

# Promoting and protecting the rights of older persons during the COVID-19 pandemic – the role of NHRIs

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# Window of opportunity

- The pandemic shed light on older persons
- It made clear that older persons can not enjoy their human rights
- Protections gaps were visible– national and international level
- Worldwide crises - worldwide solidarity
- Still lacking a comprehensive universal legal instrument
- Regional instruments showed impact – case of Argentina
- Diversity of the group
- Positive contribution of older persons

# Challenges



- Ageism and age discrimination – many examples – it is not the virus which discriminates – the regulations and measures
- Violence, abuse and neglect – increase of elder abuse, witness big losses in care homes – financial abuse
- Right to health – access to health care was not provided on a discriminatory basis – we witnessed triage based on age as the only criteria – which showed also differentiation on once live and dignity because of age
- Information – digital divide
- Isolation – lock down measures and physical distancing which ended in social distancing – bad impact on health

- Older persons did not participate in emergency strategies – overlooked
- Not integrated in their paths to recovery
- Negative images of older persons as frail and dependend – ist not only older persons who have a higher risk
- Impact on social security and not allowed to work no income

# Way forward



- Join our forces – NHRIS global network, regional and national
- Make older persons human rights a priority
- Integrate older persons in submissions to the treaty body
- Raise the voices to bring more visibility to older persons issues
- Make use of political power – pressure on the national level
- Show national examples where legislation or implementation is needed
- State that we need to improve the legal system on the national and international level
- Be active at the OEWSG-A – action is urgent

# Thank You!

- For further information

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/OlderPersons/IE/Pages/IEOlderPersons.aspx>

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