

## **Open Letter from Civil Society Organisations to the Chair of the OEWG on Ageing**

Ambassador Mateo Estrémé  
Chair, Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing

2 November 2015

Dear Ambassador Estrémé,

As civil society organisations we have actively participated in and followed with interest and concern discussions at the United Nations to better promote and strengthen the rights of older persons.

We commend the efforts of Member States to address this important area of human rights, in particular the deliberations of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG) and the establishment of the Human Rights Council Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.

As the UN General Assembly Third Committee turns its attention to drafting the resolution on the follow up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing at the 70th session of the General Assembly, we urge Member States to maintain the focus on strengthening the protection of the rights of older persons. Due to unprecedented demographic change and the sharp increase in the number of very old persons, it is more urgent than ever to tackle ageism and ensure adequate protection to enable everyone to enjoy their human rights and live in dignity in old age.

This resolution is an opportunity for Member States to:

- Reaffirm the full mandate of the OEWG on Ageing as agreed by the General Assembly under previous resolutions.
- Ensure the completion of the OEWG on Ageing's task of compiling proposals for the main elements of a new legal instrument to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Ensure the continuation of the work of the OEWG on Ageing with a 7<sup>th</sup> session in 2016.

The undersigned civil society organisations believe that these elements must be firmly embedded within the resolution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee in 2015 to give credibility and legitimacy to the constructive discussions that have taken place between Member States to date.

We look forward to the UN's continued engagement on these urgent human rights matters and anticipate that the resolution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee will reinforce the message that the UN is firmly aware of and supportive of protecting the rights of older persons, and most importantly is willing to take action.

For any correspondence regarding this letter, please contact Ken Bluestone from Age International at [ken.bluestone@ageinternational.org.uk](mailto:ken.bluestone@ageinternational.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Undersigned Civil Society Organisations

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Website</b>
AARP	Erica Dhar	USA	<a href="http://www.aarpinternational.org/">www.aarpinternational.org/</a>
Action on Elder Abuse	Gary Fitzgerald	United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.elderabuse.org.uk/">www.elderabuse.org.uk/</a>
ADET	Dosse Sossouga	Togo	<a href="http://www.noracismadet.com">www.noracismadet.com</a>
Age Action Ireland	Eamon Timmins	Ireland	<a href="http://www.ageaction.ie">www.ageaction.ie</a>
Age International	Chris Roles	United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.ageinternational.org.uk">www.ageinternational.org.uk</a>
AGE Platform Europe	Anne-Sophie Parent	Belgium	<a href="http://www.age-platform.eu">www.age-platform.eu</a>
Age UK	Katherine Hill	United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.ageuk.org.uk">www.ageuk.org.uk</a>
Ageing Nepal	Krishna M. Gautam	Nepal	<a href="http://www.ageingnepal.org">www.ageingnepal.org</a>
Ageing Support Forum	Masud Ibn Rahman	Bangladesh	<a href="http://www.asfbd.org">www.asfbd.org</a>
Ageing with a Smile Initiative (ASI)	Balla Musa Joof	The Gambia	<a href="http://www.asigambia.weebly.com">www.asigambia.weebly.com</a>
Agewell Care Initiative	Juliet Barong Agbor	Nigeria	<a href="http://www.agewellcareinitiative.com">www.agewellcareinitiative.com</a>
Alzheimer's Disease International	Mike Splaine	United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.alz.co.uk">www.alz.co.uk</a>
Arthritis and Osteoporosis Victoria	Linda Martin	Australia	<a href="http://www.arthritisvic.org.au">www.arthritisvic.org.au</a>
Association Camerounaise pour la Prise en Charge des Persons New Agees	Paulette Metang	Cameroon	
Association VIVA _ Valoriser et intégrer pour vieillir autrement	Anne-Claude Juillerat Van der Linden	Switzerland	<a href="http://www.association-viva.org">www.association-viva.org</a>
Australian Multicultural Community Services	Elizabeth Drozd	Australia	<a href="http://www.amcservices.org.au">www.amcservices.org.au</a>
Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association	Nan Bosler	Australia	
Brazilian Bar Association – OAB – Rio de Janeiro	Helton Yomura	Brazil	<a href="http://www.oabrij.org.br/">http://www.oabrij.org.br/</a>
Center for Community Advancement and Family Empowerment(CECAFE), United Methodist University (UMU)	Sam Togba Slewion	Liberia	<a href="http://www.umulib.org">www.umulib.org</a>
Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland Galway	Dr Eilionoir Flynn	Ireland	<a href="http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/index.html">www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/index.html</a>
Comité Latinoamericano de Geriatria e Gerontologia – IAGG	Marianela Hekman	Brazil	

