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The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the latter's note dated 13 January 2023, transmitting the questionnaire of the Independent Expert on the enjoyments of all human rights by older persons, on violence, abuse and neglect of older persons.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar is pleased to attach herewith the above-mentioned requested information as received from the competent authorities in the State of Qatar.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the assurances of its highest considerations.



Geneva, 13th 2023

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E.E. 37293/22



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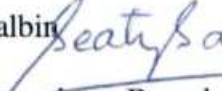
DATE: 13 January 2023

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PAGES: 4 (Y COMPRIS CETTE PAGE/INCLUDING THIS PAGE)

COPIES:

OBJET/SUBJECT: **Letter from the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons- 2023 Human Rights Council thematic report on violence, abuse and neglect of older persons**



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

13 January 2023

Subject: 2023 Human Rights Council thematic report on violence, abuse and neglect of older persons

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, pursuant to resolution 51/4 of the Human Rights Council.

In this resolution, the Human Rights Council requests all Governments to cooperate with the Independent Expert and invites them to provide the mandate holder with all necessary information relating to the mandate.

In this regard, I am seeking written inputs from Member States to inform my next report to the Human Rights Council in 2023 on **violence, abuse and neglect of older persons**. I strongly encourage sharing concrete examples of good practices. While I welcome the reception of any information, reports, legislation or other materials deemed relevant on these issues, I am particularly interested in the areas highlighted in the attached questionnaire, available in English, French and Spanish.

Written contributions should be submitted in accessible format (Word document or PDF), not longer than 1,500 words, in English, French or Spanish, by **1 March 2023** to the email address of my mandate hrc-ie-olderpersons@un.org, indicating in the heading "Submission to the call for inputs on violence against older persons – 2023 HRC report".

For any follow-up queries, kindly contact Ms. Claire Mathellie (claire.mathellie@un.org) and Ms. Manon Beury (manon.beury@un.org).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claudia Mahler".

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



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

Call for inputs: Violence, abuse, and neglect against older persons

1. Legal, policy and institutional frameworks: Is there a non-discrimination law that prohibits discrimination based on age? Is there a legislation on violence against persons and/or domestic violence that includes violence, abuse and/or neglect of older persons? Does the law establish a specialized independent body receiving complaints of discrimination based on age? Is there a national plan, policy or strategy to address violence against older persons, that is supervised by a national mechanism to monitor and implement it? Please provide detailed information and relevant documents, if applicable.
2. Manifestations of violence: What forms of violence, abuse and neglect of older persons facing? In which settings does it happen? Please provide detailed information.
3. Intersectionality: How does violence, abuse and neglect affect specific groups of older persons (e.g. older women, older LGBTBI persons, older persons belonging to ethnic and indigenous groups, older refugees and internally displaced persons, older persons with disabilities, etc.) Please provide detailed information.
4. Data: Is data available at national and local level about violence, abuse and neglect of older persons? Are national surveys about violence including experiences of older persons? If available, please provide figures and data.
5. Access to justice: How does the State fulfil its obligations to ensure older persons' access justice, and to obtain remedies and reparations, when their human rights have been violated as a result of violence, abuse and neglect?
6. Access to information: How do you raise awareness about violence against older persons in the public? How does information about access to essential services (e.g. healthcare, legal assistance, social services, access to shelters) is made accessible and available for older persons?



7. Please provide examples of good practices for preventing, monitoring and address violence and abuse against older persons.

The State of Qatar devotes considerable attention to human rights, especially for older persons, and has taken many legislative, legal, organizational and other appropriate measures to implement these rights effectively, and provide the means to consolidate, develop and update them within the framework of integrated social development.

This consideration based on the Islamic law, and it is also based on national references, the most important of which is the permanent constitution of the State of Qatar, Article (21) The family is the basis of society, its foundation is religion, morals, and patriotism, and the law regulates the means that guarantee its protection, consolidate its entity, strengthening its bonds, and preserving motherhood, childhood, and aging under its shadow, Article (34) Citizens are equal in public rights and duties, Article (35) People are equal before the law, without discrimination between them on grounds of gender, origin, language, or religion, as well as national and international legislation such as international agreements and treaties.

The State's concern of human rights is also based on its National Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy, the first strategy (2011-2016), and the second strategy (2018-2022), which was launched by the State of Qatar to be a clear road map for the future of Qatar. Qatar National Vision 2030 aims to move the country forward, by balancing the achievements that achieve economic growth and its human, natural and humanitarian resources.

The State has also established a national committee concerned with the affairs of women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, pursuant to Cabinet Resolution No. (26) of 2019, approved by His Highness, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar.

