

Mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

Call for contributions: The Human Rights of Older Women

In order to inform the preparation of her report, the Independent Expert would like to seek written contributions from States, national human rights institutions, civil society, academia, international and regional organizations, and all other relevant stakeholders, with a particular emphasis on sharing concrete examples and good practices where available.

While the Independent Expert welcomes any information, reports, legislation or other materials deemed pertinent to the protection and promotion of human rights of older women, she is particularly interested in the following areas:

The rights of older women in international, regional and national law, policies and programmes

1. What legal instruments, policies and programmes exist to address the particular challenges faced by older women, and how are they implemented and monitored?
2. What type of statistical data are collected on older women, if any, and is it disaggregated by age, gender, and other relevant factors? How are older women defined for the purposes of law, policy and data collection?
3. Please indicate how older women take part in participatory mechanisms?

Economic, social and cultural realities lived by older women

4. What are the specific challenges and concerns faced by older women, including on the basis of their accumulated life experience as compared to older men, in enjoying their economic, social and cultural rights (for example in terms of social protection, health, education, work, adequate standard of living, land and property ownership)? Please provide related data and statistics, including disaggregated data, where available.
5. What forms of gender-based discrimination and inequality experienced by women throughout the life cycle have a particular impact on the enjoyment of their human rights in older age?
6. Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected older women differently than older men and how?
7. Please share examples of how older women participate in and contribute to economic, social and cultural life, including inter-generational solidarity and support.

Forms of discrimination against older women and gender-specific abuses

8. What forms of structural and systematic discrimination do older women face (for example through laws, policies, traditional and customary practices, etc.) and what measures have been taken to address them?

9. How do intersectional factors exacerbate the combined effect of ageism and sexism, including the perspective of older LGBTI women, older women with disabilities, older migrant women, older women belonging to indigenous and minority groups, etc.?
10. What forms does gender-based violence and abuse against older women take and how is such violence prevalent? Please share available data and statistics, including in relation to femicides.
11. Please provide examples of how the life cycle perspective is integrated into policies and programmes to prevent and address gender-based violence against women and girls.
12. Please share information about reporting, accountability, remedy and protective mechanisms available and targeted to older women victims of gender-based violence and discrimination.