



# NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



19<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

**The Chair,**  
Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing  
United Nations  
New York.

## **GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THE FOCUS OF THE IX SESSION OF OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING: *LONG TERM CARE AND PALLIATIVE CARE***

Q1. IN NIGERIA, THERE IS NO LEGAL/POLICY DEFINITION FOR LONG-TERM CARE FOR OLDER PERSONS BECAUSE THERE IS LACK OF A NATIONAL POLICY. THERE IS ALSO NO REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.

Q2. LTC STILL RUDIMENTARY IN THE COUNTRY, LOW CAPACITY, LACK OF EQUIPMENTS, LACK OF MEDICATIONS, LACK OF NATIONAL POLICY, POOR UNDERSTANDING OF LTC, CULTURAL BELIEFS.

Q3. BILL ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS CENTERS ALREADY PASSED AND SIGNED INTO LAW, BILL ON ESTABLISHMENT AND REGULATION OF LTC AND PALLIATIVE CARE BEING CONSIDERED AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (LEGISLATURE.)

Q4. RIGHT TO LIFE, RIGHT TO DIGNITY OF HUMAN PERSON, RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, RIGHT TO HEALTH, RIGHT TO EDUCATION, RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT, RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL PROCESS, RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM ABUSE – PHYSICAL, MATERIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL OR SEXUAL, ETC

Q5. THERE IS NO LEGAL/POLICY DEFINITION FOR PALLIATIVE CARE FOR OLDER PERSONS BECAUSE THERE IS LACK OF NATIONAL POLICY.

Q6. LACK OF TRAINED PERSONNEL, NON-AVAILABILITY OF PALLIATIVE CARE CENTERS/ WARDS, CULTURE

Q7. VERY MINIMALLY.

Q8. CARE OF THE OLDER PERSONS OFTEN FALLS TO FAMILY.

Q9. PALLIATIVE CARE AND LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES ARE SPARSE. ONLY A HANDFUL CERTERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE WHOLE OF NIGERIA, AND MOST OF THESE ARE RUN BY INDIVIDUALS. EVEN OUR HOSPITALS ARE NOT AGE-FRIENDLY. HOWEVER, POSITIVE STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO REDRESS THE SITUATION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER ACT THAT WAS JUST SIGNED INTO LAW, BILL ON ESTABLISHMENT AND REGULATION OF LTC AND PALLIATIVE CARE BEING CONSIDERED AT THE NASS., EFFORTS ARE ALSO ON TOP GEAR FOR A NATIONAL POLICY ON AGEING TO BE PUT IN PLACE, ETC.

THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE IS THAT A WHOLE LOT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES ARE BEING THROWN UP. LACK OF PALLIATIVE AND LONG-TERM CARE ON THEIR OWN CONSTITUTE A DENIAL OF RIGHTS FOR THE OLDER PERSONS BUT THEN, THIS IMPACTS ON OTHER FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS SUCH AS RIGHT TO LIFE, RIGHT TO THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN PERSON, ETC . THIS SHOWS A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH SHOULD BE ADOPTED IN DEALING WITH OLDER PERSONS ISSUES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A WHOLISTIC RESULT. OLDER PERSONS, AS ONE OF THE VULNERABLE GROUPS, HAVE THEIR OWN PECULIARITIES. THERE IS THEREFORE THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL BINDING LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS SUCH PECULIARITIES. THIS WILL SERVE AS A TOOL TO WORK WITH FOR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS> AS WELL AS CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS IN ORDER TO HOLD BOTH GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS NON-STATE ACTORS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND INACTIONS.



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