

*The Finnish Human Rights Center (HRC) is an autonomous and independent expert institution whose task is to promote and monitor the implementation of fundamental and human rights in Finland as well as to increase cooperation and exchange of information between various actors in the field. According to its founding legislation, one of the tasks of the HRC is to participate in European and international cooperation related to the promotion and protection of fundamental and human rights.*

*The HRC represents the Finnish NHRI in international NHRI cooperation. The HRC forms the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), alongside with its pluralistic Human Rights Delegation and the Parliamentary Ombudsman.*

The National Human Rights Institution in Finland was established by law in 2012 and received A-status in 2014. The A-status was renewed in 2019.

### **Oral submission by the Finnish National Human Rights Institution (Human Rights Centre) for the 51st session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 3. ID with IE for older persons (A/HRC/51/27/Add.1, Visit to Finland – Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons)**

Chair, Excellencies,

The Human Rights Centre is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons on her country visit to Finland.

The rights of older persons are one of the main priorities for the Finnish Human Rights Centre. Our aim is to strengthen the protection of rights by ensuring a rights-based perspective in legislation and all decision making related to older persons. We work on combating ageism by influencing attitudes and perceptions relating to aging. We work in close cooperation with the Parliamentary Ombudsman and other human rights actors, such as the Ombudsman for the rights of older persons and NGOs in protecting and promoting the rights of older persons.

We were delighted that the Independent Expert chose to make her first country visit to Finland – not often visited by the HRC mandate holders. We are convinced that the report and its recommendations will have impact on the rights of older persons in Finland.

We would like to congratulate the Independent Expert on her persistent work in promoting the rights of older persons worldwide and her efforts to promote stronger international standards. We also commend the IE for her strong cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities which mutually strengthens the rights of both older persons and persons with disabilities.

The Independent Expert covers in her report a wide range of issues very relevant for the fulfillment of older persons rights in Finland. These include the marginalizing effects of digitalization, problems in organizing appropriate care,

violence and abuse against older persons and lack of thorough understanding of challenges older persons belonging to minorities face. However, the Independent Expert also sees the strengths of the Finnish society, such as the comprehensive social security system, and ongoing work on monitoring older persons rights in Finland.

The Human Rights Centre will use the Independent Expert's report in its own work on older persons rights. We will also ensure that the report will be widely distributed in Finland and that there is a follow-up to the recommendations made – in cooperation with the IE and the Finnish Government.