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ROUNDTABLE SERIES

MAINSTREAMING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

Bridging Paths Towards Strengthening Protection and Participation

5 FREE EVENTS ✓ 5th Year MAY - NOVEMBER 2026

Legal Protection for Older Persons

21 May 2026

9:30 EDT
15:30 CEST

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With the support of:

WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities

hpod Harvard Law School Project on Disability

INPEA

ILC GLOBAL ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL LONGEVITY CENTRE Designing the future of Ageing

NGO Committee on Ageing GENEVA

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Legal protection for older persons is a fundamental component of human rights law and a necessary precondition for ensuring equality before the law. Despite existing national, regional and international instruments and mechanisms, older persons continue to face systemic barriers, such as limited access to justice, adequate redress, legal awareness, procedural obstacles, and assumptions that undermine their autonomy and capacity to participate fully in legal processes, not just as beneficiaries but also as active players, including as litigants, witnesses, advocates, judges, jurors, mediators, and other actors within the administration of justice. These challenges are often compounded by intersecting forms of discrimination, including gender, disability, socio-economic status, and migration status, which further restrict older persons' ability to claim and exercise their rights effectively.

Ageism remains a pervasive and often invisible driver of inequality within justice systems, shaping both institutional responses and societal attitudes toward older persons. It can manifest in the form of exclusionary practices, inadequate legal representation, or the dismissal of claims involving older individuals. Strengthening legal protection therefore requires not only robust normative frameworks, but also targeted efforts to address attitudinal and structural barriers that prevent equal access to justice. This includes ensuring that legal and judicial actors are equipped to recognize and counter age-based bias, and that justice systems are accessible, responsive, and sensitive to the specific needs and circumstances of older persons.

In this context, strengthening equal protection under the law is essential to advancing the full enjoyment of human rights by older persons and reinforcing their agency as rights-holders. Enhancing access to justice entails promoting legal literacy, improving availability of age-friendly legal services, and ensuring effective remedies for rights violations. It also requires fostering inclusive legal and policy environments where older persons can actively participate in decisions affecting their lives. A better understanding of these measures contributes to the promotion of more inclusive justice systems that uphold dignity, autonomy, and equality for all persons, regardless of age.

OBJECTIVE

To deepen understanding of measures that strengthen equal protection under the law and enhance older persons' ability to claim and exercise their rights.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The event is open to different actors interested in ageing and the rights of older persons, including:

- Public sector officials, policy makers and practitioners
- International Organisations
- Civil Society
- National Human Rights Institutions
- Academia
- Private sector

This event as well as the upcoming ones from the virtual roundtable series are open and free to All.

FORMAT

Online. These events will be celebrated online with the spirit of inclusion to allow participants from different parts of the world to join us.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. Participants who want to receive a certificate of participation need to fulfil the following criteria: Having participated at least 75% by Zoom (To be measured by the system).

2. You're warmly welcome to send questions or suggestions in advance to sdp@unitar.org.

3. After the celebration of each event, those participants who joined them will be receiving the respective video recording together with takeaway messages.

Join us!

Register now

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4eLrApTOSPO-vtmtvSnVrA#/registration

Earn a certificate of participation!

Programme

Welcome Message

Moderator



Ms. Analucía Jácome
Specialist, Human Rights and Good Governance
Division for People and Social Development, UNITAR

Speakers



Dr. Chitralekha Marie Massey
Chief of Section, Rights of Older Persons,
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)



Ms. Nena Georgantzi
Head of Advocacy, AGE Platform Europe



Ms. Nino Shalamberidze
Chief Specialist, Department for the Protection of Civil, Political, Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, Office of the Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia



Ms. Nina A Kohn
Distinguished Professor of Law, Board of Advisors Professor, Syracuse University
Distinguished Scholar, Solomon Center for Health Law & Policy, Yale Law School

Analysis on the Legal Obligations and Responsibilities for Older Persons at International Level



Mr. Hezzy Smith
Director of Advocacy Initiatives,
Harvard Law School Project on Disability (HPOD)



Decade of healthy ageing

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