Community Development Volunteers for Technical Assistance (CDVTA)	Francis Njuakom Nchii	Cameroon	<a href="http://www.cdvta.org">www.cdvta.org</a>
Company of the Daughters of Charity of Vincent de Paul	Soeur Monique Javouhey	France	<a href="http://www.filles-de-la-charite.org/fr/">www.filles-de-la-charite.org/fr/</a>
Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	Hedwig Johl	Italy	<a href="http://www.buonpastorint.org">www.buonpastorint.org</a>
COTA Australia	Ian Yates	Australia	<a href="http://www.cota.org.au">www.cota.org.au</a>
COTA Victoria	Sue Hendy	Australia	<a href="http://www.cotavic.org.au">www.cotavic.org.au</a>
Crescendo Worldwide Network for an Human and Christian Ageing - Réseau mondial Crescendo pour une vieillissement humain et chrétien	Hélène Durand Ballivet	Switzerland	<a href="http://www.rcrescendo.org">www.rcrescendo.org</a>
DaneAge	Bjarne Hastrup	Denmark	<a href="http://www.aelresagen.dk">www.aelresagen.dk</a>
Department of Healthy Aging and Life Quality of Rio de Janeiro City - SESQV	Alexandre Brandão	Brazil	<a href="http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv">http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv</a>
Department of Healthy Aging and Life Quality of Rio de Janeiro City - SESQV	Claudio Lozana	Brazil	<a href="http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv">http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv</a>
Department of Healthy Aging and Life Quality of Rio de Janeiro City - SESQV	Flavia Furtado	Brazil	<a href="http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv">http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv</a>
Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers)	Evelyn von Steffens	Switzerland	<a href="http://www.un.op.org/">www.un.op.org/</a>
Encore.org	Betsy Werley	USA	<a href="http://www.encore.org">www.encore.org</a>
Federal Chamber of Deputies - Brazil	Cristiane Brasil	Brazil	<a href="http://www.camara.gov.br/internet/Deputado/dep_Detalhe.asp?id=93472">http://www.camara.gov.br/internet/Deputado/dep_Detalhe.asp?id=93472</a>
FIAPA (Fédération Internationale des Associations des Personnes Agées)	Alain Koskas	France	<a href="http://www.fiapa.net">www.fiapa.net</a>
50plus Hellas	Dr.E.Mestheneos	Greece	<a href="http://www.50plus.gr">www.50plus.gr</a>
Friends of International Federation on Ageing (FOIFA)	Hisashi Hozumi	Japan	<a href="http://www.foifa.or.jp">www.foifa.or.jp</a>
GAROP Australia	Sue Hendy	Australia	<a href="http://www.rightsofolderpeople.org.au">www.rightsofolderpeople.org.au</a>
Geriatric Clinic, BLDE University	Dr Anand P.Ambali	India	<a href="http://www.bldeuniversity.ac.in">www.bldeuniversity.ac.in</a>
Global Salvation Ministry Foundation	Rev. Peter Okyere	Ghana	<a href="http://www.globalsalvationministryfoundation.org">www.globalsalvationministryfoundation.org</a>
Grantmakers in Aging	John Feather, Ph.D.	USA	<a href="http://www.giaging.org">www.giaging.org</a>
Gray Panthers	Jack Kupferman	USA	<a href="http://www.graypanthersnyc.org">www.graypanthersnyc.org</a>

