

9 December 2014

Dear Friends,

The 10 December is Human Rights Day, we are delighted to celebrate two recent successes in our campaign for a UN convention on the rights of older people.

1. The appointment of Ms Rosa Kornfeld-Matte as the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of the human rights of all older persons.
2. The adoption by the UN at the end of November of a resolution to continue the work of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) in 2015. Member States have now been asked to submit concrete proposals on how to better protect older people's rights and these will then be presented to the UN General Assembly.



However, we in the HelpAge Global network know through our work with and for older people across the globe that older people continue to be denied their rights and subjected to discrimination, violence and abuse. I would like to invite you to have a look at this video mosaic of older people from across the world talking about rights abuses: <http://www.helpage.org/what-we-do/rights/rights-and-older-people/>

There are three things you can do to encourage those Member States and civil society organisations who support a convention to outline the contents of what a new convention should be:

1. **Write an open letter to your ministry of Foreign Affairs:** Attached is a draft letter which I invite you to adapt and share with your Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This letter requests your government to propose what the main elements of a new convention should be and present these at the 6th Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in 2015. The letter includes an annex with five main elements of a convention on older people's rights that we hope will be included in Member States proposals at the next OEWGA session.
2. **Contact your local media on 10 December:** Our media team has prepared a press release, which can be adapted for your engagement with the media on Human Rights Day. Please see press release attached.
3. **Take action on social media:** Please follow @helpage on Twitter on Human Rights Day for more information. Please sign up to the Twitter thunderclap: <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/19344-human-rights-365?locale=en> This year's global slogan chosen by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is "Human Rights 365". It encompasses the idea that human rights need to be celebrated every day, all year round. Take this opportunity to join the conversations happening on social media using #rights365.

I wish you all the best for your Human Rights Day celebrations on 10 December and shall be looking forward to receiving any updates from your activities.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toby Porter', with a long, sweeping underline.

Toby Porter  
Chief Executive of HelpAge International