# **ACAMAGE submission for the consultation on ageism and age discrimination by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons**

**March 2021**

**Forms and manifestations of ageism and age discrimination**

There are factors that aggravated ageism and age discrimination during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, some radio broadcasts said that COVID 19 is a virus for older people.

Older people were more infected and dying due to chronic diseases. However, they are not properly taken into consideration in the national response to the pandemic**.** Other groups were given protective materials, food, medicine and information. But older people were not specifically given those materials, and information was not provided in an accessible format.

During lockdown, when a caregiver called for a medical doctor’s help, most of the time, the reaction was to say that they are weak, and they must go to traditional doctors. Older people were also denied beds and medicine in hospitals.

Allegations against older women being witches increased during the pandemic. These were by family members and family in-laws. It increased in the rural areas.

**Legal policy and institutional framework related to ageism and age discrimination**

In my country Cameroon, there is no legal protection to protect older people against ageism or age discrimination.

**Reports related to ageism and age discrimination and other relevant information**

Another important area in the field of ageism and age discrimination is what we call systemic ageism which has been give less focus. [[1]](#footnote-1) Systemic ageism can be defined as ‘the way in which society and its institutions sustain ageist attitudes, actions or language in laws, policies, practices or culture.’[[2]](#footnote-2) Systemic ageism both underpins and perpetuates ageist thoughts, feelings and actions at every level: at the individual level, at the household level and in the community, and at the national and global level.

Here in my country, thanks to the Age Demand Action Campaign “hear our voices” we are exposing ageism and challenging discrimination during and beyond COVID 19. ACAMAGE and networks are campaigning to have protective material, medicine, food, information.

**This is a supporting report ACAMAGE contributed to, which highlights ageism and related age discrimination during the pandemic:**

HelpAge International (2021), *Are older people being heard? The impact of COVID-19 on older people’s ability to exercise their voice*, 2021  <https://www.helpage.org/download/6006beff8485c>

1. Marques S, Mariano J, Mendonça J, De Tavernier W, Hess M, Naegele L, Peixeiro F, Martins D. (2020) ‘Determinants of Ageism against Older Adults: A Systematic Review’. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2020; 17(7):2560. [www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/7/2560#cite](http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/7/2560#cite) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. AGE Platform Europe (2016) ‘AGE Platform Europe Position on Structural Ageism’. [www.age-platform.eu/sites/default/files/AGE\_IntergenerationalSolidarity\_Position\_on\_Structural\_Ageism2016.pdf](http://www.age-platform.eu/sites/default/files/AGE_IntergenerationalSolidarity_Position_on_Structural_Ageism2016.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)