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 bases – 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 were legislation or implementation is needed
• State that we need to improve the legal system on the national and international level
• Be active at the OEWG-A – action is urgent
Thank You!

• For further information

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