

Launch of the ENNHRI Guidance Paper on Opportunities for NHRIs to work towards a new Convention on the Rights of Older Persons

Wednesday, 25 January 2023, 13:00-14:00 CET, online

Background:

Since the establishment of the [UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing \(OEWGA\)](#) in 2010, discussions have been ongoing on both the need for a new Convention on the Rights of Older Persons and its normative content.

The interest to act on this topic by a growing number of states in the past year can be seen as a breakthrough. This is a crucial time for NHRIs to advocate for a new convention at the national, regional and international levels.

This advocacy rests on two pillars. First, sufficient support must be gained to adopt a decision to establish an Intersessional UN Working Group [at the 13th OEWGA Session on 3-6 April 2023](#). This Group would then draft an official UN document on gaps in international law regarding human rights of older persons. Second, it must be made clear that this gap analysis requires an answer in the form of a new binding instrument.

The new ENNHRI [guidance paper](#) outlines the current approaches towards a new Convention on the Rights of Older Persons and key recent developments in this regard. It also sets out opportunities for European NHRIs to contribute to this crucial process.

Collectively and individually, NHRIs have supported the development of a new binding instrument, including through common positions reached through ENNHRI. The ENNHRI Core Group on the Human Rights of Older Persons and the GANHRI Working Group on Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons serve as an information and co-ordination hubs for this advocacy work.

Objectives:

The meeting provides an opportunity to learn about the current state of debate regarding the need for a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. It has been designed also as an introduction for NHRI staff members who are new to the topic. By the end of this meeting, we hope people working at NHRIs across Europe will have a better understanding of the process surrounding the

creation a new UN treaty, and how their institutions can bolster meaningful engagement at home and on the international level.

Agenda:

13:00 – 13:05	Welcome
13:05 – 13:10	Opening remarks Ms. Sirpa Rautio, ENNHRI Chair, Director of the Finnish Human Rights Centre
13:10 – 13:40	Presentation of the ENNHRI Guidance paper – state of debate on the need for a new UN convention on the rights of older persons
13:40 – 13:45	Presentation of the calendar of upcoming events and deadlines
13:45 – 13:55	Q&A
13:55 – 14.00	Wrap-up

Organized by Members of the ENNHRI Core Group on the Human Rights of Older Persons

Ms. Anna Chabiera, [Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland](#)

Ms. Nino Shalamberidze, [Public Defender \(Ombudsman\) of Georgia](#)

Mr. Michaël Merrigan, [Belgian Federal Institute for the protection and promotion of Human Rights](#)