The National Human Rights Committee was also established by Decree Law No. (38) of 2002, which is considered the true guarantee for preserving human rights. The committee began its work on 1/11/2003, with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights and public freedoms in the country as well as consolidating the principles and culture of human rights as at the level of thought and practice,



ensuring respect for all social, cultural, political and civil rights and respecting the rule of law. The Committee also seeks to have the State accede to international and Arab covenants and conventions on human rights, follow up on developments in national legislation related to human rights, and work to develop them in line with international conventions and standards to which the State of Qatar is committed.

Ensuring the contribution of older persons to sustainable development and economic security can only be achieved by achieving well-being for them, and although the Qatari Family Law guarantees the right of parental maintenance of older persons on their grown children, the state has been keen to ensure that this group lives in welfare and in dignity, through the Social Security Law No. (38) of 1995, and the Cabinet Resolution No. (46) of 2014, according to which everyone above the age of sixty, who does not have a sufficient source of income to live, is entitled to financial assistance of no less than QR 6,000 (social security pension), and a servant allowance of no less than QR 1,500, in addition to exempting him from fees, and providing him with the necessary needs.

Moreover, the Social Insurance Law No. (1) of 2022 stipulates that the private sector that employs Qatari workers must participate in the retirement fund, and it is permitted to participate in it for workers whose employers are not subject to the provisions of the insurance law, as well as businessmen.

And in line with the provisions of the aforementioned Social Security Law, Emiri Resolution No. (18) of 2022 was issued to increase the pensions of retirees, as it decided a special allowance - housing allowance - and the social allowance, in addition to the minimum pension of 15,000 riyals, so that no retirement pension is less than 19,000 riyals in No way.

If the retirement pension is not sufficient for the elderly and his family to live a decent life, the difference between his retirement pension and what he and his family are entitled to from the social security pension shall be supplemented for him.

In addition to guaranteeing the right of this group to adequate housing, through Housing Law No. (2) of 2007 and the decisions implementing it, which requires the provision of adequate housing free of charge for the elderly, and a rental allowance ranging between 6,500 and 10,000 riyals, until they benefit from the free housing,



and that If he does not have the financial ability to benefit from the housing system with a loan.

In terms of caring for the elderly, the Council of Ministers issued Resolution No. (40) of 2019, which included granting a Qatari employee a paid leave to care for a parent or relative for a period that starts with one calendar year and can extend to long periods, if the approval is issued by the prime minister for more than five years.

We emphasize the effective role of civil society institutions, including the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, the Center for Empowerment and Elderly Care (Ihsan), which provide care and social services for the elderly while supporting this group in keeping their rights respected and protected in society.

The Empowerment and Elderly Care Center (Ihsan) launched several services, such as the daily care service, psychological care service, social care service, Shawerni service, social counseling and support services, and e-learning.

The "Shawerni" counseling line, is a service through which the Elderly, their caregivers and their families can interact with experienced and specialized employees in the field of social work to receive psychological support and enhance their mental health.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family, in cooperation with relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies, organizes different workshops and lectures for all segments of society, and offers training courses and that serve the elderly and people with disabilities, it also celebrates international and international days for the elderly.

Hamad Medical Corporation provides many services, including geriatric services and permanent residence. The Geriatric and Long-Term Residence Department provides comprehensive care through outpatient and inpatient clinics in various Hamad Medical Corporation facilities, the Department of Inpatient Services (acute care services for the elderly, geriatric orthopedic services Emergency Geriatric Consulting Services, Acute Assessment Units, Long-Term Stay Units, Urgent Elderly Day Care Services) and Home Care Services at Hamad Medical Corporation are staffed with multidisciplinary care teams, including: Physicians, Nurses and Patient



Care Assistants, who perform home visits to carry out the necessary clinical examinations and tests and review patient care plans. Outpatient services department (General Elderly Clinic, Fall Prevention Clinic, Memory Disorders Clinics, Orthopedic Clinic for the Elderly), provide support in the field of dementia.

Multidisciplinary care teams also conduct home visits to approximately (2000) elderly patients across the State of Qatar, with the aim of enhancing and improving the quality of life for elderly patients by helping them improve their ability to move and live with the greatest degree of independence.

The Qatar Foundation for Protection and Social Rehabilitation provides temporary shelter services for targeted groups, so the Foundation established the Center for Protection and Social Rehabilitation (Aman) to shelter abused and subjected to violence cases from the target groups, with the aim of separating them from the source of violence and maintaining their safety and security. Aman provides the following services:

- Safe housing and shelter
- Food and drink
- Health care
- Psychotherapy and social rehabilitation services
- Legal advice
- Other services

All cases are dealt with the utmost privacy and confidentiality, and it is also possible to call the institution's hotline.