canada	Yes
3/22/2021 12:24:21	Gillian Leithman	Canada	Yes
3/23/2021 21:51:00	Susan Pratten	Canada	Yes
3/18/2021 17:47:02	Peter Rudolf Hansen	Danmark	Yes
3/18/2021 2:20:46	Moira Allan	France	Yes
3/18/2021 17:51:02	Hans Kristjan Gudmundsson	Iceland	Yes
3/17/2021 23:06:55	Capt Dr M Singaraja	India	Yes
3/18/2021 4:45:58	K Venkatachari	India	Yes
3/18/2021 5:55:36	RT Namasivayam	India	Yes
3/18/2021 6:09:48	Challagalla Nagendra Prasad	India	Yes
3/23/2021 22:59:57	Padmanabha Vyasamoorthy	India	Yes
3/24/2021 2:14:30	SILVER INNINGS	India	Yes
3/24/2021 3:15:29	Balakrishnan Govindaraju	India	Yes
3/17/2021 18:52:05	JAMES M. KINUTHIA	KENYA	Yes
3/21/2021 13:29:44	Jane Miano	Kenya	Yes
3/18/2021 6:25:18	Mabafokeng Nkobolo & Thakane Ch	Lesotho	Yes
3/18/2021 0:04:35	Naraidoo Vijay	Mauritius	Yes
3/23/2021 23:39:10	Sinjana Perianen	Mauritius	Yes
3/18/2021 1:17:49	Abo Aondofa Ephraim	Nigeria	Yes
3/23/2021 18:54:43	DAVID OLU DARE MARK	Nigeria	Yes
3/24/2021 22:15:23	Dr AFOLABI Charles Israel	Nigeria	Yes
3/23/2021 20:17:42	Adetokunbo	Nigeria	Yes
3/24/2021 12:54:56	Grażyna Busse	Poland	Yes
3/17/2021 20:28:13	Normala Manap	Singapore	Yes
3/17/2021 20:56:48	Thomas Kuan	Singapore	Yes
3/24/2021 11:36:50	Aneta Zubeková	Slovak Republic	Yes

			Do you endorse Statement #2 to the United Nations from Pass It On Network - On COVID 19, Older Persons and Human Rights?
Timestamp	Name	Country	
3/18/2021 7:35:05	Jože Gričar	Slovenia	Yes
3/23/2021 18:13:17	Ana Krajnc	Slovenia	Yes
3/17/2021 18:15:28	Camilla Vickers	South Africa	Yes
3/18/2021 7:42:15	Margaret Chapman	South Africa	Yes
3/18/2021 8:59:51	Kamlesh Ker	South Africa	Yes
3/18/2021 9:51:28	Femada Shamam	South Africa	Yes
3/18/2021 11:38:10	Prevashni Naidu	South Africa	Yes
3/19/2021 8:11:03	HILARY HENDERSON	South Africa	Yes
3/19/2021 8:47:15	Maud Motanyane-Welch	South Africa	Yes
3/20/2021 5:06:44	Lynda Smith	South Africa	Yes
3/23/2021 15:11:22	Grace Smith	South Africa	Yes
3/24/2021 3:11:28	Edward Phillips	South Africa	Yes
3/18/2021 10:27:23	Christine Crossley	South Africa	Yes
3/18/2021 2:55:38	RAQUEL ALQUEZAR	SPAIN	Yes
3/19/2021 10:56:24	Mrs Valerie Wood-Gaiger MBE	United Kingdom	Yes
3/24/2021 4:10:00	Sergio Burns	United Kingdom	Yes
3/17/2021 19:36:35	Brigit Hassig	USA	Yes
3/17/2021 20:47:32	Thomas Lacy	USA	Yes
3/17/2021 22:24:43	Jeff Rubin	USA	Yes
3/17/2021 23:09:57	Mary Radu	USA	Yes
3/17/2021 23:46:24	Jan Hively	USA	Yes
3/18/2021 9:00:43	Betsy Werley	USA	Yes
3/18/2021 16:37:14	Barbara Atkins	USA	Yes
3/18/2021 17:46:37	Mary Jo Schifsky	USA	Yes
3/18/2021 17:57:51	Pat Samples	USA	Yes
3/20/2021 23:59:50	Judith Rough	USA	Yes
3/17/2021 18:59:17	Kim Kirmmse Toth	USA	Yes
3/17/2021 19:57:53	Joan Ditzion	USA	Yes
3/17/2021 20:38:35	Harry (Rick) Moody	USA	Yes
3/17/2021 20:41:24	Neil Hitz	USA	Yes
3/18/2021 0:02:38	Osnat Lustig	USA	Yes
3/18/2021 8:32:15	Elizabeth Fideler	USA	Yes
3/18/2021 15:18:18	Meg Rose	USA	Yes
3/23/2021 9:48:51	Kathi J. Bailey	USA	Yes
3/23/2021 13:37:00	Thomas Mottl	USA	Yes
3/23/2021 17:17:08	Richard Adler	USA	Yes
3/23/2021 17:24:09	Jane Ward	USA	Yes
3/23/2021 18:13:35	Judy Berry	USA	Yes

			Do you endorse Statement #2 to the United Nations from Pass It On Network - On COVID 19, Older Persons and Human Rights?
Timestamp	Name	Country	
3/23/2021 18:51:24	Kirin Loomis	USA	Yes
3/23/2021 18:59:44	Lynne Berrett	USA	Yes
3/23/2021 21:01:56	Dorian Mintzer	USA	Yes
3/23/2021 21:51:17	Bevan Rogel	USA	Yes
3/23/2021 23:36:42	Doug Dickson	USA	Yes
3/24/2021 15:22:04	Kara Bennett	USA	Yes
3/24/2021 15:39:42	Jan Marie Lundgren	USA	Yes
3/24/2021 16:08:37	Norman H Reiss	USA	Yes
3/25/2021 10:03:35	Kate Schaefers	USA	Yes
3/18/2021 1:34:24	Anderson Simfukwe	Zambia	Yes
3/19/2021 4:36:50	Beatrice Sithole	Zimbabwe	Yes
3/18/2021 4:40:59	Vsevolod Anatolievitch Rozanov	Россия	Yes