



The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
International Human Rights Clinic
Spring Semester 2012

A Model Law on the Rights of the Elderly

Project Summary

During the spring semester 2012, a group of seven students of the International Human Rights Clinic at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) under the supervision of Professors Mohamed Mattar, Julia Braunmiller, and Tiffany Basciano drafted a “Model Law on the Rights of the Elderly.”

Students researched laws of approximately 180 countries and found legislation on the rights of the elderly in over 100 countries, spanning from constitutional provisions, pension plans, social security acts, sets of elderly laws, and health insurance laws. Some countries have only secondary sources that describe their policy toward treatment of the elderly. In addition, a list of international conventions addressing issues of the protection of the elderly. Based on these international standards and the comparative study of global laws, best practices were identified and used for drafting the provisions of the Model Law.

The Model Law on the Rights of the Elderly contains three Chapters: 1. Definitions; 2. Rights (right to dignity, right to freedom from abuse, neglect, or exploitation, right to freedom from discrimination, right to adequate healthcare, right to maintenance, right to material assistance, right to property, right to participation in society, right to work); 3. Duties (duty of third-party caretakers, duty of the family, duty of the state).

The Model Law also lists all relevant sources from national legislation on which the provisions of the Model Law are based.

The project was carried out in cooperation with the legal clinic program at the United Arab Emirates University. The students under supervision of their professor Dr. Ahmed Shawky drafted a similar model law on the rights of the elderly, based on a comparative review of legislation in the Arab world.

Both projects were presented last year at the First Middle East Regional Symposium on Clinical Legal Education held at the Dead Sea, Jordan, in May 2012.

We hope you find these documents useful for your upcoming consultations and we would be delighted to engage in further discussions and cooperation with you.