Heales	Didier Coeurnelle	Belgium	<a href="http://www.heales.org">www.heales.org</a>
Hellenic Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics	Ioannis G. Karaitianos	Greece	<a href="http://www.gerontology.gr">www.gerontology.gr</a>
HelpAge Germany	Michael Buente	Germany	<a href="http://www.helpage.de">www.helpage.de</a>
HelpAge Ghana	Ebenezer Adjetey-Sorsey	Ghana	
HelpAge International	Bridget Sleep	United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.helpage.org">www.helpage.org</a>
HelpAge International España	Neil Smith	Spain	<a href="http://www.helpage.es">www.helpage.es</a>
Human Health Aid-Burundi	Nyamiye Hermenegilde	Burundi	<a href="http://www.humanhealthaid.jimdo.com">www.humanhealthaid.jimdo.com</a>
Human Rights Watch	Dierdrich Lohman	USA	<a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a>
IAGG (International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics)	Heung Bong Cha	Belgium	<a href="http://www.iagg.info">www.iagg.info</a>
ICJW (International Council of Jewish Women)	Rachel Babecoff	Australia	<a href="http://www.icjw.org">www.icjw.org</a>
ILC Argentina	Lia Daichman	Argentina	
ILC Australia	Julie Byles	Australia	
ILC Brazil	Alex Kalache	Brazil	<a href="http://www.ilcbrazil.org/">www.ilcbrazil.org/</a>
ILC Canada	Louise Plouffe	Canada	<a href="http://www.ilccanada.org/">www.ilccanada.org/</a>
ILC Czech Republic	Dr Iva Holmerova	Czech Republic	<a href="http://www.cello-ilc.cz/">www.cello-ilc.cz/</a>
ILC Dominican Republic	Rosy Pereyra	Dominican Republic	
ILC France	Francoise Forette	France	<a href="http://www.ilcfrance.org/">www.ilcfrance.org/</a>
ILC India	Anjali Rajee	India	<a href="http://www.ilcindia.org/">www.ilcindia.org/</a>
ILC Israel	Sara Carmel	Israel	
ILC Japan	Kunio Mizuta	Japan	<a href="http://www.ilcjapan.org/english.html">http://www.ilcjapan.org/english.html</a>
ILC Netherlands	A.H.M. Wouters	Netherlands	<a href="http://www.ilcnetherlands.org/">www.ilcnetherlands.org/</a>
ILC Singapore	Mary Ann Tsao	Singapore	<a href="http://www.tsaofoundation.org/">www.tsaofoundation.org/</a>
ILC South Africa	Jaco Hoffman	South Africa	<a href="http://www.ilcsa.uct.ac.za/">www.ilcsa.uct.ac.za/</a>
ILC UK	Baroness Sally Greengross	United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.ilc-uk.org.uk">www.ilc-uk.org.uk</a>
ILC USA	Ruth Finkelstein	USA	<a href="http://www.aging.columbia.edu/international-longevity-center">http://www.aging.columbia.edu/international-longevity-center</a>
INPEA (International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse)	Susan B. Somers	USA	<a href="http://www.inpea.net">www.inpea.net</a>

