Date 11th March 2021

To,
The Chair,
Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG) on Ageing
11th General Assembly (29th March to 1st April 2021)
United Nations
New York

Subject: Official Statement of Silver Innings Foundation

I thank you for giving us an opportunity for submitting our viewpoint for 11th General Assembly OEWG on Ageing.

We at Silver Innings Foundation are Accredited NGO for OEWG on Ageing and are member of INPEA and GAROP, since 2008 we are working towards creating Elder Friendly World where Ageing becomes a Positive and Rewarding Experience.

Population ageing is a global phenomenon having implications on all aspects of human life in every society. In order to PROTECT the rights of our Elders and move the agenda on ageing forward, the efforts of all stakeholders must be combined and coordinated so that a Society For All Ages can become a reality.

As we are in year 2021, still at the respectable age of 60+ our Elders have to struggle for their Basic Human Right of Independence, Participation, Care, Self-fulfillment, and Dignity of the older persons.

Year 2020 brought us worst nightmare of COVID-19, the pandemic and lockdown has exposed significant gaps in the protection of the rights of older persons. Across every region older persons have been denied their rights, discriminated against on the basis of their age and subjected to ageist hate speech, stigmatization and prejudice.

We at Silver Innings Foundation suggest following steps to be taken to protect our Older Adults from any further Age Discrimination and Guarantee them their Human Rights:

1. Time to Include ‘Disaster and Pandemic’ as special attention in OEWG and CONVENTION on Elder Right with regards Right to Live, Right to Health Care and Freedom from Discrimination in Health care and Rehabilitation.

2. Old Age Care need to be made ‘Essential Care Service’ so that in case of any lockdown, curfew, disaster, pandemic; old age care is continued at home and at institutions, so that continuous care of older persons are not affected.
3. Convention of Elder Right / Older Person is very much needed and cannot be avoided to deny Care, Security and Dignity to older person and make Government of the world responsible for care of their older persons

4. ‘Dementia and Mental Health’ is becoming new pandemic and it needs to be part of OEWG and new Convention

5. Replace ‘Social Distancing’ to Safe Distancing

Societies are judged by the care, respect and well-being of those people and groups of people who are disadvantaged, such as the disabled or profoundly ill.

A UN convention on the rights of older persons that applies to older persons everywhere would help ensure that all older persons are treated in a fairer and more just way, including in public health responses to future pandemics.

Thanking You.

Warm Regards,

Sailesh Mishra
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INDIA