

# Network Communication: ADA on Rights 2017

## Age Demands Action (ADA) on Rights – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, 15 June

Dear all,

I am writing to you as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) approaches on 15 June. This year, 44 campaign partners from 35 countries are raising their voices to highlight the types of elder abuse older people experience in their communities, homes and everyday lives. They will also encourage their governments to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (5-7 July).

Elder abuse occurs globally, with little government action. Less than 1/3 of governments worldwide have implemented any sort of strategy to detect, educate on, or tackle elder abuse. No international human rights standards or conventions on freedom from violence, abuse and neglect in older age currently exist.

The 8<sup>th</sup> UN OEWG is just around the corner and one of the two areas of rights that will be discussed is the right to freedom from violence, abuse and neglect in older age. Earlier this year with the support of Age Demands Action partners, we consulted just under 250 older women from 19 countries on their views on the right to non-discrimination and equality and the right to freedom from violence, abuse and neglect in older age. You can read what they had to say in the report "[Entitled to the same rights](#)" that will be launched on Thursday in both English and Russian.



*"Violence against women means we live lives without peace. The government should educate us about our rights and create laws to ensure problems that affect older women are sorted."*

– Catherine, Tanzania

The HelpAge global network is taking action on ADA on Rights in a number of ways. Partners will be using the report to discuss the two areas of rights to be explored at the OEWG and have organised tripartite meetings between governments, national human rights institutions and older people themselves. It is inspiring to see that 37 partners from 31 countries have organised tripartite meetings and 38 partners from 32 countries are using the report in their advocacy ahead of the OEWG. This is a great example of how we are working together as a network around shared advocacy goals and are fighting for older people's rights.

### **Examples of campaigning activities taking place this year:**

- Ageing Nepal will hold a rally with older people, local people and local leaders to raise awareness about elder abuse. They will hand in a petition to their government calling for them to attend this year's OEWG.
- Our partner in Palestine El-Wedad, have organised a round table to discuss the report.
- Our partner in Slovenia, ZDUS, will meet their government to discuss human rights abuses in older age.
- In Vietnam, Vietnam Association of the Elderly will be using mass media to spread the messages from the report.
- In Malawi, MANEPO will campaign to draw attention to recent witchcraft accusations against older people.
- In Paraguay CECTEC (Centro de Educacion Capacitacion y Tecnologia Campesina) are working with three radio programmes to highlight the report.

I would like to congratulate the network on all of the ADA on Rights actions taking place this Thursday. This movement is urging governments worldwide to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and is calling for an end to elder abuse.

We would like to encourage you to use social media this week to share how you're taking action for ADA on Rights. You can use the digital assets we have created, which can be found [here](#).

Don't forget to join the day's conversations by using the hashtags #WEAAD and #WEAAD2017, and following our Twitter account, @helpage. Our campaigns team can also be contacted for questions at [campaigns@helpage.org](mailto:campaigns@helpage.org).

Thank you for continuing to fight for older people's rights.



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