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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

Political and Civic Security for Older Persons

24 September 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

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ILC GLOBAL ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL LONGEVITY CENTRE Designing the future of Ageing

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Background Information

Older persons have the right to participate actively, safely, freely, and meaningfully in public life. However, they continue to face barriers to fully exercising their political and civic rights, such as lack of access to timely, quality, and accessible information; digital literacy; social isolation; threats and intimidation; and being overlooked in decisions that directly affect their lives, among other ageism-related challenges. Learning about democratic and safe engagement helps us recognize forms of exclusions and understand that security is not only about protection from physical harm, but also about having the freedom, knowledge, confidence, and opportunities to exercise one's rights, express one's voice, and participate without fear or coercion. When older persons are informed and empowered, they are better able to stand up for their rights, take part in decisions, and contribute from their experience, knowledge, and wisdom to society.

The knowledge and voices of older persons are essential to strong and inclusive societies. They are not merely recipients of policies and services, but also citizens, community leaders, voters, advocates, caregivers, workers, mentors, and custodians of collective memory. Their lived experience can help communities understand what has worked, what has failed, and what must change. A better understanding of its importance therefore needs to go both ways:1. Older persons should have the opportunity to participate fully in political life, not only by exercising their civic right to vote, but also as candidates and elected representatives. 2. Institutions and younger generations should seek to understand, listen to, and value their perspectives, experiences, and contributions. In this regard, creating safe spaces for intergenerational dialogue, civic education, community engagement, and participation can challenge ageism and strengthen trust. A society that silences the voices of older persons loses invaluable experience; a society that listens to them gains wisdom.

Learning must lead to action! Political and civic security for older persons requires more than awareness, but also requires States to take clear measures at an institutional level, including ensuring participation mechanisms are physically and digitally accessible. In addition, States should raise awareness and work together with different stakeholders to foster adequate and safe conditions for the protection and participation of older persons.

The call to action is clear: Learn, listen, include, protect, and act. By investing in the knowledge, participation, and security of older persons today, we build communities where dignity does not have an age limit, and where every generation has a rightful place in shaping our shared future.

Objective

To learn key considerations on the right to safe, free, active and meaningful participation in democratic processes, and community decision-making, as well as to strengthen inclusive governance practices that recognize and support active citizenship of older persons.

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 organizations
- 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_kVkgsdJWSrqJkmOkyBtQLw#/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)



Mr. Fabrice Fifonsi
Executive Director, African Parliamentarians' Network Against Corruption (APNAC)



Dr.Carlos López
Professor of Human Rights,
International University of La Rioja



Ms. Raquel Pereira
Co-founder ELEDA

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



Dr. Michael Ashley Stein
Co-founder and Executive Director of the Harvard Law School Project on Disability,
Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School



Decade of healthy ageing

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