International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care	Katherine Pettus	USA	<a href="http://www.hospicecare.com/home/">www.hospicecare.com/home/</a>
International Association of Charities (AIC) - Association internationale des Charités (AIC)	Françoise Gaudemar	Belgium	<a href="http://www.aic-international.org">www.aic-international.org</a>
International Council of Nurses	Lesley Bell	Switzerland	<a href="http://www.icn.ch">www.icn.ch</a>
International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FIAMC) - Fédération internationale des associations médicales catholiques (FIAMC)	François Blin	Italy	<a href="http://www.fiamc.org">www.fiamc.org</a>
International Federation of Social Workers	Michael Cronin	Switzerland	<a href="http://www.ifsw.org">www.ifsw.org</a>
International Federation on Ageing	Jane Barratt	Canada	<a href="http://www.ifa-fiv.org">www.ifa-fiv.org</a>
International Movement for the Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieux: (MIAMSI) - Mouvement international d'apostolat des milieux sociaux indépendants (MIAMSI)	Dominique Lemau de Talancé	Italy	<a href="http://www.miamsi-rome.org">www.miamsi-rome.org</a>
Irish Centre for Social Gerontology	Prof Thomas Scharf	Ireland	<a href="http://www.icsg.ie">www.icsg.ie</a>
Janaseva Foundation	Dr. Vinod Shah	India	<a href="http://www.janasevafoundation.org">www.janasevafoundation.org</a>
Law in the Service of the Elderly	Israel Doron	Israel	<a href="http://www.elderlaw.org.il">www.elderlaw.org.il</a>
Life Ascending International – Vie Montante Internationale	Marta Melo Antunes	Portugal	<a href="http://www.mcr-viemontante.ch/fr/romand/vminternationale.html">www.mcr-viemontante.ch/fr/romand/vminternationale.html</a>
Little Sisters of the Poors - Petites Sœurs des Pauvres	Sr Maria del Monte Ruiz Garcia	France	<a href="http://www.infobretagne.com/congregation-soeurs-pauvres.htm">www.infobretagne.com/congregation-soeurs-pauvres.htm</a>
Make Mothers Matter - MMM	Marie-Liesse Mandula	France	<a href="http://www.makemothersmatter.org">www.makemothersmatter.org</a>
Malaysian Private Sector Retirees' Association (MAPSRA)	Silva Rajoo	Malaysia	
Middle-East Academy for Medicine of Aging	A.Abyad	Lebanon	<a href="http://www.meama.com">www.meama.com</a>
Mothers Legacy Project	Afton Beutler	USA	<a href="http://www.motherslegacy.org">www.motherslegacy.org</a>
Multiple Sclerosis Limited	Robyn Hunter	Australia	<a href="http://www.ms.org.au">www.ms.org.au</a>
Municipal Council of protection for the elderly – COMDEPI – Rio de Janeiro	Flavia Machado	Brazil	<a href="http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv/comdepi/rj">http://www.rio.rj.gov.br/web/sesqv/comdepi/rj</a>
National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)	Amanda Alford	Australia	<a href="http://www.naclc.org.au">www.naclc.org.au</a>
NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva	Silvia Perel-Levin	Switzerland	<a href="http://www.ageingcommitteegeneva.org/">www.ageingcommitteegeneva.org/</a>

NGO Committee on Ageing New York	Janet Sigal	USA	<a href="http://www.ngocoa-ny.org/">www.ngocoa-ny.org/</a>
NGO Committee on Ageing Vienna	Gertraud Dayé	Austria	
Nsindagiza	Elie Mugabowishema	Rwanda	
NWT Seniors' Society	Leon Peterson	Canada	<a href="http://www.nwtseniorssociety.ca">www.nwtseniorssociety.ca</a>
NYC Partnership for Family Caregiving Corps	Rev. Gregory Johnson	USA	<a href="http://www.corporatecaregivers.com">www.corporatecaregivers.com</a>
Observatory Sports Training Laboratory - Federal University of Rio de Janeiro - UFRJ	Roberto Simão	Brazil	<a href="http://www.eefd.ufrj.br/lab-observat%C3%B3rio-do-treinamento-desportivo">http://www.eefd.ufrj.br/lab-observat%C3%B3rio-do-treinamento-desportivo</a>
Older Women's Network, Europe	Elizabeth Sclater	Italy	<a href="http://www.own-europe.org/">www.own-europe.org/</a>
Palliative Care Victoria	Odette Waanders	Australia	<a href="http://www.pallcarevic.asn.au">www.pallcarevic.asn.au</a>
Physical Activity and Health Promotion - Rio de Janeiro State University – LABSAU/UERJ	Nadia Lima	Brazil	<a href="http://www.iefd.uerj.br/1labsau.htm">http://www.iefd.uerj.br/1labsau.htm</a>
Prefeitura RJ	Flávia Machado	Brazil	<a href="mailto:flavimac@uol.com.br">flavimac@uol.com.br</a>
Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc.	James Farrell O.A.M.	Australia	<a href="http://www.qails.org.au">www.qails.org.au</a>
Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM)	Kenneth Edmund Mugayehwenkyi	Uganda	<a href="http://www.reachone-touchone.org">www.reachone-touchone.org</a>
Research Center in Aging - Castelo Branco University - UCB	Helio Furtado	Brazil	<a href="http://www.castelobranco.br/portal/">http://www.castelobranco.br/portal/</a>
Rio de Janeiro State University - UERJ	Sandra Sahb	Brazil	<a href="http://www.uerj.br/idiomas.ph">http://www.uerj.br/idiomas.ph</a>
Rosetticare	Mrs. Kikelomo Lanionu Edwards	Nigeria	<a href="http://www.rosetticare.com">www.rosetticare.com</a>
Sage Seniors Association	Robert E. Laing	Canada	<a href="http://www.mysage.ca">www.mysage.ca</a>
Sage Support and Advocacy Service for Older People	Mervyn Taylor	Ireland	<a href="http://www.sage.thirdageireland.ie">www.sage.thirdageireland.ie</a>
Saldarriaga-Concha Foundation	Lucas Correa-Montoya	Colombia	<a href="http://www.saldarriagaconcha.org">www.saldarriagaconcha.org</a>
Sanctuary for Longevity Project	Alicia de Jong Salinas Davis	United States-Mexico Border	
Simkool Network	Aka Tigori	Switzerland	<a href="http://www.simkoolnetwork.com">www.simkoolnetwork.com</a>
Sociedade Brasileira de Geriatria e Gerontologia	Joao Bastos Freire Neto	Brazil	<a href="http://www.sbgg.or.br">www.sbgg.or.br</a>
Solar Cookers International	Julie Greene	USA	<a href="http://www.solarcookers.org">www.solarcookers.org</a>

