

**From: 50plus Hellas, NGO**

**To: Global Alliance on the Rights of Older People**

**Athens, 24/3/2021**

**Subject: "Statement from 50plus Hellas, for the 11th session meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing."**

**Social protection and social security, including social protection floors**

As an NGO established in 2005 to promote the human rights of older people in Greece, we note the absolute importance of governments ensuring adequate incomes for all pensioners. In addition the problems of older people needing long term care cannot be ignored. We note in Greece that there has been no systematic and democratic way on ensuring that those needing care receive decent and adequate care nor have we seen substantive support even in the form of training, practical relief and services for the many informal/ family carers who provide most care to dependent older people.

We need a Convention to ensure that older people's rights for a decent level of income, help when dependent and needing care, and support for family carers are acknowledged and implemented by all governments.

## **Education, training, lifelong learning and capacity-building**

The difficulty in Greece is that for many decades older people were not given access to decent training opportunities after the age of 35 and have not been helped to keep up with the requirements and needs of modern society. Many went into self-employment and there were few opportunities for training. In a digital world this has proved difficult for many older people with few opportunities to be stimulated and enabled to learn essential skills for our modern societies that importantly include access to banking, government services and increasingly health services. The kind of investment needed in this is not massive and will help ensure older people remain informed, involved and empowered.

A UN convention on the rights of older persons that applies to older persons everywhere would help ensure that we can all age with rights and that all older persons in all their diversity are treated in a fairer and more just way, including in public health responses to future pandemics. A convention would provide a clear baseline, enshrined in law, to guide better policies, laws and services and set in motion a chain of events that would improve the lives of older people today and in future generations. It would put solidarity and respect for everyone's dignity to the fore as common values that we need to uphold at all times. It would challenge community attitudes, behaviours, norms and social constructions that keep us from living fairly and freely as equals when we are older.

## **The Board of 50plus Hellas**