South Sudan Older People Organization	Donato Ochan Hakim	South Sudan	<a href="http://www.southsudanolderpeople.org">www.southsudanolderpeople.org</a>
The Alzheimer Society of Ireland	Colette Kelleher	Ireland	<a href="http://www.alzheimer.ie">www.alzheimer.ie</a>
The Asociación Gerontológica Argentina	Félix Eduardo Nallim	Argentina	
The John Marshall Law School International Human Rights Clinic	Sarah Davila-Ruhaak	USA	<a href="http://www.humanrights.jmls.edu">www.humanrights.jmls.edu</a>
The work health and survival project	Dr Ilise L Feitshans	USA	
Third Age	Aine Brady	Ireland	<a href="http://www.thirdageireland.ie/">www.thirdageireland.ie/</a>
Turyak Seniors Council	Mete Bora	Turkey	<a href="http://www.turyak.org">www.turyak.org</a>
TURYAK Seniors Council Association	Kuzeyhan Ozdemir	Turkey	<a href="http://www.turyak.org/en/index.html">www.turyak.org/en/index.html</a>
Uganda Reach the Aged Association	Frederick Ouma Bwire	Uganda	<a href="http://www.ugreach.org">www.ugreach.org</a>
Uniting AgeWell	Valerie J Lyons	Australia	<a href="http://www.unitingagewell.org">www.unitingagewell.org</a>
Universidad Isalud	Silvia Gascon	Argentina	<a href="http://www.isalud.edu.ar/">www.isalud.edu.ar/</a>
University of the Third Age - Rio de Janeiro State University – UNATI/UERJ	Renato Veras	Brazil	<a href="http://www.unatiuerj.com.br/">http://www.unatiuerj.com.br/</a>
Water Health Education & Environmental league	Razaullah Khan	Pakistan	
Woodhull Freedom Foundation	Ricci Joy Levy	USA	<a href="http://www.woodhullfoundation.org">www.woodhullfoundation.org</a>
World Catholic Association for Communication (SIGNIS) - Association mondiale catholique pour la communication (SIGNIS)	Daniel van Espen	Italy	<a href="http://www.signis.net">www.signis.net</a>
World Granny	Caroline van Dulleman	Netherlands	<a href="http://www.worldgranny.nl">www.worldgranny.nl</a>
Život 90	Dr Oldrich Stanek	Czech Republic	<a href="http://www.zivot90.cz">www.zivot90.cz</a>